Week 5
TERM 4, 2015

St Francis School

Educating The Whole Child For Today and Tomorrow.
A school community that recognises learning is natural, creative and ongoing

Key Dates

November:
9th St Francis Community Group Meeting 3.30 pm Library
10th Jump Start
17th Jump Start Reconciliation 7 pm St Mary’s Church
20th Prep/Gr1/Gr2 Excursion
23rd School Closure – Staff PD
24th Open Doors Fundraiser Jump Start School Board meeting
26th Grade 2 Sleepover
26th – 27th Gr3/4 camp
27th Strawberry Festival

December:
1st Jump Start
2nd GV Festival of the Sacred
8th Orientation Day & Information Session for Parents
10th School Christmas Carols/Concert
11th Nathalia Community Carols by Candlelight
16th End of Year Christmas Mass & Graduation
17th Students last day of school.
18th Staff last day.

Prayer of the week

**Solidarity**

Leader: Let us begin our prayer together with the Sign of the Cross.
All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk.12:41-44) Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury: for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’ This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Leader: As Catholics, we are called to show solidarity with all people. This means supporting people, whatever their situation, to help them to live a better life. We are all loved by God and we show this love when we stand with each other through our life’s struggles. Let us ask God to help us to support each other every day... (Pause)

Leader: Let us conclude by praying together the Gradle Prayer:

**Lord Jesus**

I give you my hands to do your work
I give you my feet to go your way
I give you my eyes to see as you do
I give you my tongue to speak your words
I give you my mind that you may think in me
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me
Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all humanity
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me so that it is you Lord Jesus who live and work and pray in me, Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

I hope everyone enjoyed the 4-day long weekend, albeit being unsettled on the weather front with localized storms causing damage to crops and buildings across the region. Our thoughts and prayers are with many of our families who are currently doing it tough on the land, especially those who are counting the cost from Sunday afternoon's storms. It was very sad to see the damage to iconic structures such as the Yalca Uniting Church whose history spans for over a century. Let's hope our recent weather events are now well and truly behind us.

On a happier note, the amazing story behind this years Melbourne Cup winner Prince of Penzance was one of hope, courage and pride. Michelle Payne and her brother Stevie are symbolic of what it means to ‘dream big’ and despite many knockbacks along the way, overcame diversity to become the toast of the nation. These siblings are amazing ambassadors and role models for people from all walks of life. We can all learn and grow as a result of their achievements. They let each and every one of us know that no matter the barriers, the disappointments or how many times we've been knocked down, we can always dare to dream. We owe it to our kids and we must encourage it always.

St Francis Community Group ~ (Formally P&F)
This year we have managed to operate community events and fundraisers without a fully functional Community Group. Although we have managed to get by quite successfully, the current format isn't ideal. A Community Group meeting is being held on Monday 9th November at 3:30pm in the school library / gathering space to discuss proposals for next year. All welcome!

Date Changed ~ Billabong Ranch
Due to unforeseen circumstances the dates for the grade 3/4 camp to Billabong Ranch, Echuca have changed to Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Raffle Tickets ~ School Voucher
All families will have received a book of raffle tickets recently for our School Voucher. First prize is $500.00 school voucher, 2nd prize $200.00 school voucher and 3rd prize $100.00 school voucher. Vouchers must be used towards school expenses, i.e. reduction of school fees, laptop fees etc. We hope that our families get behind this great fundraiser. The winner will be announced at our Hello Night on 4 February 2016.

Principal Writing Awards ~ Week 5
Grade 3/4 Jean ~ Zara Limbrick. Congratulations Zara Your story was very entertaining and showed great style. Keep up the great work with your writing everyone!! 😊

Enjoy your weekend!

Chris Summers

Other School Happenings...

Staff Professional Development
On Wednesday night and Thursday both Veronica Williams and Chris Summers attended a leadership conference in Shepparton. Dr Julia Atkin presented ‘Leading the Learning through collaborative processes’ and spoke to all school leaders about the importance of Values and Vision driven leadership. It was an insightful two days on many fronts. To effectively lead the learning it is essential to always understand and revisit what it is we truly value in education and what is our vision for the future. These mutually agreed values underpin our common sense of purpose and are articulated through our mission statements ~ Care for self, care for others and care for our school.
National Collection of Data on Students with Disabilities

On Wednesday Fiona Baker and Chris Summers attended a NCCD (National Collection of Data on Students with Disabilities) conference in Melbourne.

Why is THE NATIONAL data COLLECTION necessary?

The national data collection will collect information about students with disability in a consistent, reliable and systematic way.

The national data collection will draw on the ongoing work teachers and education staff do to support students with disability. It is because of the commitment of teachers, principals and schools that a rich source of data will be developed to inform policy and programmes for students with disability.

Previously there has been a lack of comprehensive and nationally comparable data about school students with disability. This nationally consistent approach will enable all governments to best target support and resources to assist these students to complete school and continue on a pathway to further education or employment.

The implementation of the national data collection will provide all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with information about:

• the number of school students with disability
• where they are located
• the level of reasonable adjustment provided for them to participate fully in schooling
• each student's broad type of disability.

The national data collection is also an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

Quote of the Week:

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

- Winston Churchill, 1874-1965

FIRE CARRIER NEWS – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

We are having our annual Open Doors Fundraiser on Tuesday 24th November, 2015. The Open Doors Foundation is an organisation that assists Aboriginal families with the costs of education, so they can send their children to school. We are asking that everyone comes dressed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colours – red, yellow, black, blue, green and white. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

During recess we will be selling:

- Aboriginal wristbands with chocolate balls for $3.00
- Nail polish/ face painting for 50c each
- Zooper Doopers for 50c each.

Also we are running a dreamtime story of your own choice (500 words or less) and a freehand drawing competition with an Aboriginal theme. Get your words writing and your pencils drawing. Prizes will be awarded for the best story and drawing in the following categories: Prep – Two, Three – Four, and Five-Six. These are due in Friday 20th November. They can be handed into the front office.
Fridays in Term 4 are ZOOPER DOOPER FRIDAYS! 50 cents a zooper dooper – a great way to keep cool!

DESPERATELY SEEKING SPUNKS FOR DUNKING!!!

Once again St Francis Primary School have been asked to man the Dunk the Spunk at the Nathalia New Year’s Eve Carnival. This is a very easy way for the St Francis Primary School Community Group to raise money for our school. All we need to do is provide bodies throughout the night to sell tickets and willing spunks to be dunked! We have manned the dunk the spunk tank for the past two years and we are extremely grateful to all the spunks who have volunteered. However, in past years we have been a bit light on for willing spunks! Our own Brodie Ross was an extremely popular spunk to be dunked last year and we have it on good authority that Mr Summers has volunteered to be dunked this year! We would really like to see the Dunk the Spunk manned from 5 p.m. and if we could have volunteers who would be happy to give us one hour of their time to man the ticket sales and volunteers who are wishing to dunked could give us 30 minutes of their time. Please telephone Lonky at the front office if you can volunteer. We are an equal opportunity organisation so spunks to be dunked may be male or female!!

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Responsibility.

Responsibility is the ability to look after a person or thing and being prepared to take the blame if something goes wrong. It is an indication of maturity, reliability and trustworthiness. It also includes the ability to take on duties, or be the instigator of a task or project. In its simplest form, responsibility means “making your own decisions”.

Winner of the care box was Wade Tuddenham

Due to their being no assembly this week no other awards were announced.

St Francis Catholic Primary School acknowledges the Bangarang and Yorta Yorta people, the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.

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