Week 6
TERM 1, 2016

St Francis School

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

Praying Lent This Year

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

A Year of Mercy, A Lent of Healing

Lord, Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you.

Help me to rely on you for help.
This prayer asks you that I reach perfection.
Please, Lord, remind me that “perfection” isn’t the crazy, “successful” way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self.
My “perfection” might be holding my many flaws in my open hands, asking you to help me accept them.
Help me to live my life as Jesus did and to be the loving example to others you expect me to be.
This Lent, help me to be merciful in my thoughts and actions.
Amen.

Key Dates

March
14th Public Holiday
15th School Board AGM
17th St Patricks Day – wear green to school; gold coin donation
20th Palm Sunday
21st Harmony Day
24th Last day of Term
2.30 p.m. finish

Term 2
April
11th First day of Term 2
14th Andrew Chinn School Concert & Workshop
15th School Photos
19th School Board
25th Anzac Day Holiday

May
10th – 12th Naplan

June
3rd Confirmation & Communion
7th School Board
24th Last day of Term 2
2.30 pm finish
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

As the summer heat drags into autumn, we are noticing some of our students becoming tired more easily, frustrated with one another and by the end of the week looking exhausted. They’re not the only ones!

Like we often do at school, please remind your children about the importance of getting a good nights sleep and to drink plenty of water to keep well hydrated. This will help improve concentration and energy levels. It can be hard for young children to articulate their frustrations especially when they are fatigued. If you are noticing your child becoming less compliant or more fatigued at home remember it’s ok to take a break or a night off from doing sport / homework / visiting friends etc., and to have an early night or chill out for a while. We tend to live our lives at such a hectic pace we forget that our kids need to be kids and don’t need to be dragged from one thing to the next.

We heard Kathy Murray from the Early Life Foundation speak about the importance of ‘slowing down’ and the importance of allowing our kids to be kids without the distraction of television, social media or technology. A poignant message I took away from the information evening were the best three words you could hear a child say are; ‘I am bored!’ This means they need to find something to do and ‘even’ use their imaginations. As a parent I am very guilty of this and even embarrassed to say I have used the TV / technology as a ‘quick fix’ as a baby sitting tool so I can get things done. At the end of the day what will our kids remember and enjoy the most, an afternoon spent in the lounge room watching TV or an afternoon at the park, fishing with Dad or going for a walk with the dogs. I know what I prefer to do, it’s just a matter of trying to do it more often.

A Fishy Tale:

Last weekend I was able to do just that. On the spur of the moment I took my youngest children Bridget and Liam on an over night camping trip to a favourite fishing spot of mine on the Broken River. It’s easy to get to and only 20mins out of town. The kids had been nagging for a while and we hadn’t been out the bush since early in the new-year. As it turned out it was the best decision I have made. Not only did we have fun sleeping in the tent, cooking marshmallows, getting filthy dirty and all the great things that come with camping, I managed to tick off a bucket list dream of mine, joining the ‘metre long’ club catching a 115cm Murray Cod! It was huge weighing in over 30kgs. Last year in the same spot I caught a 95cm Murray Cod, so the possibility of catching one bigger from the same fishing hole was unlikely. To catch one bigger was a pretty good feeling. Morale: Go for that walk, ride, fish or play in the park because you never know what you might catch!! Hopefully not a cold…
**Inquiry Mindset Project**

On Monday and Tuesday of this week Mrs Williams, Miss Newman and myself (Mrs Mestrom will be part of the team next term) began the process for developing an Inquiry project for our school. Helen Timperley’s Inquiry Mindset project has been one many schools in our diocese have participated in over the past 12 months and have had considerable success improving student outcomes. Helen Timperley is a leading academic in the areas of school performance and leading change.

Many schools, us included, have decided to undertake an Inquiry Approach to improving student outcomes in literacy with a focus on writing. Writing has been something we have been looking to improve for a while now but our data results continue to show little or no growth. With a narrow and deep focus (in our case writing) this can be changed.

We had a fantastic few days analysing and discussing a myriad of data sets including Naplan, Pat-R, Pat-M, Insight SRC and P-2 data to formulate hunches as to why our results are what they are and what we can do to improve. We can't do it alone but as a team of learners (parents, staff and students included) we can.

Our current approach to Walker Learning and development of our shared learning philosophy, all tie in beautifully with our focus on student learning.

It’s exciting times and we owe it to our students and community that we continually strive to improve and look for best practice. We will continue to provide updates and ways parents can help children improve their child’s writing and literacy skills.

**Easter Egg Raffle & Donations**

A major fundraiser for our school is our Easter-Egg raffle. The best part about this Easter Egg raffle is that parents are not asked to take a raffle book to sell. The tickets are sold leading up to Easter and at the Easter Saturday street market. Raffle tickets are available for purchase from the school office $1.00 a ticket or 3 for $2.00. **We do ask though:** Please donate Easter Eggs to add to our baskets for the raffle. Thank you to those who have donated Easter eggs already. Please keep them coming!

**Red Balloon Day**

Last Friday the Nathalia Fire Brigade visited our school as part of their annual awareness raising and fund-raising campaign. With red balloons flying and children waving our community ‘fireys’ were given a rock star welcome. At 10:30 we visited the Nathalia PS to see the fire trucks in action and formally meet Captain Koala. The kids had a ball getting sprayed and having a close up look inside the trucks. As we know the CFA is a vital service to our community and we are forever grateful for the voluntary commitment and dedication of our ‘fireys’. Thanks heaps guys.

**Assembly change of time:**

Assemblies will be at 2:20pm Monday afternoons commencing next Monday 7th March.

**School Voucher:**

The winners of the School Vouchers will be announced at assembly on Monday 7th March. If you have not got your raffle tickets back to the school please do so before Assembly on Monday.
Our School News

School AGM and Board Meeting ~ Tuesday 15th March

Our school AGM and first official Board Meeting for the year will be held Tuesday 15th March at 7pm. We look forward to formally gathering to outline our strategic directions for the coming year, share our successes and to formally farewell past board members, nominate and to welcome newly elected members to the board. All welcome. Supper and drinks will be provided.

St Patrick’s Day ~ 17th March

To be sure, to be sure! To help celebrate St Patrick’s Day all students are encouraged to wear green on March 17th. A gold coin donation will ensure we are continuing to be positive contributors to our commitment to Project Compassion for 2016.

Staff PD

In the past few weeks a number of staff members and parents have been involved in Professional Development opportunities. These have included:

• Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden ‘Road Trip’ visiting other schools who run the program ~ Mrs Conroy, Jo Ormond and Mr Summers.

• Whole School PD – Walker Learning ~ ongoing.

• Mrs Williams, Miss Newman, Mrs Mestrom and Mr Summers are involved in a diocesan initiative called the ‘Inquiry Mindset’ project. This project provides schools with the opportunity to look at their literacy data and analysis of how to best respond to emerging trends or issues. Helen Timperley a leading researcher and academic will be working with schools to help with the project. This is an exciting opportunity especially in light of our ongoing commitment to Walker Learning and providing the best education we can.

Peter MacCallum Fundraiser ~ Tonight!!

The Nathalia Community Fundraiser for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre is on this evening at the Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club commencing at 5.30 p.m. It is shaping up to be a great family night and I thank all the members of our school community who have made donations or have offered to help at this event. We are very lucky to live in such a supportive community.
SAKG

We cooked up a storm in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden classes this week. Some of our grades were lucky enough to cook potato wedges using potatoes harvested from our kitchen garden. All the classes however cooked Apple Zucchini Muffins. Some of the students were a little dubious about apple and zucchini together but they were delicious! We have attached a copy of the recipe. We were visited by WIN Television who filmed a short segment for their news program on our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden. Our Grade 3/4V students were the lucky ones to be involved in the filming and even though they were super excited, they continued to go about their tasks normally. Good job Gr 3/4V! We also say a huge thank you to Anita Stirling and her Mum for the gorgeous denim aprons that they made for our students to wear. They look fabulous! We also thank our parent volunteers – we could not do this without you.

Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews

Thank you to the many families who were able to attend our 3-way Interviews last night. Feedback from parents and staff suggest it was a very valuable way to conduct interviews with children, parents and teachers involved in the process of setting goals and celebrating early achievements in their learning. We have seen a tremendous amount of achievement already this year and you should always be proud of your child’s efforts. If there are areas to improve, attend to them, if there are areas of success and improvement please remember to celebrate these. Being interested in what your kids are doing at school makes a world of difference to the way they see themselves as a learner. Be proud of what your children are doing, we are.

If you were unable to attend interviews please ensure you make contact with your child’s teacher to organise an alternative time.

Have a wonderful week everyone

Chris Summers
SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Cooperation

Cooperation is the act of working together or jointly; of being united in producing an effect. By developing cooperation skills, students build relationships as they complete tasks, utilizing their own skills and those of others to their best advantage. Cooperating encourages students to compromise and negotiate and creates opportunities for unity and harmony to occur.

Changes to Working with Children Check fees

From 27 March, the fees structure for the Employee Checks will change.

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<th>Fee to 27 March 2016</th>
<th>Fee from 27 March 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employee card</td>
<td>Volunteer card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New application</td>
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<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal</td>
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<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace a card</td>
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<td>Free</td>
</tr>
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* Note. Renewal must occur within three months of card expiring, after this time people must complete a new application at the higher fees.

These changes follow the government’s review of the fee structure to ensure:

- volunteers are not discouraged,
- fees reflect the cost of the scheme, and
- savings generated for some services are passed on.

The new fees are independent of the government's annual indexation of fees in July. For more information visit our website.

Working with Children Check

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATE IN LAST WEEK’S NEWSLETTER FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD AGM WAS INCORRECT. THE CORRECT DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL BOARD AGM
TUESDAY, 15th MARCH 7PM – 8 PM WITH SUPPER AFTERWARDS SCHOOL LIBRARY

All parents are warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting. We currently have parent positions available on our School Board. Nominations for new members are most welcome. We will be recognising past School Board members at this meeting.
Apple and Zucchini Muffins

Ingredients

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 cup apple, peeled and grated
- 1 cup zucchini grated

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Spray a 12-cup muffin tin with cooking spray.
- In a bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar and cinnamon.
- In a separate bowl, mix the eggs, oil, vanilla, apple and zucchini.
- Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and use a spatula to turn the mixture until all ingredients are just moist.
- Spoon mixture evenly into muffin tin and bake for 20-25 minutes.
- Be careful not to over-mix the batter as it will make the muffins heavy.
French

In the first 5 weeks of term the children have been learning to use the conventions of conversation. As part of their learning the children have created their own picture depicting a park scene incorporating conversations written in French.

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.
HARMONY DAY!

Samples of delicious food from other cultures.

Dress up in multi-cultural clothes.

Date: 21st of March

Gold coin donation for Caritas to help third world countries in need.
Invites your child to attend

A NETBALL CLINIC HOSTED BY

TRACEY BRERETON & JACINTA TODD

FRIDAY MARCH 18TH 2016

Nathalia Recreation Reserve
Netball Courts

Cost: $20.00 per Child (payment made on day)

Session One:
Age Group – 7 to 11 year Olds
4.00pm Registration
4.30pm – 5.45pm Clinic Time

Session Two:
Age Group – 12 to 17 years old
5.30pm Registration
6.00pm – 7.15pm Clinic Time

Netball Clinic will be conducted by:
Tracey Brereton-Shepparton Bears Netball Club A Grade Coach
Former Melbourne Phoenix and Melbourne Kestrels netballer, Victorian State team representative, involved as Coach with Victorian State teams, holds Advanced Coaching Certificate.

Jacinta Todd –Shepparton Bears Netball Club A Grade Player
Victorian State team Representative, Australia Mixed Netball Team Representative, Victorian Mixed Netball Team Representative, State Under Age Coach.

Get in quickly to reserve your spot

NETBALL CLINIC HOSTED BY TRACEY BRERETON & JACINTA TODD
By Sunday 12 March 2016
Contact: Hayley Summerville 0459900090 or Kristy Brereton 0438088860