Prayer Space

The Ascension of the Lord

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation ... And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it. Mk 16:19–20

In the power of the risen Lord who intercedes on our behalf, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

That we be your faithful witnesses, to the ends of the earth, we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

That the Spirit of God renews our lives, we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

That those who are paralysed by fear or doubt might be healed, we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

That all who are destitute or ill might share in God’s life, we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

That we trust in the greatness of God’s power at work in us, we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

God of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we celebrate the ascension of your Son, teach us to trust that he lives to intercede on our behalf, now and forever,

Amen

Key Dates

This Week

Tuesday, 19 May
Gr 5 & 6 students singing At Bendigo Bank 15th birthday celebration 12 noon

Friday, 22 May
Winter Sports St Francis v Katunga Nathalia Recreation Reserve 1.30 pm start

Coming up

Monday, 8 June
Queens Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday, 10 June
PSG Meetings

Tuesday, 16 June
School Board

Monday, 22 June
School Closure Day – Staff Planning

Friday, 26 June
Last day of Term 2
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis

Today marks the halfway point of the term. It’s hard to believe we have been at school for 5 weeks already; it has been an incredibly busy term with much more still on the horizon. We are forever grateful for the commitment of so many of our families and to the support and generosity bestowed upon those in need and doing it tough.

Last week we learned of the sad and very tragic news of Mrs Bergamin, a mum of three children, who suddenly passed away. The effect of this news hit our extended community pretty hard, as they are a well-known and respected family of the St Joseph’s Numurkah and St Mary of the Angels communities. The outpouring of support offered from members within our own school community was truly amazing, although not surprising. Thank you to all who have offered thoughts, prayers and assistance. These acts of kindness are much appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

I would like to share with you an article I read the other day that reiterates the importance of doing the ‘little things’ that can make all the difference in someone else’s life.

Three things to try to practice to make a difference.

1) Smile and acknowledge strangers: there are a lot of lonely, sad, depressed people out there and sometimes all they need is someone to acknowledge them with a simple smile and hello to make a difference in their day.

2) Let someone in front of you in traffic: traffic seems to bring the worst out in many people and it can be contagious. We are all in this together so I try to break the negative chain and let someone in who is trying to merge in front of you. It can have a ripple affect by encouraging others to do the same.

3) One for the bigger cities: carry change for the people on the corner asking for help. So what if some of them are scamming the system. Give anyway because most of them aren’t. Share what you have when you can and let others know they are cared for regardless.

These three little things probably won’t end worldwide aggression but if enough people just practice simple daily acts of love and kindness toward their fellow humans the ripple affect will make a huge stride toward that higher goal. Peace.

All acts of kindness go a long way to making our world a better place to live.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

Congratulations to all of our Confirmation and First Holy Communion Candidates.

Last Friday night, 10 students received the special sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. It was a wonderful celebration with Bishop Leslie and Fr Chris presiding mass. Our students looked stunning in their dresses and best outfits. Congratulations to all of our students and their families. Thank you again to Veronica Williams and Anna Newman who prepared the students throughout the past 6 weeks.
Congratulations to:
Mia Bell
Ella Bryant
Darcy Conroy
Mikaela Daniel
Grace McKeown
Jack Myers
Ben Nave
Shannyn Pengilly
Hayley Wigmore
Emily Woods

Positive Parenting Tips for Children's Behaviour.

Over the next few weeks we will be including tips for parents to deal with children's behaviour. As parents we cannot predict our children’s behaviour and sometimes the causes for inappropriate behaviour may be in what we are doing or failing to do. Last week tips were: Invest one on one time with your kids and Get serious about sleep.

Sometimes, when tasks and schedules get overwhelming, it’s helpful to make a to-do list to make things feel more manageable and focused. If your children’s behaviour problems have you feeling overwhelmed and not knowing what to do first, start with these 10 tips for better behaviour.

3. Focus on routines. Kids thrive with a routine, so set clearly defined routines for the most challenging times of the day, like mornings, after school, mealtimes and bedtimes. Let your kids help decide how the routine will go (do we get dressed or brush teeth first? How can you help get dinner ready?) For younger kids, write out the order of the routine using pictures or words and let them decorate it, then hang it where they’ll see it every day. Then stick to it.

4. Everyone pitches in. For better behaviour, kids need to understand that everyone needs to contribute to make a household run smoothly. All kids, from toddlers to teens, should have “family contributions” (not “chores!”) they do daily – this helps bring your family closer together, teaches them life skills and works to prevent the entitlement epidemic.

(Source: http://www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/parenting/start-10-tips-better-behavior)
**Cyberbullying**

Childhood bullying used to be face-to-face physical and verbal behaviour in the playground, classroom and on the way to and from school. Now online technology and constant connectivity has allowed bullying to harm children through often anonymous contact or actions. Cyberbullying can happen at any time and leave a child feeling unsafe and alone. Cyberbullying most commonly occurs through:

Comments posted in an open online environment such as Facebook.
Direct text, email or instant messages online or on a mobile phone.

Children can manage cyberbullying with your support by taking the following action:

- **Blocking the person cyberbullying and changing privacy settings.** Retaliating or responding to the bully only gives them the attention and power they want.
- **Reporting the bullying.** Most websites have online help centres and reporting facilities, and online abuse is in violation of the Terms Of Use of most social networking sites.
- **Collecting the evidence.** Keeping mobile phone messages and printing emails or IM conversations.
- **Talking to someone they trust** like parents or a teacher.
- **Resources from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**

**Glossary:**

**Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying occurs when technology is used to deliberately and repeatedly engage in hostile behaviour to harm someone. Groups and individuals can be both the perpetrators and targets of bullying.

**Instant messaging (IM)**

Instant messaging is sending real-time messages from one computer to another by means of small ‘pop-up’ windows. They are a form of ‘instant email’ and are very popular with students and adults alike. They are usually a one-to-one communication medium, although some programs allow many people to chat at the same time, like a private chat room.

A full cybersafety glossary may be found at [www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx)

**The Term Ahead…**

This term is a busy and productive term educationally, socially and spiritually for students, teachers and parents. There is much on the horizon and there is much to look forward to. Some of the bigger immediate events happening this term include:

- 8th June Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- 10th June Parent Support Group Meetings (PSG’s)
- 16th June School Board Meeting
- 22nd June School Closure Day
- 26th June Last Day of Term

**SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT.**

It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.

- Pele
**St Francis Open Day**
This Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May we are holding our Open Day for prospective families and students for 2016. Tours of the school will be conducted at: 9:00am, 10:00 am and 2:00pm. Please advertise this to potential families who are deciding where to send their children to school.

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”.

In Week 5 our Social Skills Blitz was around Responsibility. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

- Sienna Jorgensen, Matilda Waser, Ned Frostick, Billy Liddell, Corey Legge, Rebecca Williams and Nissa Maynard.

The winner of our Care Box this week is Nissa Maynard for showing positive behaviour in our school.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to the following students, pictured right, who have achieved reading for 50 nights at home:

- Lachlan Russell (Foundation)
- Jayda Liddell (Foundation)
- Mitchell Daniel (Foundation)
- Patrick Ryan (Gr 1/2M); and
- Bridie Wilson (Gr 1/2M).

Well done to all these students, keep up the good work!
Our School News

Lions Club Junior Public Speaking:
St Francis Primary School is once again participating in the Lions Club Junior Public Speaking. This event is open to all Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 students. A letter with all the information regarding topics, length of speeches and some tips on what the judges are looking for will be coming home next week. St Francis will hold their heats on Wednesday July 15 and Thursday, July 16 in the St Clare Auditorium commencing at 930 a.m. We are allowed to choose three winners from the Gr 3/4 heats and three winners from the Gr 5/6 heats who will then go on to compete at the town level on Wednesday, 22 July 2015. A venue has not yet been decided for the final event but we will advise as soon as possible.

More Confirmation/First Holy Communion Photos

Pictured left: Cassie Brooks, Kian Brereton, Billy Brinsdon, Mia Spiteri, Emma from the GV Library, Indiya Parker, Bryce Young, Jessica Legge and Corey Legge with their certificates for participating in the Andy Jones Joke Book competition. Students were invited to submit their jokes for Andy’s new joke book. How exciting that some of these students' jokes will be included in the joke book. Well done to these students for having a go! We are very proud of their efforts. Emily said that there were a lot of funny jokes submitted.

Mr Summers and Mr Ross presenting the School Sports Captains with their badges at this week’s assembly.
Great Feedback – Grandparents Day

We received the following email from Archie Parish’s grandmother after our Grandparents Day and we were so happy to receive such a lovely, positive response to our Grandparents Day that we felt we had to share it with our school community:

“Hello

We attended the Grandparents Day on 8 May 2015 with our grandson Archie Parish. It was a wonderful day and such a privilege to spend time with Archie during school hours, to meet his friends, see the school grounds, the library and of course his classroom. It was evident that the children love their classroom and have much respect for their teacher Ms Newman. To hear the children cheer loudly as Ms Newman explained the days activities was heart warming. Taking part in Mass was very special - to watch the children listen, learn and take part. Thank you again so very much.

I have attached a photo:
From left to right:
Rose Parish (great grandma known as Grandma Rose)
Archie Parish
Dianne Payne (grandma known as Nan)
Pam Parish (grandma known as Pami)
and Graeme Parish (granddad known as Grady)

With kind regards, Pam Parish (Pami !!)
FOOTY RESULTS

5/6 TEAM:

Nathalia defeated the Northerners 105 to 15

Goal kickers - here we go
Darcy Backway 5
Jack Myers 2
Gus Bramwell 1
Oliver Sheehan 1
Cooper Bloodworth 1
Max Frostick 1
Billy Brinsdon 1
Charlie Dietrich 1
Kaleb Kopsidas 1
Mak Hindmarsh 1
Charlie Sheehan 1

Best on -
Darcy Backway
Will Sheehan
Gus Bramwell
Max Frostick
Jack Myers
Charlie Dietrich

3/4’s -
Nathalia went down to Shep East. 4 to 13
No goal kickers
Best on -
Charlie Sheehan, Oliver Sheehan, Gus Bramwell,
Max Frostick, Damian Kerr and Connor Peachey.

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.