Dear Parents and Friends,

I have been so fortunate in the past week to hear the reflections of parents and principals that went on the Sandhurst Santa Fe Study tour at the start of this term. The reflections focussed a lot on the importance of knowing and honouring the community we are a part of, and its role in the education of children, very timely considering the work we are currently doing as the Nathalia Learning Community. As first educators of your children it is so important that we value the role you can play in the education of your children, and the fact that this will look different for different parents.

There were some many valuable insights but one that really struck me, as a parent, was:

"Your children will become what you are- so be what you want them to be."

In our role as parents, carers and educators we pray:

Dear God, I thank You for the gift of this child to raise, this life to share, this mind to help mould, this body to nurture, and this spirit to enrich. Let me never betray this child's trust, dampen this child's hope, or discourage this child's dreams. Help me, dear God, to help this precious child become all You mean him to be. Let Your grace and love fall on him like gentle breezes and give him inner strength and peace and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

~~ Marian Wright Edelman

Have a great week,
Veronica Williams

"A family enlightened by the Gospel, provides a school for Christian living. There one learns faithfulness, patience and sacrifice."
Pope Francis, May 10, 2014
RECONCILIATION WEEK
National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements. It is the ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is also a time to celebrate living in a country with the oldest living culture in the world.

So what is reconciliation anyway?
In its broadest sense “reconciliation” means coming together. In Australia it is the term used to refer to the bringing together of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or Indigenous, and non-Indigenous Australians. Supporting reconciliation means working to overcome the reasons there is division and inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Some of the most important areas of division and inequality are the differences in health, income and living standards of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Other important causes of division are misunderstanding, prejudice and racism, as many non-Indigenous people still know little about Indigenous people and history.

Each year during Reconciliation Week people from across Australia get together to hold events to educate people about reconciliation, to celebrate Indigenous cultures and to protest about what is still left to be done.

Prayer for this Land Australia
Creator God, We pray for this land, our culture, our customs, our languages, our people and our nation. Gather us together to look after this land, so that the beauty of our mother earth may be preserved for all future generations.
Jesus our brother, give us your grace, to be united in one mind, one heart, and in one action so that we can continue the journey of reconciliation, to solve the divisions of our growth and enable all Australians to work together in love, peace and joy.
Amen

Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project (ECSIP) Surveys
Catholic schools across Victoria were created through the vision, dedication, hard work and commitment of the whole Catholic community.

All Catholic schools across Victoria are taking part in ECSIPE.
The Project is to assist schools to understand better how their Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice and to support them in their future development.
We took part in these surveys two years ago and now it is time to add to the research. The information is very beneficial when looking at creating our long term plans for our school.
The surveys are conducted online and more information will come in the letter with your logon details. We are more than happy to make the school laptops available in the library after school for people to complete the surveys. The more people that complete the surveys the stronger picture we get of our own school identity.

We are loving taking a class every week to the library and thought we should share some of our reasons…

5 Good Reasons to take your children to the library
• Regular library visits inevitably lead to more reading. And reading, as it turns out, is brain food!
• When you visit the library, you can expose your children to more books and magazines than you can afford to buy.
• Your local children's librarian can recommend books that you may not know of or think to suggest, broadening their tastes and expanding their minds and vocabularies.
• Library time is active, not passive.
• Owning a library card teaches kids responsibility.

Taken from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/
Our school community acknowledges that we are built in the country of the Yorta Yorta people. We pay respect to the tribal elders, and celebrate the continuing indigenous culture in and around the Nathalia area.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Cooperation.
The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour this week:

Summer McIver, Indianna McCabe-Jackson, Ben Nave, Ned Bramwell, Jessica Legge, Sam Kelly and Aimee Wilson

DIVISION CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all our Division Cross Country participants - a great effort by all involved. Pictured below are all the students who participated in the Division Cross Country. Three of our students have progressed to the next stage, congratulations to Mia Bell, Charlie Sheehan and Holly Boyd.

Thumbs up to our students for cheering and encouraging each other on during their races!
We drew a farm. It is a crop farm so it has no animals. There are lots of paddocks, two houses for one person each, two sheds and a road in the middle to get to each house. The paddocks have dry grass, lucerne and canola. We are seeding all the brown paddocks.

Clancy Baker & Mia Spiteri Gr 2/3A.

There are lots of different types of farms. There are dairy farms, chicken farms, crop farms and even crocodile farms. You can grow all different things on farms. They are then harvested and taken to the shops to be sold.

Hannah Summerville Gr 2/3A

On a dairy farm the milk goes into a vat, it is picked up and brought to a factory to add cream to it. Then it can be put into cartons or glass bottles. These were used more in the olden days. The milk is then taken to the shop. In the olden days milk was brought to school and kids handed them out to other children.

Ben Nave Gr 2/3B