Week 6
TERM 3, 2015

St Francis School

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

Prayer of the week

Thank you God For giving me another day,
Another chance to become a better individual,
Another chance to give and experience love.
Thank you God for giving me health,
For the food you provide, For the awareness you have awaken in me...
Thank you for the energy that feeds my soul,
The sun that warms our bodies and the air that fills our lungs...
My source, stay connected to me today and always,
For I need you in order to fulfill my spiritual tasks...
God, show me how to love myself, to be able to love others. Help me become the type of person that I would like to befriend,
Help me forgive myself and forgive others...
God, make me a channel of your energy and help me understand.
I thank you God for giving me another day, another unused opportunity to do it right.

Amen
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

As part of the process of informing our school community of the commendations our school received from the Full School Review last week, I have included ‘snippets’ of the Validation Report in this week’s newsletter. A more detailed copy of the Validation Report can be accessed on the schools website: http://www.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/5/news

**The Validation Process** (as taken from the Validators report)

_The Principal Mr Chris Summers and the school community warmly welcomed the Validation panel. The panel joined with the senior students for Prayer, Acknowledgement of Country, Flag Raising, singing of the National Anthem prayer in the outdoor gathering space. It was evident immediately to the panel that the school was attentive to the Catholicity of their school._

_The panel met with the self-review team comprising of Mr Chris Summers (principal) Fiona Baker (Special Ed Coordinator/Classroom teacher) and Tam Perry (Wellbeing). The panel noted the work that Veronica Williams (Deputy Principal) had done to support the process and her absence due to sick leave. The self-review team provided an overview of the processes they had engaged in which was comprehensively documented. The panel recognised and acknowledged the support of Kylie Smith Education Officer Religious Education Catholic Education Office for her work with the staff in that area of Catholic Identity. The school has embraced the Full School Review as an opportunity to support them with future strategic planning._

_The panel engaged in a learning walk with four senior students (Billy, Will, Cassie and Bec. They demonstrated great pride in their school, they had a clear understanding of the learning across the school. The students were most appreciative of their teachers, their friends and the community to which they belonged. The felt prepared for secondary school and expressed the importance of being taught well in English and Maths as important skills and areas to support their transition to secondary school._

_Panel members meet with the School Board Chair, Mr. Jim Brereton. He spoke highly of the school and staff in relation to the development of Catholic Identity at Saint Francis. The panel discussed with him the opportunities for social justice initiatives, community engagement within the context of catholic identity and the supports in place for the school community. Mr. Jim Brereton assured the panel that the principal was a model of catholic identity for the staff and community to follow._

_Father Chris Reay the Canonical Administrator joined with the staff for the verbal report at the conclusion of the day. He publically expressed his gratitude to Chris and the staff._

**Other School Happenings…**

~ **Staff Professional Development:**

_Elli Mestrom and Anna Newman attended the third Designing Pedagogy Day in Mooroopna on Wednesday. A school focus for us this year has been improving student outcomes in Literacy with a specific focus on writing. Both Anna and Elli have been leading the school with improved writing across all year levels and have begun an action research project, which will remain a focus for 2016._

_Chris Summers attended a Diocesan Principals Network meeting in Echuca on Wednesday and Thursday. Our diocese has employed Dr Julia Atkin to help schools develop their philosophy and sound pedagogical practices. Her practical presentations and insights will be used to develop our school teaching and learning Philosophy for next year._
~ Athletics Training has commenced:
Mr Ross has commenced training for our Athletics Sports Day on Thursday 17th Sept. More information regarding our athletics will be presented in the coming weeks.

~ Welcome Brydie Bonsema
Brydie will commence her final teaching placement next week working alongside Kerry in the Foundation Learning Community. Brydie has been working part time in a learning support capacity for most of this year. We welcome Brydie to our school community.

Science Week Wrap Up
This week many of our students have attended science demonstrations at SMOTA to help celebrate Science Week. Our students have had fun watching experiments and learning about the importance of science in our every day lives. Many of our classrooms have conducted their own experiments as part of their Inquiry Learning this term. We continue to enjoy learning about our world and the effects of mixing and combining liquids or substances. I think we have many budding scientists in our midst.

Thank you to SMOTA for allowing us to be part of their Science Week activities.

Kinder Visit ~ Wednesday 19th Aug
On Wednesday we had Kinder students from both Nathalia Kindergartens visiting our school as part of their transition to primary education. All prospective ‘preppies’ enjoyed a morning with Kerry Conroy participating in investigations and learning all about what it means to be a ‘big kid’ going to school. By all reports the children had a great time at school and hopefully we will see all their beautiful faces, in uniform, next year.

It is a hard deciding an appropriate school for your children so please don’t hesitate to contact the school for further information or to organise a meeting with Chris Summers our Principal.

For more information to help parents decide an appropriate Catholic School please visit:
http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/parents/Primary%20handbook%202013.pdf

School Maintenance Updates
~ Upgrades to our PA system have been completed. We now have speakers in all learning areas and an improved messaging system has been installed.
~ New carpet and painting has been completed in the Western End portable. New blinds and awnings will be installed soon.
~ New painting has been completed in the Foundation classroom and adjoining spaces.
~ Apple TV’s have been installed in most learning spaces. Further improvements to our WiFi and Internet will be completed in the near future.
~ Our permits have now been approved and construction of a new storage shed will commence at the Western End of the School grounds hopefully before the end of the term.

Reports and Goal Setting Sheets
Please remember to return to school your child’s school report goal setting sheets. These are important documents for our teachers to focus on for our students for the remainder of the year. Please feel free to discuss any aspect of the report or goals you have set with your child’s teacher.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers
**Our School News**

**2014 Annual Report to the Community**

Hard copies of our Annual Report 2014 are now available at the office or is online on our school website. [http://www.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/)

**Important Dates on the horizon:**

- Aug 24th ~ 28th Book Week
- Aug 27th Book Week Parade & hotdog lunch
- 1st Sept Board Mtg
- 4th Father’s Day Celebrations
- 9th Sept Funded PSG’s
- 10th Sept P/T Interviews
- 11th Sept St Francis Trivia Night
- 17th Sept St Francis Sports Day
- 18th Sept Last Day of Term

**Quote of the Week**

*Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

_Francis of Assisi_

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**SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ**

**This week,** our Positive Behaviour Blitz is **Perseverance**

Perseverance is a quality where the process is more important than the end result. It is difficult for students (and adults) to see that anything is gained by trying constantly, sometimes without success. One successful goal easily balances out many failures. Perseverance helps to build strong character.

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

**Bailey Woods, Indianna McCabe-Jackson, Zahlia Kautai, Tom Butler, Mia Spiteri, Bianca Attoni, Ned Frostick and Will Sheehan**

*Winner of the care box was Aiden Botterill.*

*Principal’s Writing Award goes to Gus Bramwell*
Our School News

Reading Awards:

Congratulations to Oliver Sheehan, Clancy Baker, Cadence Armstrong, Ella Bryant, Hayley Wigmore, Sarah Connelly, Matilda Waser, Emily Woods, Charlie Sheehan, Grace McKeown, Darcy Conroy, Ned Bramwell, Brodie Armstrong, Shontay McCabe-Jackson, Maddison Locke, Henry Myers and Charlie Dietrich. Well done to all these students!

Apology: We must apologise to Jayda Liddell who last week received an award for 100 nights of reading. We had Jayda’s name as Jayda Limbrick in last week’s newsletter – which once again proves the old adage that a typist should not proof read their own work!

LIFE RELATIONSHIPS FAMILY EVENING
The Life Relationships family evening for Year 5 and 6 students and parents is on Monday, 31 August 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the school library. The next day we will be running the follow up sessions. Chris Summers and Brodie Ross will take the boys and Fiona Baker and Tam Perry will take the girls. Further information will be sent home early next week to parents.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TABLE YET?

ST FRANCIS PS TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015
TABLES OF 8 -10 PEOPLE
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
SCHOOL OFFICE: 5866 2271
GET A TABLE TOGETHER AND TEST YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
$10.00 A HEAD – BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES
2016 FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS
A reminder to our school families that if you have a child commencing school at St Francis in 2016 that you need to complete an enrolment form. Enrolment forms can be obtained from the school’s front office.

BOOK WEEK 24 AUGUST – 28 AUGUST 2015

The CBCA celebrates its 70th Anniversary in 2015.
The Book Week theme will be Books light up our world

Book week is next week – there is much excitement about who is wearing what costume next Thursday. Don’t forget the hotdog lunch – order forms are coming out this week. It would be appreciated if the hotdog lunch order forms could be returned to school no later than Tuesday, 25 August 2015 with the appropriate amount of money enclosed. For those parents whose children have allergies, we advise that we are getting our hotdog rolls from Brereton’s Bakery, the hotdogs are made by KR Castlemaine (Don) and the tomato sauce is White Crows and Homebrand.

We remind parents that we are again holding our Book Week Fair and we advise that the school library will be open this Friday afternoon from after school until 4.00 p.m. and then each morning 8.30 am until 9.00 a.m. and from 3.20 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Monday to Thursday of Book Week. This is a great opportunity for parents to purchase some fantastic books – maybe even some Christmas presents!

GRADE 1/2 COOKING:
Our Grade 1/2 students had a great time in their first cooking session making Tabouli using fresh ingredients from the school’s garden. A massive thank you to Jo Osmond for coming in and helping us harvest, prepare and cook a beautiful meal for us to share! It was fantastic to see the kids engaged in learning about positive eating habits & experiences, developing their cooking skills as well as enjoying school grown produce. We appreciated having Monique Bryant, Betty & Tam helping us out as well. Patrick Ryan summed up the success of the cooking session beautifully: “I am so excited to be eating something I have actually made! I love fooood”.
Together as a school community, we are planning a School Fair combined with the Car Boot Sale. The Fair will be held on **Sunday, 11 October 2015** from 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. We will be holding a quick meeting this coming **Tuesday, 25 August 2015 at 3.30 p.m. in our Gathering Space** (Library) to briefly outline our ideas and to select families to operate stalls. We have a number of ideas for stalls but we are open to any ideas that you may have. We are hoping to have a jumping castle, a train, a ferris wheel, fairy floss, face painting, nail painting and the like. Please come along to the meeting and share your ideas. Many hands made light work.

**PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS**
Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled to take place on Thursday, 10 September 2015 commencing at 2.00 p.m. Please telephone the school office on 5866 2271 to make your interview time. Parents are strongly encouraged to take this opportunity to meet with their children's teachers to discuss their children's progress.

Photos from our visit to SMOTA for Science Week.

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.
SCHOOL FOOTY RESULTS

Grade 3/4 Results:

Nathalia 70 defeated St. Brendan’s White 1

Goal Kickers - Brady Walpole 2, Oliver Sheehan 2, Max Frostick 2, Ewan Congues 2, Darcy Conroy 1, Charlie Sheehan 1, Ned Frostick 1.


Grade 5/6 Results:

Nathalia 66 defeated Mooroopna Blue 9.

Goal Kickers - Billy Brinsdon 2, Kaleb Kopsidas 2, Charlie Sheehan 1, Charlie Dietrich 1, Will Sheehan 1, Gus Bramwell 1, Max Frostick 1, Ryan Bell 1

Best on - Will Sheehan, Devon Maroney, Gus Bramwell, Oliver Sheehan, Charlie Sheehan, Max Frostick

That was our last game for the season. The kids had a fantastic season with some much improvement and development from everyone. We look forward to another great season next year. Look out for the form later in the year to express your interest to join the team.