Dear Parents and Friends,

Catholic Education Week was a fabulous excuse to stop and consider what is happening in our school, and I felt incredibly proud of our school community. Whether it be students reading at Mass, teachers preparing literacy & numeracy lessons, parent lead yoga lessons or the whole school participation in Reconciliation Week activities, it is easy to see the commitment everyone has to the wellbeing and development of all our students.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1Peter 4:10.

Thank you to all those who have shared their gifts with our school community.

The African proverb that “it takes a village to raise a child” means that raising children cannot be done alone, but that we all have a role to play. This is clearly the case, as we look at the many roles you all play in our school community.

Last night we gathered as the Nathalia Learning Community and caught up with Sir John Jones, who led our professional development last year, and I will finish with one of his quotes that, although aimed at teachers is true for all of us who have a role to play in the lives of children.

“I’ve come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humour, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized.”

May we all remember how critical our roles are in the lives of those around us.

Thank you and have a great week,
Veronica Williams
**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL**

**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 characters.

In week 6 our Social Skills Blitz was around Cooperation. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Payton Johns, Declan Begley, Sam Boyd, Aimee Wilson, Charlie Sheehan, Gus Bramwell & Ryan Dealy

Congratulations Everyone!!

---

**AROUND THE SCHOOL**

**Grade 4/5 Learning**

On the 21st May the Grade 3/4/5/6’s all went to the St Mary’s Production; it was Bye Bye Birdie! It was about Conrad Birdie [the famous rockstar] going to war but he doesn’t even go in the end. The main characters were: Albert, Conrad, Rosie, Kim and Hugo. It went for nearly two hours. My favourite characters were Rosie and Conrad. I wanted them to kiss but they didn’t. My favourite part was when Conrad sang baby hug me and all the screaming girls came and hugged him. All the girls were fainting and screaming; it was funny. Some of the girls sang a song to him, this is how it went: “We love you Conrad oh yes we do”!

I loved the whole production.

By Kate Kelly

On Wednesday 21st of May the grade threes, fours, fives and sixes went to St Mary’s auditorium to watch a musical. The musical was Bye Bye Birdie. It was a good musical, there were lots of funny parts. In the production there were LOADS of screaming girls. My favourite part would have to be when Mrs Peterson (Albert’s Mum) says to Rosie call me Mrs Peterson and then at the end of the production Rosie says “No, call me Mrs Peterson” because she is engaged to Albert Peterson. I thought it was also funny when Harry (Kim McAfee’s Dad) kept saying SHUT UP to Ruby (Kim’s sister). In the end the production was AMAZING!!!!!

5 Star Rating

By Rebecca Williams
Walker Learning Study Tour

We are very excited to announce that Kerry Conroy and Elli Cowcher have been accepted to take part in the Walker Learning National Study tour at the end of term 3. The following excerpt is from the overview of the tour, which has been organised by the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office.

The Walker Learning Approach (WLA) is the first major, Australian based, total and holistic pedagogy (Preschool to Year 8) to be designed and implemented. It is based upon decades of research about play-based and personalised learning and social constructivism. The WLA is not a program, or an inquiry model sitting discretely or separately from other curriculum areas. It is a total approach to teaching and learning which combines the need for children to be active participants in their learning (through hands-on and creative exploration and investigation) which sits alongside formal instruction. There is explicit teaching and development of not only literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge but also the range of vital social, emotional and life skills.

The Walker Learning study tour will take place from Monday 8th September – Tuesday 16 September 2014 and will focus on providing opportunities for participants to witness and explore The Walker Learning Approach in a number of educational settings at a variety of locations including Central Victoria, Darwin, Arnhem Land and South Australia. The intention of providing such a range of locations within Australia is to experience an Australian pedagogy that personalises learning for all children regardless of their family, background, culture, economic status or religion.

Congratulations Kerry and Elli, we look forward to the learning you will be able to share with all of us. Details regarding arrangements for their classes will confirmed closer to the time.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

Last week we celebrated Reconciliation Week commencing with our Sorry Day Assembly on Monday morning. On Tuesday Uncle Wally from the Yorta Yorta tribe came and spoke to the students about the importance of moving forward together. The students thoroughly enjoyed listening to Uncle Wally and they are asked some fabulous questions, which Uncle Wally was only too happy to answer. We held a reconciliation Mass on Wednesday morning and our week culminated in our students gathering in their house groups and participating in Reconciliation Arts activities on Thursday. Please enjoy our photos of this fantastic week.
CARE TEAM

careteam@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au

The Care Team is a team of parents and staff who seek to offer practical assistance to our families.

HOW WE CAN HELP....

Please let a Care Team member know if you feel we can be of assistance to you or another member of our school community. Our Care Team approaches all matters with confidentiality and respect.

A meal or a phone call can be provided anytime to ensure all of our families know they are valued.

Please don’t hesitate to call Tam on 5866 2271 for further information about the great work of our Care Team or alternatively email Tam on
careteam@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au

Nathalia Sports & Community Centre
FRIDAY
13TH
JUNE
DISCO
6.30PM - 8.30PM
$5.00 ENTRY

Dress-up in your scariest costume!
FREE GIVEAWAYS
Free Food & Drinks Available for purchase
NO Pass Outs!
Consent Forms must be completed
All Children will be collected by Parents at end of Disco
Zero Tolerance on language and bad behaviour (parents will be notified to collect child)

The Letter Box Project
Premiere!
7pm Saturday June 14
Dancooks Room, Nathalia Community Centre

GOLD COIN ENTRY
NIBBLES WILL BE PROVIDED

St Francis School
Chapel St, PO BOX 66, NATHALIA, 3638
Phone: 03 58 662 271