Dear Parents and Friends,

Tonight at 7pm eight of our children will gather in the church to receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations to Mia Bell, Ella Bryant, Darcy Conroy, Grace McKeown, Ben Nave, Hayley Wigmore and Emily Woods for doing their First Reconciliation in our parish provides a wonderful time for all of to stop and reflect on the enactment forgiveness in our own lives. I share with these words of wisdom from Jim Quillan.

“We can feel very smug and proud in forgiving someone – it is easy to take the moral high ground, to play the wounded party, being magnanimous. When a conflict happens we can be willing to give lip-service to the idea of forgiveness, but what we really want is justification for our own position and for withholding ‘privileges’ from the one who offended them. Real forgiveness has no preconditions, no ifs or buts – it is about reconciliation, about the restoration of relationships. Matthew writes a lot about the nature of forgiveness. Real forgiveness does not include making judgements (Do not judge and you will not be judged. Matt 7:1) Forgiveness is not a passive thing, rather it is what we might term something almost aggressive, well, at least proactive because it actively seeks to bless the offender. How do we know that? Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-times seven. (Matthew 18:21-22) When Jesus tells Peter to forgive 490 times He is not setting a numerical value on forgiveness. He is saying that forgiveness is to be unlimited. But more than that, it is a very positive act, something that brings benefit to both: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other cheek to him. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. (Matthew 5:38-42) That's the whole point of this passage: If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be compassionate, therefore, as your heavenly Father is compassionate. (Matthew 5:43-48) Forgiveness and reconciliation is at the heart of Jesus’ message. It is not easy to forgive one whom you know is going to offend against you again and again even seventy times seven times! What an enormous change in attitude that requires. Big changes begin with small steps – take Jesus’ example. Write in the dust – give people room to move, to change, to reflect, to grow. Forget about the put downs and the lectures – putting people in their place. Trust in God and God’s way of forgiving!”

Food for thought for all of us as we face challenges within our lives, especially those which call us to show love and forgiveness to those who do wrong by us. If you are looking for a little “food for the Soul” you can find more of Jim’s inspirational writings “Along the Track” on our Sandhurst CEO website.

Blessings for the week ahead,

Claire Kelly
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Tolerance.
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.

In week 6 our Social Skills Blitz was around Tolerance. The following students were nominated by their peers and teachers as displaying positive behaviour last week: Prep/1A: Bryce Young, Prep/1B: Charlotte Whyte, 2/3A: Kian Brereton, 2/3B: Ally Francis, 4/5: Kate Francis and Mac Hindmarsh, 5/6: Indiya Parker and Annie Dietrich.

Congratulations Everyone!! Keep up the good work.

Our Prayer are with the Daniel Family

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with Lonky and all of the Daniel family with the passing of Pat Daniel their beautiful mother and grandmother Sunday evening, may God’s love and comfort be close to all of the Daniel family at this difficult time.

"The tide recedes, But leaves behind Bright seashells on the sand. The sun goes down, But gentle warmth Still lingers on the land. The music stops, and yet it echoes on In sweet refrains... For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains."

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God, our Saviour and Redeemer!
Amen. Lord, hear my prayer today

Maggie Farrar with Nathalia Learning Community School Boards

Maggie has worked in London and Birmingham in senior leadership positions in school and local authorities. She is co-author with John West Burnham and George Otero of ‘School Community Partnerships – working together to transform children’s lives’. She has a particular interest in team leadership community leadership and schools as an organization that work together to transform children’s life chances and close gaps in achievement.
Next week she will present to the school boards and councils of the Nathalia Learning Community.
Who: School Board members
When: Wednesday 3rd September 2014, 7pm
Where: St Francis Primary School Library

Pre-School Open Day and Fundraiser

Nathalia and District Pre-school Open Day is on Monday 15th September 2014 from 2:30pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

Pre-School Fundraising Op-shop Tour on Saturday 20 September 2014, cost $25, morning tea and lunch provided. Expressions of interest contact Nicole Gabriel on 0458 972 416.
On Friday the whole school participated in Book Week group activities in their house colour groups; the students listened to a book and then completed an activity relating to the book. The books chosen were:

*The Treasure Box*
*The Windy Farm*
*Rules of Summer*
*Banjo and Ruby Red*

Winners and honourable mentions for best dressed on Friday 22 August for Book Week Parade. All the students looked fabulous, thanks to all the parents and carers for the effort made in creating such wonderful costumes.

**Meals on Wheels**
This week Mak Hindmarsh, Jessica Legge and Anna Brown will participate in Meals on Wheels on Wednesday, with our Wellbeing Officer Tam. This is a beautiful time where the students get to meet people in the community whilst providing a service, also learning to show compassion and patience, and learning how to have conversations with the elderly. Tam also teaches the children why this is such an important community engagement for Nathalia.

**Language Other than English**
St Francis School was recently successful in attaining a $20,000 grant, which will support the implementation of languages other than English over the next three years.

On Thursday and Friday Shirley and Claire participated in the first two days of the Leading Languages Professional Learning Program (LLPLP) at Melbourne University.

This four day program will support us to improve the language learning experiences for our students and support us to create a Languages Implementation Plan aligned with our current school improvement priorities.

This is great opportunity for our school, as only four Sandhurst schools have been chosen to be part of the program - so great news for us! Thank you to Shirley for all of the wonderful French experiences you have provided for our children over the years. This great work already undertaken by Shirley means we are ready to undertake the LLPLP and will see us leaders in the provision of languages teaching in years to come.

We look forward to the great learning that will come from this opportunity.
BOOK WEEK PARADE AND ACTIVITIES 2014

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