Prayer of the week

Our Daily Bread

Leader: We eat bread. We need to eat; we cannot keep alive unless we eat. Our very need to eat reveals a profound dependence at the very heart of our existence.

And so we pray:
All: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: We are not the source of our own lives and the very necessity of eating is a sign of this. We must take something from outside us and take it into ourselves in order to stay alive.

So we pray:
All: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’ Jn 6:35

All: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: Jesus describes himself as the ‘bread of life’. He is inviting us to discover the radical nature of bread in our lives and to find in him a spiritual meaning that is greater than ourselves and that continues to sustain us as a community.

So we pray:
All: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader: The human reality of bread and eating is a window to the mystery, which the eye cannot see, the ear cannot hear and the hand cannot touch.

So we pray:
All: God of life, through your sustaining gift of bread may we find common ground with all human beings. Lead us beyond what we can see and hear and touch into the discovery and celebration of the mystery of the ‘bread of life’, Christ among us.

Amen
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

**Book Week Celebrations**
What a wonderful week we have had celebrating the 75th year of Book Week. On Tuesday 12 Duke of Edinburgh students from SMOTA visited our junior classrooms to share with our Prep / one / two students their favourite stories of when they were growing up and why reading is so important. It was lovely to see the interaction of the older students had with our little ones and the connection they shared through reading was very special. These influences will go a long way to establishing positive reading habits not only for our students but helps to further build the close relationships we have with our adjoining secondary college. Thank you to Tim Campbell and all those involved for making this initiative a reality.

Yesterday we celebrated Book Week with our annual parade and hot dog lunch. It was great to see all students getting into the spirit of Book Week by dressing up as their favourite character or book personality. Our school was awash with an amazing display of costumes and the effort people went to was incredible, making it difficult to tell at times if characters were actually real! Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Book Week so memorable. These experiences are what the children remember as being a highlight at school and we are grateful for everyone’s involvement and participation. Time to think of what character to come as next year!

**St Francis School Fair ~ Sunday October 11th**
As part of our fundraising community events for 2015, we are holding a School Fair on Sunday 11th October. This event is fast becoming a major fundraiser and is shaping up to be a great community event. Thank you to Tam Perry, Dean Limbrick, Denise Butler and all who have volunteered to be part of our School Fair steering committee. Please refer to the attached flyer for further information regarding stalls, donations and other responsibilities for the fair. Please contact the school if you have other ideas that might help to make this event even more successful.

**Sun Smart ~ Hats Required as from 1st September.**
As part of our commitment and responsibility of being a Sun Smart School we are reminding all families to dust off those hats ready for wearing on the 1st Sept, next Tuesday.

**School Happenings…**
~ **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.

~ **Bishop’s Holiday Monday, 2 November:**
This year we have been granted a Bishop’s holiday, on Monday, 2 November, the day before the Melbourne Cup holiday. This will be a school closure day and therefore a 4 day weekend for our families.

~ **Parent/ Teacher Interviews Thursday, 10th September**
We will be holding P/T interviews on Sept 10th. This will involve teachers and parents discussing the child’s learning outcomes, goals and progress. Please telephone the office to book interview times.

~ **Father’s Day Celebrations Friday, 4 September**
This year we invite our dads, grandfathers and/or special friends to our Fathers Day Feast on Friday, 4 September. Hot Beef and Gravy Rolls will be served from 1:00pm as well as games on the oval (SMOTA) after lunch.

~ **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ~ Terry Jervis 4th Sept.**
As part of our Father’s day celebrations next Friday, Terry Jervis a well renowned artist will be working with our middle to senior students throughout the day. Please feel free to be part of this experience if you can. Terry timetable for the day:
9am – 11am: 5/6 Learning Community. 11:30 am – 1:00 pm: 3/4 Learning Community
~ Head Lice ~
There have been reports of head lice in some classes. Please check and treat your child’s hair if necessary.

~ Staff Professional Development ~
• Louise Robertson has attended a diocesan Administration Conference from Wed ~ Fri of this week.
• All staff have been involved in redesigning and reshaping our Behaviour management Policy in light of our current context, practices and SSEB recommendations. Behavior Management is unique for all school settings and there’s no one size fits all approach. It takes continuous review and dialogue before all stakeholders are satisfied with what our policy will look like moving us forward. We have high expectations for our students and acceptable behavior is a big part of this. Consequences for when children choose not to follow school rules or expectations are being considered and we would appreciate any feedback you may have. Once we have our draft policy in place we will present this to the board to be ratified.

School Board Meeting ~ Tuesday 1st Sept.
Our School Board will meet next Tuesday to discuss the Validation report given to us from the Full School review panel. Areas such as policy ratification, OHS recommendations and strategic directions for the next 3 years will be part of the agenda.

The Fight Against Racism - Education is Crucial
The Director of the Catholic Education Office in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Dan White, has highlighted the role of schools in combatting racism in an article responding to the booing of AFL player and former Australian of the Year Adam Goodes. Dr White, who has previously worked as a teacher, principal and administrator, wrote that he sees “everything through the prism of education through which we build people and bring out their best”. “But over the past months I have observed a systematic dismantling of a courageous Australian who has dared to publicly call out racism. This should not go unchallenged,” he wrote. Reflecting on Catholic education in Sydney, Dr White says there was a realisation that more should be done to support Indigenous students. Over the past 15 years, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the archdiocese has increased from fewer than 300 to almost 1100. Across Australia, the number of Indigenous students in Catholic schools has increased from 8,845 in 2001 to more than 20,000. Speaking of how the altered perspective has changed Sydney’s Catholic schools, Dr White said “our students and staff now have a more sophisticated understanding and appreciation of the challenges faced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their communities”. “It is in this context that I have despaired over the appalling treatment meted out to Adam Goodes over the past two years. At a time when role models for our young Indigenous men and women could not be more important, like others, I have watched and winced as, week after week, an extraordinary Australian has been subjected to a campaign of degradation and character assassination.” Dr White sees schools as a tool to help transform society’s views. “Education is a catalyst for change. I am hoping that, as a nation of good people, we will mark this moment in time as a point of turning for our country, where our national consciousness is awakened and our understanding of what it means to be fair and just and decent is rekindled,” he wrote. “I am also very keen for our schools to play a part in bringing about this change. I will be doing what I can to ensure that they do.”

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.
Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

**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.  

**Important Dates on the horizon:**

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  
15th Sept Gr 5 Transition Day – SMOTA.  
17th Sept St Francis Sports Day  
18th Sept Last Day of Term  
4th Oct St Francis Feast day  
5th Oct School Resumes Term 4  
9th Oct St Francis Feast day school activities ~ 9:15am Mass  
11th Oct ~ Sunday: St Francis Fair  
20th Oct ~ School Board  
2nd Nov Bishop’s Holiday  
3rd Nov Melbourne Cup Holiday

**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.

The *Life Relationships Program* has been developed to build on the work of *The Diocese of Sandhurst Family Life Program*. *The Diocese of Sandhurst Family Life Program* began in 1981 as a parent/student evening, supporting families at the stage where young people were changing physically and emotionally, while moving from childhood to adolescence. With a testimony of 60% attendance over a period of 25 years, it was decided to keep the essence of *The Family Life Program* alive, and at the same time take up the opportunity to embrace new technologies and teaching and learning strategies. *The Life Relationships Program* has evolved as a holistic approach to developing healthy relationships with emphasis on the adolescent stage of the life cycle. The partnerships between parents/caregivers, school and Year 5/6 students is supported through the three pathways which are offered in this program: presenter pathway, teacher pathway and student pathway.

**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.

**YEMP Program (Youth Engagement Program)**

We have six new students commencing the Youth Engagement Program for the coming 10 weeks. We congratulate the following students: Billy Brinsdon, Sam Boyd, Sam Trower, Sara Kolundzija, Indiya Parker and Rebecca Williams. We wish them every success for the commencement of the program.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.  
*Denis Waitley*
SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ

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

*Annabelle Flenley, Nicola Oliver, Nissa Maynard, Natasha Hassell, Ella Dealy, Ryan Dealy and Will Trower*

*Winner of the care box was Jas Pawlowicz*

Teaching Children Responsibility

As a parent, there are endless things I want to teach my children—how to be thoughtful and caring, how to be creative and innovative, how to be trustworthy and honest, how to be a good listener, and much more. But one trait that is high up on that list is how to be responsible.

Being responsible includes learning how to take care of yourself and others, as well as managing personal belongings, a school life, a home, and eventually a job. Learning responsibility doesn’t happen overnight, but the good news is that it can be taught early, even in 3-year-olds.

Tips for all parents...

• **Know that teaching kids responsibility takes a long time.** Don’t expect sudden miracles. Continue to talk and teach about responsibility as your child grows.

• **Make sure your child feels the consequences of not taking responsibility** (instead of you feeling the consequences). For example, if your child refuses to place his clothes in the hamper to be washed, leave them on the floor of his room. Shut the door. Don’t wash the clothes. When your child panics about not having clean clothes, show him the way to the washer and dryer.

• **Resist the temptation to rescue your kids when they suffer the consequences of not taking responsibility.** If your teenager calls from the library in the middle of winter wanting a ride home because she’s cold and she didn’t wear a coat, empathize with her situation, but don’t bail her out (unless, of course, it could be a life threatening situation). Something as simple as a walk in cold, brisk weather can teach a child the benefits of wearing a coat in the winter.

• **Talk less.** Kids often refuse to take responsibility because they know their parents will keep reminding them to do so. Be clear that you’ll give ONE reminder, and then it’s up to them.

• **Lead by example.** Remember that lessons in responsibility always start with you! If your child hears you saying one thing and then doing the opposite, your kids will be more likely to follow your example rather than follow your command.
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

Father’s Day Celebrations

Wow, Father’s Day already! Come and join in the Father’s Day celebrations, enjoy a yummy hot roast beef roll lunch and then participate in the fun footy activities that Mr Ross has organized for the day. A lunch order form will be coming home and for catering purposes we would appreciate it if the forms could be completed and returned to school by no later than Tuesday, 1 September 2015. Students are encouraged to wear their footy club jumpers or dress in their team’s colours – I wonder which AFL team will be the most popular. We will also be having a sausage sizzle lunch for our students. We look forward to seeing as many Dad’s as possible from 1.00 p.m. next Friday.

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.
St Francis Primary School Fair

We are very excited to announce that we will be holding the St Francis Primary School Fair on Sunday, 11 October 2015 between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. We have lots of fun ideas and fun activities planned, however, we are going to need your help. We are hoping that this will become a bi-annual event and one, which will continue to grow. Enclosed in this week’s newsletter is a list of all the activities planned and we are asking each family to nominate what activity they could help with. It would be great if people could pop their name next to the activity that they can help with and return the form to School by next Friday, 4 September 2015.
Nathalia Tennis Association
The tennis season is fast approaching and we are keen to hit the ground running when the season commences in October.
To assist us with our team planning, we would appreciate you taking the time to register your interest in either hotshots or Junior teams, on the form available at the school office.
These forms can be returned (by 31st August) to the school office or mailed to: PO Box 84, Nathalia 3638. Alternatively you can email your responses to the club at: tennisnathalia@gmail.com. We are a social and inclusive club and welcome new members, so please spread the word if you know others who might like to play junior tennis. For further information please contact Rose Nihill (0438 662149). We look forward to hearing from you.

Nathalia little Athletics season is about to start come and have some fun in our award winning club, meet new friends and be coached by our skilled coaches.
Registration and season opener
When- Wednesday 2nd September 2015
Where Nathalia Recreation Reserve
Time 4.45 pm
For more information contact centre at Nathalia@lavic.com.au or our website www.nathalialac.com.au