Week 7  
TERM 4, 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

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**Celebrating Jesus Christ, the King**

_Leader: Let us begin our prayer by making the Sign of the Cross together:_

_All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen._

_Reader: We finish each Church year by celebrating the feast of Christ the King._

From John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ words:_

‘I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

Pope Francis reminds us this will be:_

’a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.’

_Let us take a moment to reflect how this might look in our lives..._

_Leader: Together we pray Lord, we are waiting for the coming of Your kingdom of love, For peace around the world, For honesty, for real justice, when everyone truly shares the riches of the world. Lord, you have given us so much, Help us to be grateful and to live like your Kingdom has come._

_Amen._

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**Key Dates**

**November:**
- 23rd: School Closure – Staff PD
- 24th: Open Doors Fundraiser
  - Jump Start
  - School Board meeting
- 26th: Grade 2 Sleepover
- 26th 27th: Gr3/4 camp
- 27th: Strawberry Festival

**December:**
- 1st: Jump Start
- 2nd: GV Festival of the Sacred
- 8th: Orientation Day & Information Session for Parents
- 10th: School Christmas Carols/Concert
- 11th: Nathalia Community Carols by Candlelight
- 16th: End of Year Christmas Mass & Graduation
- 17th: Students last day of school.
- 18th: Staff last day.

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**PLEASE REMEMBER MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2015 IS A SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY.**

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**Peace and Joy  Justice  Integrity  Creation**
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

**Reconciliation Program**

Congratulations to our year 3 students who made their first reconciliation last Tuesday. The children are to be commended on the way they presented themselves and undertook all aspects of this important sacrament with enthusiasm. Thank you to Veronica Williams for coordinating our sacramental program. The children were beautifully prepared. We continue to pray for the following students: Lachlan Williams, Sasha Daniel, Mia Spiteri, Charlie Dietrich, Ruby McIver, Clancy Baker, Logan Daniel, AJ Brooks, Zara Limbrick, Brady Walpole and Callum McKeown.

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**End of year Mass and Graduation ~ December 16th**

Preparations are well on the way for this important end of year function. At this stage, we will be holding our End of Year Mass and Graduation at the school undercover area starting at 6:30pm.

**Christmas Carols ~ School Concert ~ Thursday 10th December**

On Thursday 10th December we are having Christmas Carols and school concert. Each Learning Community will perform 1-2 Christmas Carols with the senior students performing segways between class performances. A whole school finale will conclude the evening. Our Christmas Concert will be held on the SMOTA oval beginning at 7pm. Families are asked to BYO Chairs and picnic tea.

**Thoughts and Prayers ~ Fr Chris**

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Fr Chris as he undergoes further treatment for melanoma. Understandably Fr Chris will be absent from many school and parish functions as he continues to manage his illness. We continue to pray for all those in our community who are struggling with ill health or are saddened by grief or tragedy.

**Meals on Wheels**

Our 5/6 Social Justice team, led by Tam Perry, continue to help out with meals on wheel on a monthly basis. The students thoroughly enjoy visiting the elderly and ‘giving back’ generously to the Nathalia Community. This is a great initiative in which the students learn the value of generosity and thankfulness.

**Yellow Bellies released into the Broken Creek**

Last Friday our whole school helped to release over 100 mature Yellow Belly (Golden Perch) into the Broken Creek. This was a wonderful sustainability initiative supported by the local Angling Club and Victorian Fisheries Department. In pairs our students literally carried the fish in buckets from holding tanks and released them at the pontoon in readiness for the fishing competition last Sunday. By all accounts they were very smart fish as very few were caught on Sunday or maybe we have some very good ‘fish whisperers’ among us!!
**Barwo Visits**
Our 5/6 students continue to visit the residents of Barwo with our students singing, talking, cooking and listening to the residents and playing games. The positive feedback from both parties is mutual and continues to be a wonderful initiative from which our students gain a wealth of experience.

**Jump Start Program**
Our Jump Start Program commenced last week with all new foundation students for 2016 joining us for Tuesday morning. It was wonderful to see our new students eager and raring to start their formal schooling. Welcome to our new families who have joined our community.

**Parent Information Session ~ New Families 2016**
An information session for new families is organized for the 1st Dec in our Gathering Space commencing at 9:30am. Morning tea, a cuppa and a chance to meet new families will be provided after the meeting.

**School Board**
Our final school board meeting 2015 is being held next Tuesday 24th November. Our annual School Board AGM will be held during term 1 March 15th, 2016.

**Walker Learning Professional Development ~ Closure Day Monday 23rd November**
On Monday our entire staff will be attending a WLA professional development day in Melbourne. The purpose of this day is for all staff to witness the Walker Learning Approach in action across years F-6. Walker Learning is the approach for teaching and learning we are aiming to implement across the school. As with any approach or teaching pedagogy appropriate professional development needs to be completed and staff need to feel fully prepared or comfortable before significant implementation and adoption of such an approach is introduced. Our junior classes have been running Walker Learning for a number of years now and we have seen significant improvements in student learning, engagement and social development in these areas. Project based learning has been introduced in some middle years classrooms and the 5/6’s have been running the program all year. Our Art program has just recently adopted the Walker Learning Approach with significant changes to class structure, layout and lesson design. We are very excited to be undertaking this PD next week and look forward to further ‘up-skilling’ of staff next year as we develop our whole school philosophy and teaching pedagogy in 2016.


I have attached the WLA philosophy for those interested.

**The Walker Learning Approach Philosophy and Pedagogy**

**Compatibility with National Early Years Framework and Australian Curriculum**

The Walker Learning Approach is an Australian designed teaching and learning approach (pedagogy) that authentically personalises learning and is developmentally and culturally appropriate. Learning is real, relevant and meaningful for all children regardless of their age, culture, family context, socioeconomic background or geographical position. The WLA has been developed over 20 years using an action research model. It places the child at the centre and utilises developmental psychology and biology alongside cultural and environmental influences as its pedagogical platform and the basis for practical application across the Australian setting. International research highlights that educating children requires a systemised approach that embraces family and community (Burnham et al 2007, Otero et al 2011). The WLA is incorporated in a systems based model for the education of the whole child (birth to 12 years) through theories of practice, parent education, empowerment and inclusion, teaching and learning at school, and establishing and sustaining links and networks between family and community. Within this systems model the WLA provides a seamless transition from childcare to preschool, to early and upper primary school and beyond. The Key Values and Philosophy Guiding WLA Key Practices The WLA is underpinned by intentional teaching, using children’s interests (not for the interest alone, but as a catalyst for engagement, motivation and skill instruction) and respect of a child’s culture and context. These are used as a springboard to facilitate further understandings and skill development in all areas of learning including literacy, numeracy, language, cognition, social, psychological and emotional development.

**Echuca Excursion ~ P-2**
Today our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students went on an excursion to Echuca. We look forward to hearing of the many experiences our junior students will have had.

**Grade 2 ~ ‘Big Sleep Over’**
Next Thursday our grade two students will be having a sleep over and games night held at school. Thank you to our Year One / Two teachers and parents who have coordinated this event.
**Strawberry Festival ~ Friday Nov 27th**
We have been asked to provide the singing entertainment at the Strawberry Festival. A note will be coming home soon for those students who wish to participate. Our students are also able to participate in the Strawberry Festival Colouring Competition. Good luck to all those who have chosen to enter.

**Raffle Tickets ~ School Voucher**
Don’t forget that you can return your sold School Voucher raffle books anytime prior to our Hello Night to be held in early February 2016.

**Classes for 2016**
We are currently in the process of working out classes for 2016. Announcements will be made when all decisions are finalized.

Enjoy your weekend and week ahead!

*Chris Summers*

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**Quote of the Week:**

*Praised be You, my Lord,*
*Through Sister Earth our Mother*
*Who sustains and governs us*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

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**FIRE CARRIER NEWS – OPEN DOORS FOUNDATION**
We are having our annual Open Doors Fundraiser on Tuesday 24th November 2015. The Open Doors Foundation is an organisation that assists Aboriginal families with the costs of education, so they can send their children to school. We are asking that everyone comes dressed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colours – red, yellow, black, blue, green and white. A gold coin donation would be appreciated. During recess we will be selling:
Aboriginal wristbands with chocolate balls for $3.00
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:

Jake Momm, Indianna McCabe-Jackson, Ruby Spiteri, Zara Limbrick, Darcy Young, and Cassie Brooks

Winner of the care box was Holly Boyd

Awards for reading: Jake Momm, Jayda Liddell, Mitchell Daniel, Ella Dealy and Tom Walker
Principal Writer’s Award: Aaron Petric, Riley James and Hugh Stone

Congratulations Everyone!

Once upon a time there were two men, who went down to the Murray to have a fish. Their names were Aaron and Dylan. They went down to the river in Dylan’s 4WD. When we arrived we put the boat in the river, it looked like a perfect day for a fish as it was calm. Then when that was done we put on our life jackets, got in the boat and took off.

We went down the Murray in my boat to find an excellent spot, it was full of snags which are great for cod. Dylan and I cast our lines and we waited a bit. All of a sudden, Dylan got a huge bite! It was a fight to get the beast in, Dylan fought too hard and then the line snapped! The sun started to set so I told Dylan it was time to go so we headed back home.

We put the boat back onto the trailer and cruised home as the sun started to set along the Murray River. When we got home I told Dylan “it doesn’t matter I had a extra cod in the freezer” then Dylan said why didn’t you tell me that in the first place? It was a brilliant finish to our day on the Murray River.
This Week in French

FRENCH THIS WEEK
Bonjour everyone, this week in French 5/6 classes we were very privileged to have a visitor Alex. She answered all our questions that we wanted to know about France.

She speaks English very well and said that she spending time in Nathalia.

She told us about the troubles in France and why it is happening.

Thank you very much Alex for giving us you time to tell us more about your country we have learnt a lot.

By Jack!
The Baby Myna!!

It was a normal day the 9th of November 2015, I was walking through the gate on the way to school when SQUARK!! as Dana yelled at me, I lifted my foot to see I had stepped on a baby Indian Miner Bird. I felt the scruffy feathers of the bird on my legs as it skipped away like a wounded gazelle.

As in we went on the way to school I couldn’t stop the sad guilty feeling in my gut. At school I had the most miserable day at school I couldn’t stop thinking of that poor baby bird.

As I went out for Recess I got ready to play some cricket as I walked over I noticed several birds. I thought it was going to be a bird apocalypse they were all coming after me from what I done to that poor Baby Miner Bird.

I was looking around the oval to see some Magpies, Galas, and another Miner Bird!! I thought that next coming would be a stampede of Emus but that never happened. As the teacher Yelled out “Come on time to head back over” all of the students moved towards the gate.

At lunch, well lunch was pretty normal we stay on the school grounds to play cricket on our school tiger-turf. I got a bat and a ball. I wasn’t that great at all Then it was time to head back in side of our classroom.

In our classroom we were told to do some free writing, I was going to write about a poor village, but then a got a Grand Spanking idea!! I was going to write about out a true story about what happened to me this morning about a Baby Miner that I stepped on. The story that you are reading right now!!

Before I new it the bell went to go home on the way I kept a sharp eye out to look for that Little Miner. The little bird was in no sight at all, I started to wonder if the bird died, my two cats caught it, or it skipped away, and my last scenario it got sucked into a worm whole. We will never know what happened it.

THE END!!

Above: Riley James’s winning writing piece.

DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE, DO NOT BURY YOUR TALENTS, THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU! DO NOT BE AFRAID TO DREAM OF GREAT THINGS!

POPE FRANCIS

Life is so much brighter when we focus on what truly matters.......
Above: Hugh Stone’s winning writing piece.

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.