Prayer Space

~ Prayer for National Reconciliation Week ~
Reconciliation Week: Wednesday 27th ~ 3rd June 2015

Reconciliation Prayer

Holy Father,
God of Love You are the Creator of this land and all good things
We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history
And the suffering of our peoples.
And we ask your forgiveness.
We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures
Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus
To reconcile the world to you.
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,
Accept and love one another,
As you love us and forgive and accept us
In the sacrifice of your Son.
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history
So that we may build a better future for our nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Help us to care for our land and waters.
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
To improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities,
Especially the disadvantaged.
Help our young people to find true dignity
and self esteem by your Spirit May your power and love
be the foundations on which we build our families,
our communities and our Nation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Last Wednesday 27th May marked the beginning of National Reconciliation Week and yesterday at assembly we recognised, through prayer and reflection, the importance of remembering past injustices and looking to the future of building positive relationships and opportunities for all Australians. Our School Fire Carriers presented a very respectful and culturally significant prayer to recognise the important contributions all indigenous Australians have made and continue to make for our country. We thank Fiona Baker and our Fire Carriers for sharing with us their reflections and for preparing our assembly.

Last Thursday our Year 6 Leaders and Fire Carriers Leadership Group will attend a special Reconciliation Mass held at SMOTA. It will be wonderful to be part of this community celebration.

Please take the time to read the following background information regarding National Reconciliation Week.

**National Reconciliation Theme: It’s Time to Change it up.**

Each week between the 27th May and the 3rd of June members of all faith communities across Australia offer prayers for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. This week is a time for us to renew our commitment to working together in partnership for justice and the healing of relationships. The Week of Prayer runs concurrently with National Reconciliation week.

The week is framed by two key events in Australia’s history, which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation.

May 27th marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation’s history. The 1967 Referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Indigenous people had a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonization and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for Indigenous land rights called Native Title.

From Reconciliation Australia www.reconciliation.org.au/

The theme for NRW 2015 is **It’s time to change it up.**

NRW is a chance for you to take some fresh action to spark a change in your school, workplace or community—no matter how big or small. We’re changing it up by working to engage the next generation through *Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning*, and we’re working to fix historical exclusion and end discrimination against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through Recognise.
celebrate Indigenous success at every opportunity. What will you do to change it up for NRW 2015?

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability
The NCCD on school students with disability is an annual data collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable education adjustment they are provided. All Australian schools must participate annually. An information flyer for parents has been attached to this week’s newsletter. Please take the time to read the information provided. For further clarification or queries please contact the school.

PLEASE NOTE: Change of Day for School Newsletter
As of the week starting June 8th (Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend) our newsletter will go home on a Friday instead of a Tuesday. Our first Friday edition will be on June 12th.

Still on the Radar… Bike and Scooter Safety
Last week we had several reports of bike and scooter safety regarding students traveling to and from school. Unfortunately there have been further reports from concerned members of our community. If your son or daughter rides a scooter or bike to school could you please remind them of their rights and responsibilities about being safe on roads or shared footpaths. Some tips:

Safe riding checklist

- No scooters should be ridden on roads especially in the opposite direction into oncoming traffic.
- If your child is under 10 years, he needs to cycle with a grown-up, preferably on bike paths.
- Children under 12 years are allowed to ride on the footpath. Encourage your child to watch for vehicles coming out of driveways.
- Teach your child to walk her bike across pedestrian crossings instead of riding across the street.
- Children must show that they can follow road rules and predict what cars will do before being allowed to cycle alone. This takes a long time and a lot of practice.
- Show your child that he needs to approach driveways and intersections with caution. Riding onto the road from a driveway is particularly risky as parked vehicles can hide a bicycle rider from oncoming drivers.
- Teach your child to wear enclosed footwear when riding, rather than thongs or bare feet. Your child might hurt bare feet if they get caught in the spokes or chain, or if they’re used as brakes.
- Your child shouldn’t ride at night. To ride at night, you need special equipment (lights, visibility vests), acute traffic awareness and understanding of driver behaviour.
- Discourage stunt riding. ‘Look no hands’ and ‘dinking’ are unsafe.

French Day ~ Bastille Day July 14th
As part of our commitment to learning the French language at school we will be participating in a French day held on the first Tuesday of Term 3. All students are encouraged to wear
something in the colours of Red, White or Blue or to come in character eg: wearing berets, moustaches, French artists, pepe le pew! Etc. Children will be participating in various French inspired activities and eating French inspired cuisine. All welcome. Further information and details will be available in the coming weeks.

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.sf Nathalia.catholic.edu.au/

Country Education Project ~ Time for Celebrating!!
On Thursday, 28 May 2015 the Nathalia Learning Community was announced winner of the 'Baillieu Myer Rural Innovation Award'. This was presented and announced last Thursday in Melbourne. This is an extremely prodigious award for our school communities as it highlights the amazing connection our schools have with each other and the alliance we continue to develop. It is well worth celebrating. Well done to everyone involved, especially Deanne Dewar who submitted the application on behalf of the Nathalia Learning Community. It shows that as a rural community we have plenty to offer. Great Stuff!!

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund Announced (CSEF);
The Victorian Government has announced $148 million over four years for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or who are temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student will be: • $125 for primary school students • $225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. An application form has been enclosed in the newsletter of those who we know have a health care card.

Closing Date: You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015. For more information about the CSEF: visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. Please also see flyer on the next page which explains things further.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

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.

Over the next few weeks we will be including tips for parents to deal with children’s behaviour. As parents we cannot predict our children's behaviour and sometimes the causes for inappropriate behaviour may be in what we are doing or failing to do.

Sometimes, when tasks and schedules get overwhelming, it’s helpful to make a to-do list to make things feel more manageable and focused. If your children's behavior problems have you feeling overwhelmed and not knowing what to do first, start with these 10 tips for better behavior.

7. Send time-out to the sidelines. Practically every parent has tried to punish or correct behavior by sending their child to “time out,” but most have found it just doesn’t work or lead to better behavior. That’s because a time out in the corner or bedroom doesn’t teach kids how to make better choices the next time, and generally, a time out just escalates a power struggle. Kids, especially the strong-willed, will push back, and hard. Instead, focus on training, not punishment. Ask, “What can we do differently next time?” and role play the do-over.

8. Just say no – to saying no. Kids barrage us with questions everyday, and more often than not, our answer is “no,” and kids resent it. Find opportunities to say “yes” when you can. If your daughter asks to go to the indoor pool in the middle of a busy weekday, try saying, “Going to the pool sounds like so much fun. Should we go tomorrow after school or on Saturday?” Of
course, there will always be things that will need a big “no,” but try to redirect them to a more positive option.  
(Source: http://www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/parenting/start-10-tips-better-behavior)

**Foundation Families – School Nursing Program**
A reminder to our Foundation families: please return the Primary School Nursing Program questionnaire to school before 19 June 2015. Even if you do not wish to avail yourself of this free service, we still need the questionnaire returned to school.

**The Term Ahead…**
This term is a busy and productive term educationally, socially and spiritually for students, teachers and parents. There is much on the horizon and there is much to look forward to. Some of the bigger immediate events happening this term include:

~ 8<sup>th</sup> June Queen’s Birthday Holiday  
~ 10<sup>th</sup> June Parent Support Group Meetings ~ Funded Students (PSG’s)  
~ 16<sup>th</sup> June School Board Meeting  
~ 17<sup>th</sup> June Year 6 Transition Day  
~ 17<sup>th</sup> June Parent Support Group Meetings ~ Non Funded Students (PSG’s)  
~ 19<sup>th</sup> June Winter Sports  
~ 22<sup>nd</sup> June School Closure Day  
~ 26<sup>th</sup> June Last Day of Term

**Michelle Legge’s Head Shave**
Raffle tickets available at the School Office $2.00 a ticket or 3 for $5.00. Michelle will be having her head shaved on Friday, 19 June 2015 – see advert later in the newsletter.
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Cooperation. 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 7 our Social Skills Blitz was around Cooperation. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Jake Momm, Bridie Wilson, Ally Francis, Erin Hassell, Lachlan Williams, Lauren Cobbledick and Aaron Petric.

The winner of our Care Box this week is Mrs Williams and the winning class was 3/4J.

The following students received an award for reading for 50 nights:

Matilda Flenley, Jas Pawlowicz, Hugh Stone, Aidan Young, Josh Burns, Mitchell Daniel, Jake Momm, Isabella Nave, Annabelle Flenley, James Ormond, Sarah Connelly, Bryce Young & Catarina Pawlowicz.

The following students received awards for doing their best in last week’s Winter Sports:

Jasmine Galambos, Ebony James, Jessica Legge, Nicola Oliver, Sara Kolundzija, Wade Tuddenham & Ella Brereton.

Congratulations Everyone
COMMUNITY NEWS

Vinnies WINTER APPEAL
Donations of clean bedding and non-perishable food items are needed. Please place in classroom baskets.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Nathalia & District School Football

Grade 5/6 results.
Nathalia: 60 defeated St George’s Rd: 14
Goal Kickers: Billy B. 2  Ryan B. 2  Kaleb K.  Will S. Harry D.  Darcy B. and Jack M all one each.
Best On: Ryan B  Billy B  Kaleb K  Cooper B  Harry D and Darcy B.

Grade 3/4 results.
Nathalia: 38 defeated Tatura: 10
Goal Kickers: Tom D. 2 / Max F. Brodie A. Brandon O. Gus B all one each.
Best on: Tom D  Gus B  Brandon O  Brodie A  Ned F and Henry M.

Next Week for both teams- reminder: there is no football due to the long weekend. The following week is at home 3/4 9:00  5/6 10:00.

Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre
Is proud to present

........ Barmah by Nature ........

A Photographic Exhibition by Dr. Fisher

Donations of prizes for the raffle would be very much appreciated. Please contact Michelle if you can help.

Don't Let the Cold Get You Down

Michelle Legge's Head Shave
Friday, 19 June 2015
St Francis Primary School
5 PM Start
Please bring a plate to share with everyone.
Sonita providing entertainment (Paddy & Loopy)
Raffles