Week
TERM 3, 2015

St Francis School

Educating The Whole Child For Today and Tomorrow.
A school community that recognises learning is natural, creative and ongoing

Prayer for Fathers

Dear Lord

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfilment of duty.

You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes.

They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labour and weariness.

But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God’s Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother.

Assure those you protect that they do not labour alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.

Amen

Pope John XXIII

“When I come home, my daughter will run to the door and give me a big hug, and everything that’s happened that day just melts away”. Hugh Jackman

“It was my father who taught me to value myself. He told me that I was uncommonly beautiful and that I was the most precious thing in his life”. Dawn French.

“A father is a man who expects his son to be as good a man as he meant to be”. Frank A Clark.

Key Dates

Coming up

Wednesday, 9 Sept
PSG Meetings

Thursday, 10 Sept
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Friday, 11 Sept
St Francis Trivia Night

Tuesday, 15 Sept
Gr 5 Transition Day – SMOTA
School Fair Meeting
3.30 p.m. Staff Room

Thursday, 17 Sept
Athletics Sports Day

Friday, 18 Sept
Last day of Term 3
2.20 pm finish

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

To all of our Fathers, Step Dads, Grand Dads, Pops and Papas, on behalf of our entire school community, I wish you all a very happy and fun filled Father’s Day this Sunday.

Dads play a very important and special role in all families, especially for the development of children and for building healthy, loving relationships. It would be naïve to suggest that all family dynamics are the same and that all experiences nurture positive relationships, however for the majority of families in our community and for the experience most of us have had, ‘home life’ experiences support loving relationships and play a very important part in our development and identity.

An experience my family had last weekend was testimony to this. A close friend of ours has recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has been given only a short time to live. We travelled to Sale to visit Peter Collins, who 23 years ago accepted my wife Sophie and I into his family as newcomers to the community and newcomers to the world of living away from our own parents and family of which we were so accustomed to. In my first year as a teacher (1992 and 20 years of age) I taught a straight grade 3 class of 36 students and Monique (Peter’s daughter) was one of my very first students. I later had the privilege of teaching Simon their middle son and we got to know Luke their eldest son quite well. It was fair to say Pete, Mary-Rose and their 3 children accepted both Sophie and I as part of their own family and we spent much time together in the 4 years we lived in Sale. These experiences and memories are ones we will continue to treasure for a long time.

Combined with the many wonderful experiences we had both had growing up with our own families, the Collins family taught Sophie and I much in regard to how we would like to one day raise our own children, being positive role models and to replicate the influences, morals and ethics we witnessed when living in Sale over 20 years ago. To visit this family again still showing the same love, devotion and respect they have for one another, almost 19 years later, and especially at this time of difficulty, is verification to the importance of family and to be able to introduce our own children to a family who profoundly influenced us early in our marriage was an experience I am very grateful for. We had a wonderful weekend catching up, sharing memories, laughing and meeting each other’s own clans. Even ex-students who had heard we were in town dropped in to say hello. Besides making me feel very old, I was humbled to know that the influence we have on others has been far greater than anything we were aware of.

It’s important to make every experience one to remember. These experiences shape and influence who we are. My own father, father-in-law and the role model Peter Collins continues to be to his family, have helped to influence and inspire the Dad I hope I am. We all need role models and there’s no better model to be than being a Dad! Best wishes to all dads this weekend.

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.

School Happenings...

~ Athletics Updates:
Mr Ross has commenced training for our Athletics Sports Day on Thursday 17th Sept. The Athletics Championship will be conducted at school prior to our athletics. Please note: The 100 metre heats and final will be conducted on the day. All students in 4/5/6 have already signed up to compete in the championship events.
~ 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 are holding Parent Teacher interviews on Thursday Sept 10th. This will involve teachers and parents discussing the child’s learning outcomes, goals and progress. Please call the office to make a booking.

~ FATHER’S DAY CELEBRATIONS TODAY ~

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it today to help celebrate Fathers Day. We had a wonderful roll up of Dads, Grand Dads, Uncles and special friends who enjoyed yummy Gravy Beef Rolls and joining in the games we had on the oval. Thank you again to our amazing team of volunteers who ensured we all had plenty to eat.

~ ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ~ Terry Jervis

As part of our Father’s day celebrations today, Terry Jervis a well renowned artist was here working with our middle to senior students throughout the day. We were very grateful for Terry’s expertise and being here with us today. The students had a wonderful time.

Sun Smart

Please remember all students are required to wear their hats commencing Monday 7th Sept. Consequences for not wearing a hat will be: No Hat, No play.

A Message from the Sun Smart Team:

It's the start of spring and the start of September so it's time for those five SunSmart things to remember! Although if you've been checking the UV levels and daily sun protection times, you would have seen the UV levels started to rise in many locations across Victoria from mid-August! It may be time to change your policy to state: A combination of sun protection measures are used whenever the UV levels reach three and above. UV levels and sun protection times are monitored each day to help with the implementation of this policy. If you can, please check the sun protection times each day so you can be sure you are using sun protection when you need to be. The sun protection times are available as a free app, from sunsmart.com.au and the Bureau of Meteorology website. You can also add the free SunSmart UV widget to your website. During the sun protection times please remember to:
1. Slip on sun protective clothing
2. Slop on SPF 30 or higher sunscreen
3. Slap on a wide brimmed hat
4. Seek shade.
5. Slide on some wrap-around sunglasses

~ Staff Professional Development ~

* 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.
Our School News

**School Board Meeting ~ Tuesday 1st Sept.**
Our School Board met last 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 were discussed and will continue to be our focus next term.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

**Important Dates on the horizon:**
9th Sept Funded PSG’s  
10th Sept P/T Interviews  
11th Sept St Francis Trivia Night  
17th Sept St Francis Sports Day  
18th Sept Last Day of Term  
4th Sept 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  
24th & 25th November Grade 3/4 Camp ~ Billabong Ranch Echuca  
2nd Dec GV Festival of the Sacred  
10th Dec St Francis Christmas Carols  
16th Dec End of Year Christmas Mass and Graduation.

**Quote of the Week**
One of the greatest titles in the world is parent, and one of the biggest blessings in the world is to have parents to call mum and dad.

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

Harry Morgan, Lachlan Russell, Charlie Sheehan, Max Frostick, Sam Boyd, Ruby Spiteri and Jessica Legge.

Winner of the care box was Zander Quinn.

Principal’s Writing Award: Nikita Pawlowicz

Social Skill Blitz ~ Cooperation

There are certain things you can do that greatly increase the chances that kids will cooperate. Here are the 6 secrets to getting kids to cooperate that have worked:

1. Invite, don’t demand.

   We all want our children to “ask nicely,” but the truth is, that’s easier said than done. My question is, where do you think they learned to be demanding and inflexible? Oh yeah, from us! If we want our kids to cooperate, then we’ve got to be the bigger, more mature ones and lead by example. Contrary to popular belief, asking nicely, inviting, and working together to find a solution to a problem doesn’t teach children to be more defiant or disobedient, instead, by doing these things you’re laying a foundation of trust and teamwork that your kids will soon learn to rely on.

   Use this quick test to figure out whether your request is actually a demand. Ask yourself, “Would it be OK if they answered ‘no’ to this request?” If not, then you’re not actually inviting or asking, you’re demanding or requiring a
specific behavior. That’s OK some of the time, especially if safety is an issue, but remember, the more demands you make on your kids, the less true, *internally motivated* cooperation you’re likely to get.
That’s not to say you shouldn’t have expectations of your children. It’s just that when those expectations aren’t met, it’s helpful to see that as an opportunity to problem solve together, rather than an excuse to punish them into submission.

2. Turn it into a game.
Kids love to play. When you can make something fun, they’re far more likely to get on board. This does require some creativity and spontaneity on your part. When your child refuses to leave the park, can you find a way to make getting to the car more fun? Maybe you’ll pretend you’re firefighters and you have to jump into the firetruck to go put out the fire. Or perhaps you’ll race, or hop like a bunny, or offer a ride on your shoulders. Making things more fun isn’t just a great way to gain your child’s cooperation, it’s also a way to enjoy your time with them more. I mean, which would you prefer, a power struggle where you force your child kicking and screaming into his car seat or a fun game in which he climbs in willingly?
If you’re not sure what kind of a game will work best, tune in to your child’s interests. If she loves princesses, then you’ll be her knight in shining armor or her trusty steed. If he’s into trucks, you can ask if he wants to be fork-lifted into the car. Or maybe you’ve just read a story about a friendly fish, so try acting it out! If you just can’t seem to come up with an idea, ask your child what to play. Most kids are more than ready with a suggestion for a fun game or activity that you can alter slightly to fit your agenda.

3. Stop repeating yourself.
This is a mistake we all make, especially when we’re not getting the results we want. Trust me that repeating yourself is the last thing you want to do if you’re trying to foster cooperation. Your child heard you the first time, and by repeating yourself, you’re simply training her to stop listening and wait for you to get frustrated before she acts. Children are discovering all sorts of things about the world around them, including vast amounts of information about social/emotional dynamics. When they throw you off your game or induce you to get frustrated or upset, they’re gathering very interesting data about how to get what they want and what might cause you to reconsider your position. Don’t fall prey to their cunning.
When you can keep your cool and maintain clear boundaries, your kids will still test you, but after they’ve tested all their theories about how to get around your rule with no success, they will find other areas far more interesting and emotionally rich.

4. Be forgetful.
But what about when you’ve asked once and they’re not responding? Instead of asking again, take a different tack. Be forgetful and invite them to remind you what you said a moment ago. “Wait, I forget, didn’t I just ask you to do something? What was that? I think we were getting ready to go somewhere, but can you please remind me where?” This allows the kids to be the smarter ones and if there’s one thing children love, it’s being smarter and more capable than adults.

5. Let them be in charge.
That’s why you’ll get a lot more cooperation when you allow them to be in charge. No need to constantly corral them, just put one child in charge of getting everyone ready and out the door and you’ll be surprised how quickly it will happen. This works especially well with my daughter when I underestimate her abilities and she gets to prove how smart and capable she is. “You don’t know how to do that all by yourself, do you?” And then when she has her shoes on and is climbing into her car seat, “Wow, you knew exactly what to do to get ready to go and you did know how to do it!”

6. Cooperate with kids.
There are times when even the most cooperative child just needs some extra help. This could be because they’re tired, sick, hungry, or just feeling sad and disconnected. So if nothing else seems to work, offer to help. During times like this, we like to play a game in which my daughter pretends to be a baby and I have to do everything for her. After just a few moments of this game, she is far more willing to do what I’ve asked or help me with something.
That’s because she knows that when she really needs some extra support, I’m there to willingly and happily provide her with the support she needs. Hopefully, you’re already well versed in these secrets and this has simply been a reminder of what you already know works best.

By Shelley Phillips

http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/6-secrets-getting-kids-cooperate.html

**HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TABLE YET?**

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**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**

**7.00 PM START**

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**A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD – FAITH CONNECTIONS FOR FAMILIES**

“..For today’s families the internet, tablets, smartphones and related technologies are integral to daily life, communication and social engagement. With these factors in mind, a new resource “A Closer Walk With God: Faith Connections for Families Diocese of Sandhurst 2015-2016” has been developed, recognising that everyone’s ‘walk with God’ is unique and life is busy for families...” We have copies of these booklets at the front office or alternatively the booklet is on the Sandhurst Diocese website for viewing as a ‘flip book’.

**ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR**

A reminder to parents that there will be another School Fair meeting on Tuesday, 15 September 2015 in the school Staff Room at 3.30 p.m. We hope to see as many people as possible there.

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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.
School News

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.

Spring Has Sprung

Filey James was coming in front and he crossed the finish line first and he won $1 million dollars and they got a picture taken.

Chantelle said this was the best day apart from their wedding. Adam said it was great to feel like a winner and that he would spend the money wisely.

At the end of the day it was time to go home and they said their Goodbyes and hopped in the car on the way back they got McDonalds and it was yum but not that great. They had a lovely time after that and years and years passed and they were telling their grandchildren all about what happened and hoped that one day they might just win a Jackpot like they did.

THE END

Article Written By: Nikita Pawlowicz
Edited By: Mr Ross.

Let’s Play Tennis!

“Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever.”

Walt Disney