Prayer Space

~ Pope Francis ~
5 Finger Prayer

1) The thumb is closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a “Sweet Obligation.”

2) The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.

3) The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.

4) The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.

5) And finally we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

Today's Prayer with the Pope

June 2015
Daily offering:
Holy Spirit of love, you moved the waters and gave light and form and colour to our world. You fill all things with life and beauty and give to our hearts the joy of love; fill my mind with your light, so that I may rejoice in your creation and in my happiness raise my heart to you.

Amen.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

"I want the Church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves." -Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013.

Pope Francis has been called the "pope of the people". He captures minds and hearts with his joyful faith, with his warm, direct and loving attention to those he meets, and with his attention to the poor and needy. If you have ever taken the time to read or listen to Pope Francis he truly is the peoples pope. His messages are quite simple. He often writes about the importance of humility, being true to yourself and to your beliefs, caring for the poor and needy and not to be driven by materialism. I was listening to a radio program the other day about Pope Francis and I was surprised to hear that he has not watched television since 1990 and doesn't use the Internet. While driving I started thinking how hard that must be and started counting how many TV's and electronic devices my family owns. In all we have 3 televisions, with plans of putting another one in the back shed to relieve the boredom of being on the treadmill with nothing to watch, and eight electronic devices including l-phones, computers and I-pads, almost two devices per family member. I'm sure we're not alone and probably not as extravagant as some. Although when you consider the poorest and most venerable people in the world, we are extremely well off. We are among the wealthiest people in the world.

On reflection, Pope Francis reminds us of how lucky we really are and how important it is to pray for and think of those ‘on the fourth finger’ (referring to Pope Francis' five finger prayer) and when possible ‘take action’ and do something to help the poor and needy. Maybe I won’t put that extra TV up in the shed. I can always listen to the footy on the radio!

**PBIS Updates ~ Positive Behaviour in Schools**

**PBIS Raffle tickets**

To keep our focus on children’s positive behaviour at school, last term we introduced a raffle ticket system whereby teachers will write out a raffle ticket for children making positive choices, helping others or being good role models. These tickets are put into our ‘Care Box’ and drawn out at assembly on Monday mornings. Students drawn out receive a lunch order to the value of $5. We have noticed significant improved attitudes and behaviour across the entire school. We congratulate all students for their efforts and especially for those who receive a ticket for the care box.

To celebrate the children's success in behaviour we have made up a ‘barometer of success’ for the amount of tickets that go into the ‘Care Box’ each week. These tickets are counted each week and the classroom where the most tickets come from are given a weekly reward of extra play, computer time, free time etc. (teacher discretion). An overall school tally of tickets is being kept and ‘displayed’ in the front foyer. When our students reach a total of 250 tickets in total a whole school reward will be given. This will be decided in conjunction with staff and students and will be something like an out of uniform day or crazy hair day.

Currently we have a total of 242 tickets counted and in the past 5 weeks four different classrooms have received the weekly award. Last weeks Care Box winner was Mrs Williams for being kind and speaking nicely in the staffroom. As you can see it’s not just for the kids!! This week’s Care Box winners were Josh Woods and Sarah Stone. Congratulations Josh and Sarah for being kind and considerate students.

**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.
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund Announced (CSEF)

MAIN POINTS

- 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. 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

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 the last two week’s newsletter. If you have not yet read the flyer or require another copy, or need further clarification or any queries please contact the school office.

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

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 e.g.: 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.

Lions Club and New Years Eve Carnival Presentation
On Wednesday, 3 June I attended a cheque presentation function held by the Nathalia & District Lions Club where I received a donation from the Lions New Year’s Eve Carnival Committee in recognition of the contribution that St Francis Primary School made to the 2014 New Year’s Eve Carnival. Not only do members of our school community take turns to man the “Dunk the Spunk” throughout the evening, they also volunteer to be dunked! This fantastic donation has enabled the school to introduce “Too Cool for the Yard!” which is an alternative program for those children.
who are looking for quiet, calm activities to do during recess and lunch times such as board games, craft activities, construction (i.e. Lego) and toys for the sandpit.

**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.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/)

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

**Junior Public Speaking**

Our Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 students are eligible to enter into the Lions Club Junior Speaking Competition. We will be working with students on their speeches during lunch times and some class time, however, there is an expectation that parents will help students at home with the research, preparation and presentation of their speeches.

The school heats for the Junior Public Speaking will take place in the St Claire Auditorium on **Wednesday, 15 July 2015 and Thursday, 16 July 2015**. We have the auditorium booked from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. but we will confirm the start time closer to the event. Three winners from each age group (i.e. Years 3-4 and Years 5-6) will then go on to compete against students from other local schools in the Lions Club event to be held on **Wednesday 22 July 2015** (venue to be advised). A winner from each age group will then go on to represent Nathalia at the Regional level of the competition.

**Topics for Speeches:**

**Years 5-6 Topic: – A Major Natural Disaster**

You are a member of the United Nations Disaster Committee. You will undergo a time travel experience to sometime in the past. You will be present at the site of a major natural disaster. You will prepare and present an on the spot report of the disaster so that Governments can decide what help is needed.

*Hint:* While some of the details may be fiction, it must be based on the facts of a real natural disaster which has actually occurred somewhere in the world. (Disaster could be physical e.g. earthquake, fire, flood etc., or it could be climate e.g. drought, storm, flood, heat, cold or it could be medical e.g. disease etc.).

Years 5 and 6 students’ speeches need to be 4 minutes in length. When presenting their speech, students will receive a warning bell at 3 ½ minutes and then the bell will be rung twice when they have reached the 4 minute mark of their speech.

**Years 3-4 Topic: – Our Helpers**

There are many people in our community who help others when problems occur. You need to imagine that you are one of those people. Tell us about what you do, why it is important and why the government and community should support you.

*Hint 1:* You may like to consider emergency services such as ambulance, fire, police or health care workers such as hospital workers, doctors, counsellors etc. There are others that you may like to investigate too. You may be a fulltime worker or a volunteer.

*Hint 2:* If you know a person who does help others, you may like to talk to them to get the details, or you may use the computer or books to help you get the information.
Years 3 and 4 students’ speeches need to be 3 minutes in length. When presenting their speeches, the students will receive a warning bell at 2 ½ minutes and then the bell will be rung twice when they have reached the 3 minute mark of their speech.

**Please note these are speeches and as such, props such as photos, models etc., should not be used.**

At the Club, Regional and District competitions the Grade 5 and 6 students will also be required to give a one minute speech on a topic selected by Lions. The students will be given ten minutes to prepare this speech. Please note that this is not part of the school competition, however, our winners will have to do this at the Club level competition on 22 July. Perhaps parents could have their child practice putting together a one minute impromptu speech at home, for example perhaps you could ask your child to write a one minute speech on why they like living in Nathalia.

To assist parents with helping students put together their speech, we list below the judging criteria:

**Matter:**
- Information – breadth and depth;
- Relevance to topic discussed;
- Evidence of research.

**Method:**
- Organisation of information – introduction, body, conclusion, use of information to make the point of the speech;
- Flow from one part to another to make a complete speech;
- Methods used to generate interest.

**Manner:**
- Self confidence;
- Clarity of speaking;
- Use of voice variation;
- Eye contact with audience;
- Body language and gesture.

In the past years we have had a fantastic response with the majority of our students taking part in the Junior Public Speaking and we hope that this years event will be approached with the same enthusiasm. We look forward to working with the students and then ultimately hearing their fabulous speeches.

**Boholoow Wildlife Shelter Inc. - YEMP – Youth Engagement Mentoring Program**

Last Tuesday the girls participating in the YEMP program had some special visitors to the Men’s Shed. Debbie from the ‘Bohollow Wildlife Shelter’ in Kotupna brought along two baby kangaroos called ‘Ruby’ and ‘Hoppy’. Debbie has been nurturing these young joeyes since their mother’s were killed in separate driving accidents. Debbie also spoke to the children about the important role the animal refuge undertakes in helping injured wildlife and what to do if you find an injured animal.

For more information about the Bohollow Wildlife Shelter or what to do if you find injured wildlife please contact Debbie on 044 763 6953 or Kristy on 041 832 8671.

**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:
Positive Parenting Tips for Children's Behaviour.

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 behaviour problems have you feeling overwhelmed and not knowing what to do first, start with these 10 tips for better behaviour.

9. **Don't worry, be happy.** Be the example you want your kids to see. Think about how your kids might describe you to their friends – would they say you’re fun and lighthearted, or that you’re stressed and bossy? Try changing your energy by simply smiling more. It will help you keep calmer in times of stress, and your kids will notice and keep their behaviour more positive, too.

10. **Don’t ignore the source of misbehaviour.** Misbehaviour is always a symptom of a deeper issue, and when we can find what causes it, we can use the right strategies to correct it. If Bella keeps dumping toys all over your desk, is she upset that you’ve been working all afternoon? Is Eli throwing a fit over having the blue plate because he really wanted to make a choice and feel independent? In the midst of misbehaviour, stay calm and ask yourself what might be causing it.

Cut through the chaos by following these 10 tips, and you’ll start seeing better behaviour from your kids and you can start creating a happier, more peaceful home.

(Source: http://www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/parenting/start-10-tips-better-behavior)

**This week**, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Honesty. Honesty is a trait desired in relationships with family and friends, with workmates and by employees. Honesty inspires trust and encourages openness. Honesty is something to be valued. It demonstrates the value we place on ourselves and our relationship with others.

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.
Last week our Foundation students in one of their classes went and sat out the front of St Mary’s Catholic Church where they put their creative caps on and drew the Church. Below are two beautiful examples of our Foundation students’ work.

Our Grade 3 and 4 students have been working on persuasive writing this week. Below is an example of the fabulous work our children are doing. Stay tuned for another example next week.

Spore vs Lego I-pad game by Ryan Dealy

Many kids like playing i-pad games. I-pad games are fun to play and i-pads are portable. I like to play Spore. Spore can be downloaded from the App store. I believe Spore is a better game to play than lego.

Spore is a creative game. You get to make any character you like.

When you play Spore you can see other players characters.

Lego game can be boring because you cannot change your characters much.

In conclusion, I believe the i-Pad App, Spore, is better than lego because Spore is more creative and fun to play.
Nathalia Early Years Group

Presents

Readiness for School

Tuesday 23rd June
7pm
Nathalia Preschool

Parents with children who are eligible for school in 2016 are encouraged to attend.

Supper will be provided.

Please come and support one of our Mum’s as she takes the plunge!

MICHELLE LEGGE IS SHAVING HER HEAD

TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PETER MAC CANCER FOUNDATION.

FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2015
IN THE ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

POT LUCK DINNER COMMENCING AT 5 PM
(Please bring a plate to share)

RAFFLE PRIZES
ENTERTAINMENT: SONITA

We look forward to seeing you there.

CRAZY HAIR DAY
FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2015
GOLD COIN DONATION
FUNDS RAISED TOWARDS PETER MAC FOUNDATION
SHOW US HOW CRAZY YOUR HAIR CAN BE!

BRERETON’S BAKERY

ARE DONATING

$6.00 FROM EVERY FAMILY MEAT PIE SOLD
and
$4.00 FROM EVERY FAMILY FRUIT PIE SOLD

TO GIVE ME 5 FOR KIDS