




St Francis
Primary Nathalia

28th August 2020

CALENDAR

TERM 3 DATES

Fri 28 th Aug	School Closure Day
Fri 18 th Sep	LAST DAY OF TERM 3

Dear families,

This year, Father's Day is celebrated on Sunday 6th September. While the celebrations may look different from previous years, it is a time to recognise and enjoy our fathers and father figures and show our appreciation of all that they do. We value all fathers, grandfathers and father figures' contributions to our school as we celebrate this occasion across Australia.

Remote Learning: Remote learning remains a challenge for us all and I know it is difficult and not what we were hoping for, but it has been wonderful to see how everyone has managed and adapted to these changes with persistence and positivity.

Communication is important at this time and I remind parents that teachers are available to talk through any concerns. Please don't hesitate to email your class teacher at school if you or your child needs any extra support. I know many of the children are very good at doing this themselves and particularly those in the senior areas are regularly emailing their teachers and classmates with questions and answers, which is great to see.

VRQA Review: The school had our Victorian Regulations and Qualifications Authority review this week which looked at all elements of the school operations, which included; Child Safety, Financial Management, Staffing, Curriculum and School Maintenance. I am pleased to report we passed with flying colours,

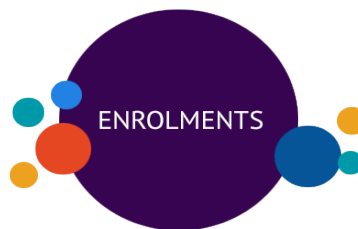
with very positive feedback given to the school. Thank you to our staff for all your work that went into preparing for the day.

Temperature Checks: As communicated last weekend, we will be checking the temperatures of all students on site each day. Parents will be asked to collect any student with a temperature over 37.5 degrees from school.

Closure Days: We have the following closure days scheduled:

- 28th August – Staff Spirituality Day

No students will be on site these days.



2021 Enrolments: School enrolments are open for 2021. Completed packs can be drop off to the office. To assist with planning for next year, could families please drop off packs ASAP. Additional information for 2021 students will be sent out next week.

Matt Knight
Principal



**2021 ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN**

Enrolment packs are available for collection from St Francis' Assisi Administration Building or via post from Wednesday 3 June

All enquires welcome:
Please call 5866 2271

 [sfprimarynathalia](https://www.facebook.com/sfprimarynathalia)

Lord,

Teach me to love unselfishly, teach me to share without counting the cost. Teach me to adore You without restraint, giving my all and follow Your will. Let me see You in every people I will meet. Just let me see the beauty of life everyday, appreciating the sunrise or a bit of rain, knowing that in all these, You are there always!

Amen

©Dreams and Escapes



SCHOOL NEWS

PSG Meetings: These have been postponed to later in the term due to a return to remote learning. The school will be in contact with those families affected and confirm dates.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Access to Mass and Church: There are many options for Mass online, including:

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

The Bishop is also live streaming Mass on Sunday mornings via the diocesan website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

On free to air TV, Mass for You at Home is broadcast at 6.00am every Sunday, Channel 10.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Foundation – William B - For sharing lots of his fantastic home learning with us and showing great connections with our Smart Spelling. You are awesome William!

Grade 1/2 –

Jordyn R - For taking pride with her illustrations and her work presentation whilst investigating in our class Inquiry topic.

Thomas N - For sharing his work with confidence whilst remote learning. He willingly uses a variety of technology tools with independence.

Grade 3 – Grace L - for the great work she is doing whether it's onsite learning at school or learning from home. She is a responsible and focussed learner. Well done Grace!

Grade 4/5 – Jayda Liddell - Showing an enormous improvement in her confidence across all subjects, but particularly in numeracy. Well done Jayda!

Grade 5/6 – Zander Quinn - For showing great effort and resilience with his remote learning at home. Keep up the great work!

Science Star – Sienna J - For being creative during home learning and using a washing machine to stimulate an earthquake to test her building. Well done

PARENTING IDEAS

COVID-19 continues to test us in ways that were unimaginable at the start of 2020. It's becoming the defining event of this generation and a reference point for decades to come. We've had depression kids, war kids and now we have COVID-19 kids.

The impact of COVID-19 is felt differently across the country. Currently, Victoria is in Stage 4 lockdown while other states are on high alert. Not every student is working from home, but most students are COVID conscious, knowing that they're only a corona cough or virus-filled hug away from remote learning. See Michael Grose's article, [Staying the course in COVID times](#)" for more.

CHILDRENS CHATTER MATTERS

6. Pragmatics and Social skills

Focus: Describe the characteristics of respectful relationships and suggest ways that respectful relationships can be achieved.

Practice respectful and non-respectful ways of greeting people:

Encourage these 3 principles when greeting:

1. Look at the person (wait, check they are looking at you),
2. Say your greeting and their name; Hi Peter, Good afternoon Mr Peters
3. Wait for a response or question and respond accordingly.

Role play what it might look like if a person is not respectful when greeting or saying good-bye.

Each day when you pick your child up from school, use a different greeting or farewell e.g. Hi Harry, it's so great to see you, Good afternoon, Harry, Harry, I've missed you so much, etc. Hey Harry it looks like you had a great day.

MEDICATIONS @ ST FRANCIS

The administration of medication forms part of the Victorian Education schools common law duty of care. Schools can only dispense labelled Prescription medicine or medicines supplied to students with a letter signed by the parent, **along with a signature from your doctor or pharmacist.** This includes any other the counter medication such as Panadol, Cough Medicine, Hay fever medications, creams etc. School Medication Request Forms are available from the front office.

A FEW REMINDERS FROM OUR CURRENT GUIDELINES:

IF CHILDREN ARE UNWELL: Parents must be advised that any child who comes to school feeling unwell or becomes unwell during the school day, they (or the emergency contact person) will be called to collect that child.

WATER BOTTLES: Drinking fountains are not to be used by students. Each child should bring water from home.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO SCHOOL BY ADULTS: The Department of Health insists that no adult- parents, non-enrolled youths, visitors - is to enter the school unless necessary or in an emergency or working in an education capacity. Adults should not be permitted to go beyond the Reception area.

FACE MASKS: Parents, guardians and carers will be required to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up their child(ren) or if required to collect an unwell child(ren) from the school.

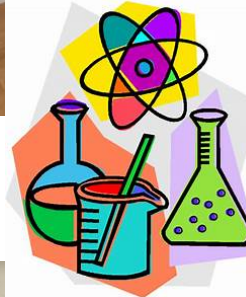
NUTRITION NEEDS



Getting your kids to help in the kitchen can encourage them to try new foods, eat from a variety of food groups and teach them vital skills on how food is prepared and used. This helps them to build a healthy relationship with food, nourishing their growth and development.

And who knows, maybe that is how our next little Master Chef is born.

- Plan lunches and ingredients needed. Choose what they like so they will enjoy their meal, which helps reduce waste too.
- Choose colourful vegetables and fruits.
- Prepare for a little more time required and a little more mess.
- Design your own recipe book and let your kids' creativity thrive.
- If you have a little herb garden or veggie patch, encourage your kids to plant and water them with you. They may be calling for their vegetables one day!



SCIENCE WEEK

Well done to our super science champions who took on the Science week STEM challenge. Our winners are Paulie, Monica and the Murray family. These students would be great at organising a space party!



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Yorta Yorta Nation as the original and ongoing custodians of the land on which our school is situated. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.

INSIGHTS

Staying the course in COVID times



COVID-19 continues to test us in ways that were unimaginable at the start of 2020. It's becoming the defining event of this generation and a reference point for decades to come. We've had depression kids, war kids and now we have COVID-19 kids.

The impact of COVID-19 is felt differently across the country. Currently, Victoria is in Stage 4 lockdown while other states are on high alert. Not every student is working from home, but most students are COVID conscious, knowing that they're only a corona cough or virus-filled hug away from remote learning.

Encouraging kids to stay the course when they've been denied access to the classroom, peers and community activities is now a common parenting challenge. Denial is generally tolerable in the short term, but the novelty of changed circumstances soon wears off. The following strategies will assist both parents and kids to stay the COVID long course:

Accept difficult emotions

'There's nothing so bad that we can't talk about, but there are behaviours that we won't accept' is a mantra that serves families well. It's okay for children to feel frustrated, annoyed, angry or upset about their change of circumstances due to the pandemic but that doesn't give them permission to behave disrespectfully, miss school requirements or fail to assist at home. It helps if parents validate how their children feel, then encourage them to focus on fulfilling school and family expectations.

Encourage acceptance

Some children and young people will protest the COVID induced changes that have been imposed upon them. In some respects, it may be admirable for children to push for a better deal, but the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic means that the individual needs to bend toward the greater community good. This is simply a case of accepting and making the best of the situation at hand.

Take it one day and week at a time

On family bush walks my young children would rarely complain when the tracks were windy. The complaint levels rose when paths were long and straight as the finish line seemed such a long way off. In a similar vein during our current times it's smart to keep kids focused on getting through each day and week rather than look too far ahead. Six weeks of Stage 4 may seem intolerable, so it's better to focus on getting through each day and week.

Be the hope person

Help children and young people understand that they will get through difficult times. "This too shall pass" is perhaps the most apt meme for our times. If your hope bucket is emptying out, seek out positive friends and relatives who can top it up. Our own resilience needs nurturing if we are to last the distance.

The internal parenting manual that guides us probably doesn't include chapters dealing with remote learning, lack of peer interaction and kids' disappointment. Most of us are treading new parenting ground so it's best to be open to change, accepting of difficulties and forgiving of inevitable parenting stumbles.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.