

St Francis Newsletter

*"I Am Not Afraid ... I Was Born For This!"
- Joan of Arc*

Dear Families,

This week we are celebrating Catholic Education Week. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and share things that are special about our schools. At St Francis, we have immense gratitude for all who came before us in Catholic Education - the students, families, parishioners, educators, Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM) and clergy who have worked with so much commitment and love to ensure Catholic Education flourishes. We look forward with hope, trust and faith in our loving God and a future that is brimming with the Good News.



While we understand each school community must manage their unique circumstances, it's pleasing to see the majority of Victorian learners in schools and early childhood services are slowly returning to normal learning arrangements. This is not without challenges and we commend our staff and families on their efforts during Term 1 and through the beginning of Term 2.

Next week we hold our school Open Day, where new families are invited to come and see what St Francis can offer, with a tour at 9:30am. Additionally, St Mary of the Angels will hold their Open Day as well on Wednesday, with our Grade 6 students invited to attend as a group from 11:30am (or by appointment with their family).

Have a great weekend.
Matt Knight

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

It was wonderful to celebrate our school Mothers last week in our first onsite breakfast for a couple of years. While the morning was chilly, the coffees and toasted croissants hit the spot! Photos of the morning are at the back of the newsletter.

SCHOOL PHOTOS



Students were looking sharp for the school photos today. All families will be able to order individual, class or family photos from MSP Photography. Order forms are available from the MSP Photography website.



Calendar

TERM 2

Wed 18th May

- St Francis Open Day
- SMOTA Open Day

Fri 20th May

- Senior Winter Sports

Thu 26th May

- PSG Meetings

Fri 3rd June

- School Closure Day

Thu 16th - Fri 17th June

- Grade 3/4 Camp

Fri 24th June

- Term 2 concludes

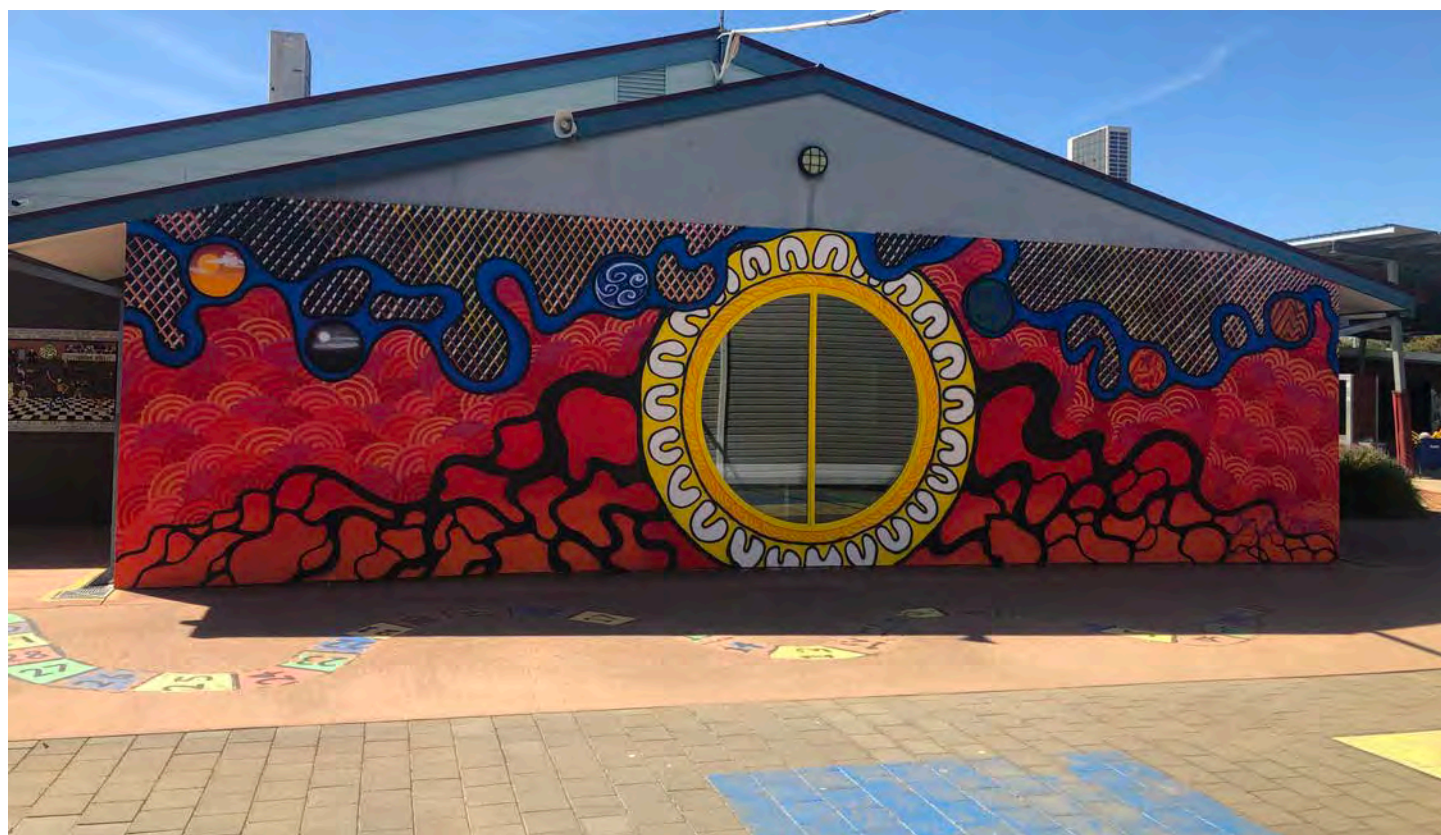


ST. FRANCIS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
—2022—

OPEN DAY
WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY

Tour @ 9:30am
or other times by appointment

Phone: 03 5866 2271
Email: admin@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au



School News

2023 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for 2023 are open with packs available from the front office. If you know of any families considering enrolment at St Francis, please direct them to the school office, as I am happy to take them on a school tour.

SCHOOL TIMES

We have staff actively supervising the school yard from 8:30am each morning and until 3:35pm each afternoon.

We ask that **students do not arrive to school prior to 8:30am** without first discussing this with the school office.

SCHOOL TIME TABLE

School Open:	8:30am
Morning Reading:	8:50 - 9:00am
Classroom Session 1:	9:00 - 11:00am
Recess:	11:00 - 11:30am
Classroom Session 2:	11:30 - 1:30pm
Lunch:	1:35 - 2:15pm
Classroom Session 3:	2:15 - 3:20pm
School Finish:	3:20pm

SCHOOL FEES

The payment of school fees is a condition of enrolment at St Francis and ensures that the school is able to meet its financial commitments. School fee notices have been sent out. I would be grateful if these could be attended to in a timely manner. If payment presents a problem, please contact me.

For those who elect to make payments via our bank account, here are our bank account details:

BSB - 083 543
Account No: 479763404
Reference: Student Name

Weekly, fortnightly or monthly direct debits can be setup for families, and we have EFTPOS facilities also available – just call the office if you need any assistance.

COVID SAFE PLAN UPDATES

As per the email sent to families, the following updates to our school's COVID Safe Plan are:

Rapid antigen testing

Free rapid antigen tests will be made available for all staff and students in Victorian schools for the first four weeks of Term 2 2022. Rapid antigen testing will be voluntary for all primary, secondary and specialist school students and staff.

Screen Requirements

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have completed their 7-day isolation period, now do not need to undertake rapid antigen test (RAT) screening for 12 weeks after their release from isolation. This was previously 8 weeks.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

We are continuing in the Easter season of the church year. Last Sunday was the fourth Sunday of Easter. The whole fifty-day period concludes with Pentecost Sunday. Eastertide is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

We will be offering families the opportunity for their child to continue their faith development through sacramental programs again this year. Our Sacramental Programs will be led by Veronica Williams. An email was sent to families requesting anyone interested in completing the Sacrament of Reconciliation this term make contact with Veronica. We will conduct our Sacrament of Communion and Confirmation in Term 3.



Medication: The administration of medication forms part of the Victoria Education schools common law duty of care to take reasonable steps to keep students safe while they attend school. Schools can only dispense labelled Prescription medication or medicines supplied to students with a letter signed by the parent, along with a signature from your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any over the counter medication such as Panadol, Cough & Hayfever medication, creams etc... School Medication forms are available from the school.

CHILD SAFE PRACTICES

St Francis is committed to the safety of all children and diligently enact the Child Safe Standards across our school. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children through policies, professional learning and student education to ensure students feel safe.

NAPLAN

Students in Grades 3 & 5 completed the NAPLAN assessments this week, focusing on literacy and numeracy tasks. While St Francis has been conducting the assessments online for a number of years, 2022 was the first year all students across Australia completed the assessments online. Families can expect student results towards the end of Term 3.

WINTER SPORTS

The senior students (Grade 4/5/6) will continue Winter Sports on Fridays with footy and netball played. The draw has been sent home with students and the program runs during Term 2.

It is a great way to build fine and gross motor skills, develop team work abilities and continue to build on ways to interact and work as part of a team.



TOP
10

READING AT HOME
TIPS FOR PARENTS
By expert literacy educator Annie Facchinetti



- 1 Find books you both enjoy - If you've read a book that you both love, read it again! Running short of time? Let your child choose the book they want you to read.
- 2 You can find things to read everywhere, not just in bookshops - Try local libraries, op shops or markets. Friends and family are often keen to share their books too!
- 3 Don't think books are the only thing to read ... you can read anything together, including the shopping list, road signs when you're in the car, and posters in shop windows. Or explore some audiobooks or podcasts at home or on the go.
- 4 Set aside a regular reading time that works with your life - Make it a habit that you both look forward to and finish every day with a story before bed.
- 5 Enlist the help of brothers and sisters - If your day gets too busy, siblings might like to read together! Ask them to tell you all about what they have read.
- 6 Ensure you're pitch perfect - Before reading, practice reading the book, so you know the story line and the expression required. Find any tricky words that you might need to explain to your child.
- 7 Remember to read slowly - Take your time and make it interesting to listen to. Encourage your child to join in too.
- 8 Judge a book by its cover - Look at the cover of the book together and have your child guess what it is going to be about. What is the book called? What can you see in the pictures? Talk about the book as you read.
- 9 Discuss the stories together - When you've finished the book (or a page or a chapter or whatever you are reading), talk about it together... who were your favourite characters, what happened, what was the ending like? This talk can happen while you're doing other things, such as getting dinner ready, or driving to footy practice.
- 10 Reading together can happen anywhere - The living room floor, the back veranda, or the kitchen table all make great reading spots. Take photos and make a book together of the funniest or strangest places you can find for reading time.

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**Love the Lord your God with all
your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind
and with all your strength...**

**Love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment
greater than these.**

Mark 12:30-31





Year 2/3 Specialist Lesson - Visual Arts



Visual Arts with Mrs Baker

Each Tuesday we are very lucky to have Mrs Baker come into our room for Visual Arts. We are learning about the artist Jenny Kee and her wonderful creativeness. We have all begun our own inspired Jenny Kee piece of artwork as shown in the picture above. It is a fun and exciting activity to do. Once we have completed our piece of art we will then frame it and it will be displayed in our classroom. In our other specialist sessions we are doing Music with Mrs Hall, making lots of wonderful 'music' noise, learning about the Italian language, 'Bongiorno' with Mrs Williams, and learning Auslan with Mrs Hargreaves. We are having so much fun and learning lots.



Camp Report

On Monday 2nd through to Wednesday 4th of May all the grade 5/6s went on camp. The camp was called Cave Hill Creek. We got to camp by bus.

Firstly, we unpacked the bus at camp and went to put our stuff in our Glamping Cabins. Then we went to the lake to make sure we knew the rules. Afterwards we got into our first activity. Our first activity was exciting because it was Abseiling. It was a long climb to the top of the mountain, but it was definitely worth it.

Secondly, we went to do Crate Stack. Crate Stack is where you stack series of milk crates while balancing on the crates. But before we did all that we had to get harnessed into a special harness. The harness had two parts, one part was for your legs and the other was for your back. If you ask me, it gets your blood pumping. The adrenaline that goes through you is insane.

Thirdly, we did archery. Archery involves a bow, some arrows and a target. Archery is a type of sport. This involves good core strength and focus. It helps if you aim a little lower because the arrow tends to rise a bit. It is so awesome.

At the end we were all so exhausted from everything we done, most of us fell asleep on the bus home. I'd say the whole camp was a giant success.



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Happy Mother's Day