

St Francis Newsletter

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
- Benjamin Franklin

Dear Families,

The day finally arrived last week as we moved into the refurbished building after a long wait. The idea for the new build developed over six years ago and was refined and modified through a consultative approach with staff and parents at the school board. The building is light, bright and an inviting space for student's learning needs, provides additional meeting rooms and encourages new experiences with a dedicated kitchen to promote the SAKG program at St Francis.

There are still a number of minor adjustments to complete which are expected to be addressed during the school holidays, particularly the glass wall panels which will finish off the internal classrooms, flashing around windows and landscaping to restore the grounds.

With the temporary fences removed, there is an air of excitement around the school with students and staff exploring the opportunities of a new building. We thank all involved during the planning and building process and appreciate the school community understanding and flexibility while the build was occurring. We are wrapped with the end product and look forward to many successful years of use.



Tony Kent finishes up at St Francis at the end of this term, after answering the call and stepping into the Grade 1/2 classroom role while Danae was on Long Service Leave. We farewell Tony (again) and thank him for his dedication to the students, staff and families at St Francis and wish him all the best. He has a calm, caring and humorous manner and is highly regarded for his teaching ability, friendship and positive outlook on life. All the best for the future Tony.

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand."

– Irish Blessing

Calendar

TERM 3

Tuesday 13th Sep

- Athletics Day - Nathalia

Friday 16th Sep

- Term 3 concludes - 2:20pm finish

TERM 4

Monday 3rd Oct

- Term 4 begins

Tuesday 4th Oct

- St Francis Feast Day

Monday 10th Oct

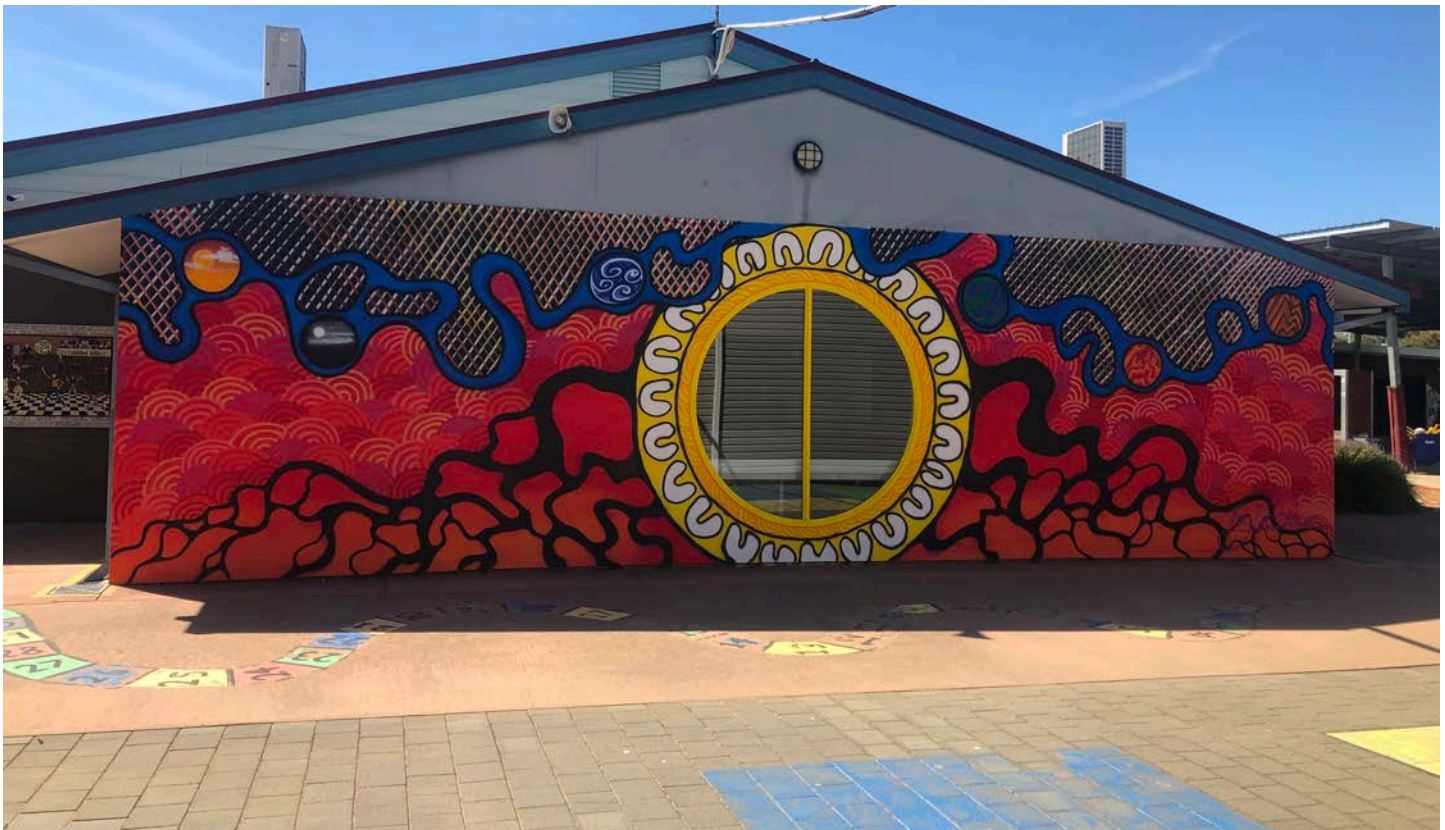
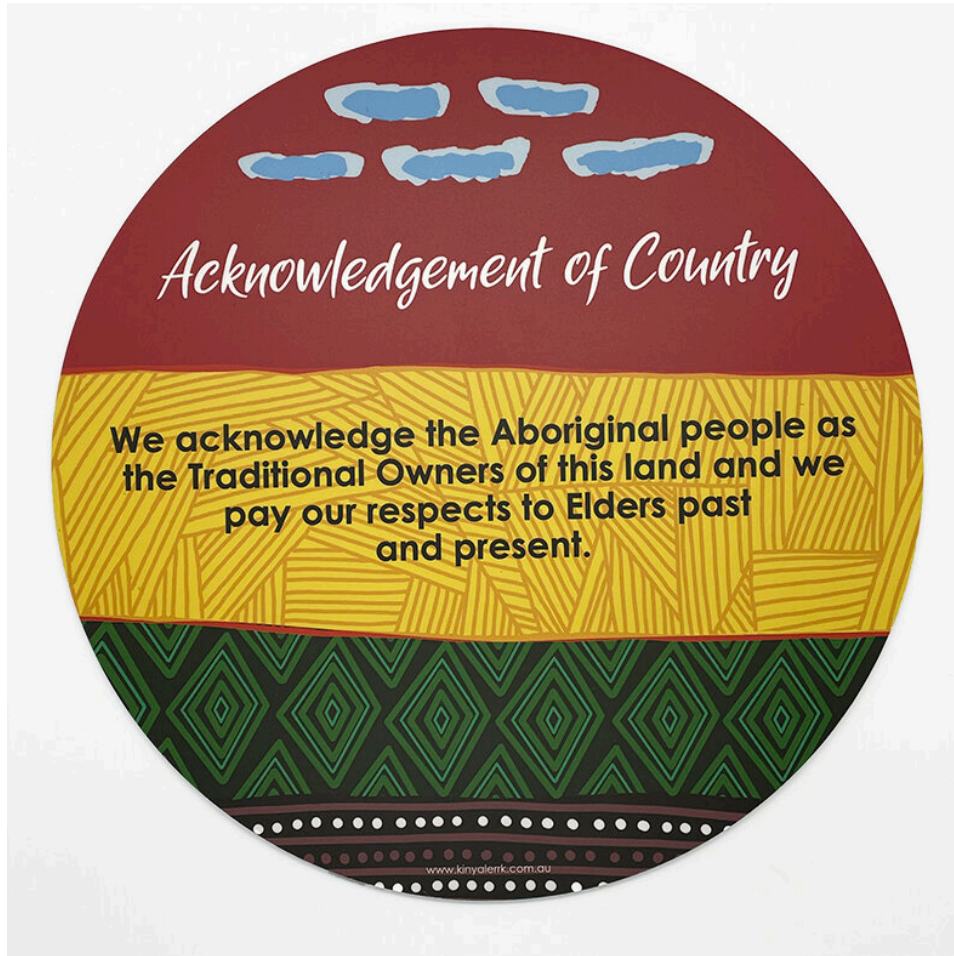
- Division Athletics - Shepparton

Wednesday 12th Oct

- Book Fair

Term 4

School hats to be worn outside



Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the *gift* of a *father*
who has been an *inspiration*
through his *love* and dedication.

Just as you sent your *Son* to show
the world your *love* for us as a *father*;

we pray that you will send
your *Spirit* upon *Dad*

that he may be

strengthened

as he strives to
guide and support
his family. *Amen.*

Bro. Etienne Huard, O.S.B.



ATHLETICS

Students will now participate in the Athletics carnival on Tuesday 13th September at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve, after a false start due to weather. Families are invited to attend and watch the students on the day.

The P&F will provide lunch orders for the students on the day with order forms sent home earlier this week.

P&F would appreciate donations of slices for catering for the day, which can be dropped off at the St Francis Office.

The JR coffee van will be available at the Recreation Reserve on the day for parent sustenance as well.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

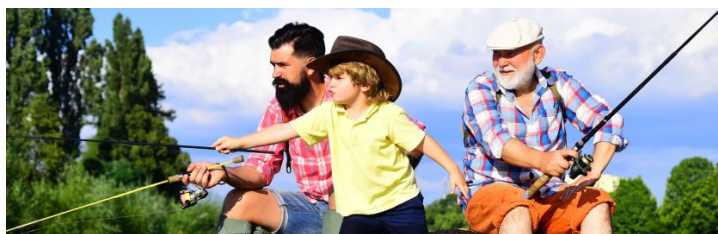
On Tuesday 4th October, we will celebrate our patron saint, St Francis' feast day at the Nathalia Community Centre with St Mary of the Angels College. St Francis had a passion for caring for animals and the environment and these values are echoed throughout our school.



PARENTING IDEAS

Father's Day can be a tricky occasion for some families, especially for those who don't have a father who is present in their life because of family breakdown, or a geographical distance which may not allow them to be close by. There are also those of us who have lost a father, or who are being raised by single mums who are both mum and dad to their kids. This too can impact how our kids view 'dad' and what he means to them. Other family structures exist where dad is not present either, and this can complicate Father's Day further.

See Shona Hendley's article, "[Why dads matter](#)" for more.



FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

It was great to host our Father's Day Breakfast this year after such an absence due to COVID. We had a fantastic turn out, with the new learning spaces on show, the new kitchen in action and plenty of conversations and smiles had on the day.

The school community was out in force to show our thanks to the fathers for all they do in our lives. Congratulations to the lucky door prize winners and we hope dads celebrated Father's Day on Sunday in style.

See the photos collage for more.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We will resume our Breakfast club program next Friday (16th Sept) with the completion of the new facilities - all families and members of the local community are welcome to attend.

Term 3 has been a big in the Foundation/1 classroom.

This term we celebrated '100 Days Smarter'. The children joined in some fun activities based around the number 100. This was a fun way to celebrate a fantastic achievement of making it through 100 days at school. Lots of challenges have occurred for the class this year, with learning how to complete tasks on their own to using their independence to pack and unpack their bags.



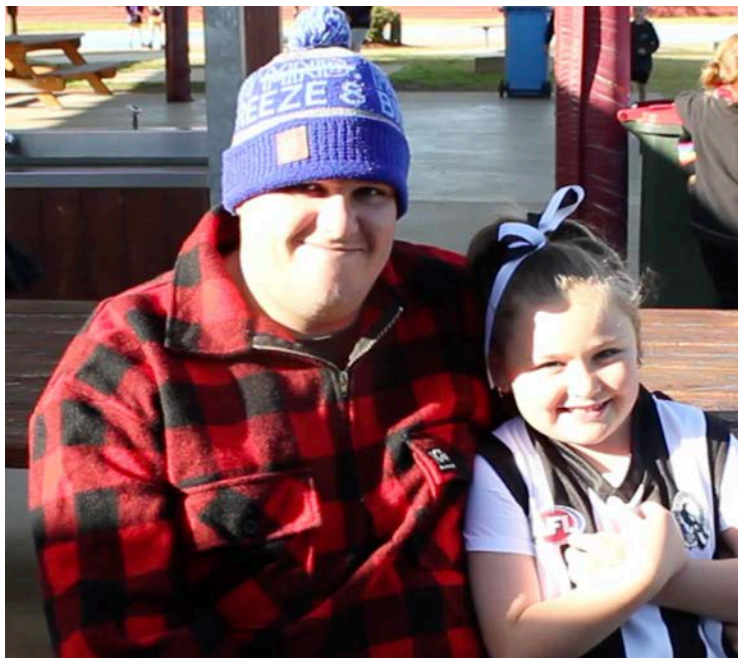
We have been looking at puppets and puppet theatres during inquiry. The class have had a fantastic time creating theatres ready to put on a puppet show at the end of the term. The children will be using iPads to video the shows which connects to the digital Technology aspect of our inquiry.



During maths this term the class looked at positional language (left, right, up, down, behind, and beside). To build on these skills we used BeeBots which are robots that we can make move by pushing arrow buttons on the top. We made paths for the BeeBots to move through.







Pastoral Wellbeing

Positive Behaviours Intervention and Support (P.B.i.S)



PBiS Expectations: At St Francis we are
SAFE, RESPONSIBLE & CARING
learners.

Congratulations to our Gotcha winners!

Attendance Matters Every Day Counts

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

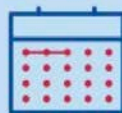
they miss days per year

5 mins
per day

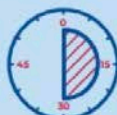


=

3 days

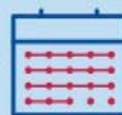


30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL IS
COLLECTING NOW FOR ITS-

St Vinnies Winter Appeal

Suggested donation items:

**chocolates, household cleaning products /
detergents, tinned fruit, biscuits, soft drink,
canned food, tinned vegetables, long life milk,
lollies, nuts, chips, toilet paper, deodorants,
soaps, first aid supplies (e.g. band aids)**

**COLLECTION BASKETS ARE IN
THE OFFICE AREA AND
CLASSROOMS**

**COLLECTING UNTIL:
WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER**



INSIGHTS

Why dads matter



Father's Day can be a tricky occasion for some families, especially for those who don't have a father who is present in their life because of family breakdown, or a geographical distance which may not allow them to be close by. There are also those of us who have lost a father, or who are being raised by single mums who are both mum and dad to their kids. This too can impact how our kids view 'dad' and what he means to them. Other family structures exist where dad is not present either, and this can complicate Father's Day further.

The reality is that dads, when present and safe, take different shapes and forms. And research shows that kids thrive when dad is that positive, safe presence in their lives.

Over the past few decades, research has shown us that dads (and other male role models like teachers, coaches, church leaders, uncles, grandpas, and more) matter. Enormously. Their positive impact cannot be understated or waved away. And research also tells us that dads (and those other male role models) are stepping up and presenting that positive and active presence in their children's lives.

Why do dads matter?

Having involved fathers, however they might look to you and your family, has a lasting effect on their children's lives, for the better.

Firstly, dads engagement can help kids achieve better results at school, help increase their self-esteem and even reduce the risk of delinquency, substance abuse and other high-risk behaviours in kids. Known as the **'father effect'** – this umbrella term describes these and the many other benefits of a paternal presence, a presence who values and prioritises quality time.

Secondly, these dads matter because their influence, attention, nurturing, and affection help promote children's social and emotional development. They set up a healthy relationship with their children, allow for emotional growth and help develop positive health and wellbeing. And they provide a model of healthy masculinity for their kids; the kind of masculinity that helps those around them feel safer and stronger.

Third, there is a sense of acceptance and security that fathers can help provide which not only help our kids in the short term but continues as they move into adulthood as well. This protective presence can come from both parents but seems particularly present with actively and positively engaged fathers.

Fourth, engaged fathers matter because they can also help our kids develop important life skills including respect, problem solving, empathy and social skills. They teach them about limits, consent, and responsibility. Researchers aren't quite sure why or how, but these things seem to develop differently when dads are present versus when they're not.

What does an engaged dad look like?

In TV talk, an engaged dad looks like everyone's favourite blue heeler dad, Bandit from Bluey.

parenting*ideas

If you've watched the show, you'll have seen that Bandit isn't perfect. He can be dismissive now and then. He can say things that are challenging. But despite his imperfections (which we all have), Bandit listens to his children – their thoughts, their concerns, their dreams and their ideas. He encourages them, he challenges them, he shows an interest in them.

And Bandit talks to his children – he makes jokes, he reads books, he tells them about his day, he involves them in other parts of his life. He is verbally expressive with clear communication but without being controlling or belittling.

Bandit plays with his children – he kicks the footy in the backyard, or feeds the baby doll a bottle; he helps put together Lego or find the missing piece of a puzzle. He supports their interests, imagination, and growth. He helps set limits and boundaries and regulate emotions.

Bandit also supports his children – emotionally he helps navigate their problems or worries with them, he doesn't dismiss them. Rather he guides them to solve problems or cope with disappointment themselves. He supports them physically– he watches their sports matches, or dancing recitals; he is their biggest supporter.

Bandit is a positive role model – he demonstrates values that he wishes to instil within his own child/ren. He is honest and shows integrity. But he's not perfect. He makes mistakes – because he is human and when he does, he will own them and will say sorry.

He grows alongside his kids – as his children get older and mature, his relationship with them evolves with it. They learn about each other and grow and feel confident and secure in their relationship together. He values self-care – he has time for himself and ensures his own wellbeing and health is prioritised too because without this, he can't be his best self.

All dads are different but equally important

These qualities of an engaged dad aren't a checklist that dads need to tick off. Every dad will be different and that is okay. What's important is that dads are there for their kids and want to grow with them. That's what life is. Growth. That is what our kids will notice the most and how they will know you matter... because you do!



Shona Hendley

Shona Hendley is a freelance writer and a former secondary school teacher. Her work appears in Kidspot, ABC Everyday, The Guardian, Body + Soul, and News.com.au amongst others. Shona currently lives in regional Victoria with her family, including husband, two daughters, two cats, and three super cheeky goats. You can follow her on [Instagram](#).

Community News

'Meet Up' with the Mobile Library



Bring a picnic blanket, a jacket and some snacks and meet up with the Mobile Library these holidays. Join us at any of the following stops to make pipe cleaner ninjas and bendy, beaded snakes. Why not grab a #TakeHome craft pack and do some borrowing from the Mobile's collection while you are there.



Katunga Primary - Tuesday 20 Sept, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Avenel Primary - Wednesday 21 Sept, 11:30am - 12:30pm

Tungamah Primary - Thursday 22 Sept, 10:45am - 11:45am

Katamatite - Thursday 29 Sept, 10:30am - 11:30am

For more information

Phone 1300 374 765 or email mobile@gvlibraries.com.au.

Go to gvlibraries.com.au/holidays to find the complete holiday program.

mobile
library

Libraries
Change Lives

Tel: 1300 374 765
www.gvlibraries.com.au

Nathalia Library Holiday Program



Lego Play

Thursday 22 Sept, 10:30am

Balancing Birds

Tuesday 27 Sept, 2:00pm



#TakeHome craft packs are available during opening hours all holidays

Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Phone 1300 374 765 #2 #3 or email nathalia@gvlibraries.com.au.

Go to gvlibraries.com.au/holidays to find the complete holiday program.

Libraries
Change Lives

75 Blake St, Nathalia

Tel: 1300 374 765

www.gvlibraries.com.au  

HOT SHOTS TENNIS



Hotshots will run on Saturdays from 9am -10am during Term 4
To register or to find out more about Hotshots Community Play contact:

Liz Ryan 0409 391 942

Caitlin Bourke 0407880816

JUNIOR TENNIS

We are collating names for our junior teams to play in the Shepparton hardcourt competition. Matches are played on Saturday mornings during Term 4 2022 and Term 1 2023. To register or for more details email tennisnathalia@gmail.com or text Jodie Daniel 0431298773 by Sept 5th.



A grading session will be held on Tuesday September 6th from 4pm. If attendance at the grading session is a clash for you please make contact as above.



SENIOR TENNIS

NLTC plays in the Goulburn Murray Lawn Tennis Association. This competition caters for all levels and is played each Saturday afternoon beginning Oct 2022 and finishing March 2023. (Those who enjoy a nice afternoon tea will be "highly regarded"). Players can commit to full-time, part time or casual play. To register or for more details email tennisnathalia@gmail.com or text club captain Joe Nihill 0414 081 629.