



# St Francis of Assisi

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## Term 1 Week 3 - 12th February 2015

Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who were able to come along to our Opening School Mass and share this celebration with us last Thursday. What a wonderful way to commence our school year. The children were beautifully behaved and very reverent. It was a great pleasure to have our new Kinders join us during Mass and be welcomed into our community with a blessing from Father Luan. It was impressive to see all the children engaged in the Mass through their beautiful singing and prayer responses.

We are reassured that God is with us in our endeavours this year as we build on the foundations of our Christian Faith. Thank you to Mrs Owens and the staff for their work in helping to prepare Mass.

Thank you to everyone for their combined efforts of helping to hold yet another successful swimming carnival. Thank you to the teachers for their support, to the parent helpers who volunteered their time and energy into the many jobs needing to be filled. Thank you to the incredible students who put their best efforts into each race. Congratulations to our colour house captains for their efforts in preparing their houses for the war cries and the great vocal cheers throughout the day. A big congratulations to Mrs Kirsty Horvath for coordinating such a successful swimming carnival.

There is no doubt, that hard work and persistence are the qualities that ensure success in any endeavour. At St Francis of Assisi, we admire the greatest achievement in students who may not necessarily get the top score or the best marks – but they in fact, achieve the most in terms of how much progress they make. These are the students who day after day, try their hardest and persist with their learning even when things are hard. These achievements include maintaining friendships, public speaking, playing a musical instrument, being inclusive on the playground, being fair at sport, writing a prayer and extending assistance to others who need a hand. Many students try to do their very best in everything they do and that is a quality that needs to be encouraged.

Last Friday we saw many examples of this at the swimming carnival. Fifty metres can seem a very long way from the top of the blocks, especially if you are only little. Some children swam fifty metres for the first time! Others backed up for another event, having only just finished the previous one. Congratulations to all those children who tried their hardest to do their best. Regardless of the result, there is no finer achievement.

Let us pray that, with the grace of God, we try to do our very best in everything we do.

God bless you and your family,

Jenny Bellenger  
Principal

This year we are trying a new format for our communication to parents. The full format newsletter will go out every second week and on the other week there will be a one page update of key reminders.

Please bear with us as these changes take effect over the next couple of weeks.



### ATTENTION FAMILIES IN THE ROOTY HILL AREA

We have a family who lives in Rooty Hill who are having transport problems and are unable to bring their child to school here at St Francis of Assisi. If there is anyone who can assist with transport for this family could you please contact the office.

### UNIFORM DAYS 2015

Below is a table showing what uniform the children should wear each day:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Dress	K, 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6	K, 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6	1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	K, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	K, 4, 5 & 6
Sport	4	2	K & 6	5	1, 2, 3

### PUNCTUALITY

It is very important that children arrive at school well in time to commence class at 9am. Lateness to school is distressing for children if they are arriving after the rest of the class has started the day. It also disrupts teaching time. Occasionally we can all be caught short and have one of those mornings where everything seems to go wrong, but these need to be the exception not the rule! Children who regularly miss the start of each day cumulatively miss out on learning at the peak times.

**Any child arriving after 9:00am must be accompanied to the office by their parent/guardian and be signed in.**

### COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher there are a number of ways you do this:

- Write a brief note to the teachers (this can be done through their diary)
- Drop into the office and request a message to be passed on to the teacher
- Phone the office and a message will be passed to the teacher

**Please do not speak to the teacher as the class is getting underway in the morning. The teachers need to give all their undivided attention at this time to the class.**

### PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

This year we will have an information session for parents on Tuesday 17th February, Week 4 at 7pm in the school hall. After a brief presentation by Mrs Bellenger, parents will be able to meet with their child's class teacher. This session will inform parents of the topics and units for the term and the teachers expectations.

### HAIRSTYLES AT SCHOOL

Hairstyles are to be neat and simple and devoid of any cosmetic colouring or bleaching. Boy's haircuts are not to be multilayered (such as pronounced undercuts, designs or steps), or below the collar in length (including rats tails) unless there are religious or cultural reasons. Girls or boys with shoulder-length hair or longer are to have it tied back away from the face and eyes. This is for hygiene reasons and to allow clear vision.



### PLUMPTON / OAKHURST SOCCER CLUB 'The Family Club'

#### REGISTRATIONS 2015

**AT:** Hanna Reserve, Hyatts Road OAKHURST

Saturday 14th Feb between 10.00am - 1.00pm

#### All new players REQUIRE ID

**Players needed—u5's to o35's—male & female**

Please complete the on-line registration process in advance.

**[www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au)**

We are especially in need of female players to start an all-girl under 12's team this year; players can play two years above their actual age, no experience necessary.

All female teams will play on Sundays.

Enquiries contact our Registrar - Katrina Ena by email [registrarposc@gmail.com](mailto:registrarposc@gmail.com) or phone 0409564105 between 6pm and 7.30pm only

**For details visit the website:  
[www.plumptonoakhurstsc.org.au](http://www.plumptonoakhurstsc.org.au)**

**DATES COMING UP 2015**

Tues	17th Feb	Parent Information Night in the School Hall @ 7pm
Wed	18th Feb	Ash Wednesday Mass
Thur	19th Feb	Blacktown Zone Swimming at Riverstone Pool
Tues	24th Feb	Kindy Welcome BBQ at 5pm
Fri	27th Feb	Clean Up Australia Day Diocesan Swimming - Blacktown

**2015 STATEMENTS**

School Fee Accounts for 2015 have now been mailed home. If you did not receive it please contact the office as soon as possible.

Accounts will be sent at the beginning of the first 3 terms. A once off Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) will be offered on the first term fees which each family can participate in. Should you not take this offer then full payment is required each term by the due date shown on the school account statement.

The FPP is an alternative to our current payment terms of 30 days and offers families the choice to pay their annual fees weekly, fortnightly or monthly over a nine month period from March to November. Our preferred payment method for FPP is Direct Debit, however, B Pay is also available.

The form which you will receive with your Term 1 statement will need to be completed and lodged with the Catholic Education Office before the 20th February 2015.

If you want to pay termly, current fees are due on or before 6th March 2015.

During the year if you need to discuss your school fee account, can you please do this via phone or email as this helps keep your situation private and allows me to have your notes at hand.

**PHOTOS**

From time to time, photos are taken of students at school, which may be used in a range of publications such as the School Prospectus, Catholic Education Office publications and newsletter stories. If for any reason you do not want your child's photo to be included in any of the above, please advise me in writing.

**Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI)**

Thank you to the parents who were able to bring their child/ren during the staff development days for their individual MAI. Completing these interviews on each student from Yr 1 - 6 is a timely process. It assesses your child's understanding on counting, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The teachers are finalising any outstanding interviews, analysing the results and using the data to plan appropriate lessons based on your child's needs. Once the Kindergarten student's have settled in, their teachers will begin their interviews.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Last Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, our primary students attended St Francis' annual swimming carnival at Stanhope Gardens. The children participated in many events from 25 metres freestyle to 200 metres individual medley, to the exciting relay races at the end of the day. Some students were also able to enjoy a free swim in the wave pool. It was great to see lots of enthusiasm, encouragement and sportsmanship from our students. The following swimmers excelled in their events and will be representing St Francis at the zone carnival at Mt Druitt next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February:

Patricia Tuazon, Ethan Pascual, Andrew Klemenic, Faith Russell, Cohen Smith, Dylan Parker, Abby Wasylinka, Deykodah Gibbs-Ebsworth, Benjamin Klemenic, Myles O'Neill, Clara Naseim, Laura Summers, Ellah-Rose Thornberry, Brayden Johnson, Vinaal Lal, Miguel Tuazon and Bridie O'Kelly.

We wish our school representative team the best of luck!

Students will find out the age champions and the winning house at the next assembly.

I would like to thank the following parent helpers that assisted on the day:

Mrs Johnston, Ms Griffiths, Ms O'Kelly, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Smith and Ms Spilstead.

Thank you for giving your time, the carnival would not have run so smoothly without your help.



## **‘Skoolbag’ St Francis of Assisi Primary Smartphone App for Parents**

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It allows the school to keep you up to date with the latest news, notices, alerts, newsletters etc. Parents can check Skoolbag at any time to see the latest updates and information. It is **FREE** for parents to use.

### **How to Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone**

#### **iPhone Users**

Simply search for “St Francis of Assisi Primary” in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

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#### **Android Users**

Simply search for “St Francis of Assisi Primary” in the Google Play store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

