



# St Francis of Assisi

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Term 1 Week 7 - 12th March 2015

***EDUCATING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW*** is the Catholic Schools Week theme which is definitely part of our purpose here at St Francis of Assisi.

This week St Francis is celebrating Catholic Schools week along with the communities of all 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT.

First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of Catholic Schools Week is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of OUR Catholic schools.

We have much to celebrate at St Francis of Assisi during this week with the commitment and professionalism of our teachers and staff, the quality of our facilities and resources, the learning structures and teaching programs, the interventions for those students with learning needs and for the wonderful community spirit.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

*Almighty God,*

*You sent the Holy Spirit so that we might know and love Jesus, the word made flesh; the Way, the Truth and the Life. Renew the passion of all in Catholic schools to nurture the seeds of your love, planted in our hearts, and bear fruit that will nourish a world hungry for your love.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



Parents & students during open classrooms yesterday.



The student representatives, with Mrs Bellenger, who attended Mass at our local churches for Catholic Schools Week.



### QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY (QCSS)

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling Survey (QCS) in 2015, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date.

From 9th -20th March all staff, students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning.

If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation, as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Jenny Bellenger.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*According to the most recent figures available (2012), the average net cost of educating a student in a NSW Catholic school was \$11532 per year. This is less than the cost of educating a student in a government school (\$12118) or in an independent, non-government school (\$16654). Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs—to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.*

### DATES COMING UP 2015

Tues	17th Mar	St Patrick's Day
Thur	19th Mar	NRL visiting Years 3 - 6
Fri	20th Mar	Year 3 – 6 Athletics Carnival
Tue	24th Mar	Mufti Day
Thur	26th Mar	10am Mass - Annunciation
Thur & Fri	26 & 27 March	Year 6 - Canberra Excursion
Mon	30th Mar	SCHOOL PHOTOS
Thur	2nd Apr	Cross Country Year 3 - 6 Easter Raffle

**CONGRATULATIONS...** to Jericho Balagtas (6S) who has been selected to represent NSWCPSS MacKillop at the NSW PSSA Basketball—Boys State Carnival to be held in Wollongong. We wish him all the best.

### MERIT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at the school assembly.

- KA Simrat Saini, Jasnoor Singh & Ethan Krishn
- KS Layla Dimacali, Elisha Gupta & Chima Okereafor
- 1B Melissa Ghneim & Daniel Stuart
- 1S Lincoln Brooks & Evelyn Kuwendu
- 2B Zoe Duff & Charlise Bernardino
- 2W Brock Parker & Ruby Price
- 3A Marley Wells & Alyssandra Jimenez
- 3Z Andrew Klemenic & Ella Calura
- 4G Klarisa Papa & Emily Gawthorne
- 4H Kayla Katipunan & Anthony Barukcic
- 5C Bernalyn Padua & Sheryn Lucas
- 5I Ryan Rothwell & Hailey Magat
- 6D Chris Morgan & Blake Sly
- 6S Nikolau Naisara & Bridie O'Kelly



## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

### **Monday 30th March**

Photo envelopes have been sent home.  
Could these please be returned to the office **before** the actual photo day.  
**FULL** summer school uniform must be worn.

### **FAMILY PHOTOS (OPTIONAL)**

Brother/sister photos will be taken on photo day. Pre-pay envelopes are available on request from the office. Use this envelope if you wish to place an order for a family photo of your children. *(Only those attending the school - no pre-schoolers)*

### **RETURNING PHOTO ENVELOPES**

Photo envelopes need to be returned to the school office before the photo day. The office then keeps a record of who has returned their photo envelopes. If the envelope is brought in on photo day and given directly to the photographers the office doesn't get to mark the child's name off and keep a record of who has paid.

### **KINDERGARTEN 2016 ENROLMENTS**

Enrolments Application forms for Kindergarten 2016 are now available from the School Office and on our Website. Parents, if you already have a child at St Francis of Assisi, you will need to submit an Enrolment Form for any siblings for 2016.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

A reminder to parents and carers to please label your children's items clearly with their name and their class. Items such as hats, clothing, containers, drink bottles etc. We have a lot of items in our lost property with no names. We do go through the lost property regularly and try to return any items that have children's names on them.

### **MUFTI DAY**

**TUESDAY 24TH MARCH.**

**DONATION OF ONE EASTER**

**EGG PER CHILD TO**

**PARTICIPATE AND WILL BE**

**USED FOR THE**

**EASTER RAFFLE**

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY NETBALL?**

We are looking for players turning 7, 8 and 9 years old in 2015. If you would like to play please contact me on 0438 264 337. Training is at Mittaggar Reserve, Hassall Grove on Thursdays from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Our Saturday competition is held at Blacktown. 7 & 8 Years play at 12pm and 9 years play at 11am. If you are interested please ring or come to training on Thursdays.

*Sue Maude, Secretary,  
Rooty Hill RSL Youth Netball*

### **PARLIAMENT AND CIVICS EDUCATION REBATE**

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and Democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of the Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards the costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.