



St Francis of Assisi

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LENTEN PRAYER

Term 1 Week 5 - 26th Feb 2015

*Ever-faithful God,
You wait in the wilderness of our lives.*

*Your Beloved Son went willingly into the desert,
To bring us out of loneliness
into the companionship of your love.*

*Give us the courage
To believe that your Kingdom has indeed come near to us;
To leave behind our 'old'
Ways and embrace new freedom;
To hope in the promise of life that never ends;
To repent and believe in the Good News.*

*May our lives proclaim your dream for all:
To live in the light of peace and harmony.*

*We pray in the name of Jesus, the light of the world,
And in the power of your Enlightening Spirit -
One God, for ever and ever.*

Amen

Thank you to all of the Kindy families who attended our Kindy Welcome BBQ on Tuesday evening. It was great to see all the Kindy children enjoying playing together and sharing a sausage with their parents. It was another affirmation of the wonderful spirit that exists at St Francis. Many of the new parents to our community remarked upon the welcome they felt.

God Bless you and your family,
Jenny Bellenger



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the following 2015 swimming age champions:

Junior Boys Champion: Ethan Pascual

Junior Boys Runner Up: Andrew Klemenic

Junior Girls Champion: Patricia Tuazon

Junior Girls Runner Up: Abby Wasylinka

11 Year Boys Champion: Benjamin Klemenic

11 Year Boys Runner Up: Myles O'Neill

11 Year Girls Champion: Ellah-Rose Thornberry

11 Year Girls Runner Up: Laura Summers

Senior Boys Champion: Brayden Johnson

Senior Boys Runner Up: Miguel Tuazon

Senior Girls Champion: Bridie O'Kelly

Senior Girls Runner Up: Courtney O'Connell

The 2015 swimming house places are:

1st: Gold

2nd: Green

3rd: Blue

4th: Red

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Last Thursday 19th February, 17 students participated in the Zone Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt Pool. All swimmers represented our school superbly, with 5 qualifying for the Diocesan Swimming Carnival to be held at Blacktown Pool tomorrow.

We wish Abby Wasylinka, Benjamin Klemenic, Myles O'Neill, Brayden Johnson and Vinaal Lal the best of luck in their events!

Thank you to all the parents who came to support our children and specifically to Mrs Johnson, Ms Griffiths and Mrs O'Neill who volunteered to help at the Zone Carnival.

DATES COMING UP 2015

Fri	27th Feb	Clean Up Australia Day Diocesan Swimming - Blacktown
Fri	6th Mar	Year 6 visiting St Clare's
Thur	12th Mar	Whole School Mass for Catholic Schools Week 10am
Tues	17th Mar	St Patrick's Day

MERIT AWARD WINNERS

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

KA Isabella Tugade, Akira Kendell & Yabsera Tekeste

KS Benjamin Kennedy, Zoe Suarez-Walsh & Carlos Tuazon

1B Mia Assabgy & Melissa Ghneim

1S Hendrix Campbell & Mia Hampton

2B Ahsante Lalia & Marcus Ribaya

2W Toby Williams & Sylvia Unaeze

3A Jericho De Leon & Patricia Tuazon

3Z Deng Koul & Charlize Santos

4G Kiarrah Rentoy & Ralph Ferrer

4H Lauren Kennedy & Lucas Kimiora

5C Chantelle Marasigan & Andrew Habashi

5I Elisha Calura & Andre Dera

6D Nataya Dvorak & Damon Schirmer

6S Bridie O'Kelly & Aaron Smith

2015 PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the School Survey. It was much appreciated! The results provide the school with a wealth of valuable information and will certainly be used to help guide St Francis on its future journey.

Congratulations to the **Kirk Family** (Oliver Year 1) who won the prize of a family movie voucher.

In the coming weeks we will provide parents with feedback from the survey.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2015

Parents are required by law to ensure that children aged between 6 and 17 attend school. Schools are required to monitor and keep a register of student attendance in accordance with common codes, which explain student absences.

Students who are absent from school may be disadvantaged in their learning and development. To maximise the benefits of education for all students, schools are required to follow legislative requirements of the Education Act 1990 to monitor student attendance effectively.

EXEMPTIONS

Previous **Exemption from attendance** no longer applies to travel and holidays, both domestically and internationally. You no longer need to apply to the school for an exemption from education.

New changes to attendance 2015

The following outlines the changes that have been implemented as a result of the changes to the Education Act 1990 regarding attendance. These changes take effect immediately.

New requirements for student absence and travel

1-9 days absence: Parents **MUST** notify the teacher or Principal) by mail or email (it needs to be written).

10-100 days absence: Parents must complete and submit the **Application for Extended Leave** form (**on school website**) prior to commencing leave. If approved the Principal issues a Certificate of Extended Leave. If the Principal declines the application (i.e. it is not within the best interest of the child to take leave and be absent from school), a letter notifying the parents that the application has been declined would be forthcoming.

ALLERGIES

With the growing number of children in our schools with nut allergies, we need to be more mindful of the harm such allergies can cause to some students in our school.

We kindly ask that you refrain from sending any items in the lunch box containing tree nuts such as almonds, peanut butter or nutella.

We ask for your support in this matter as the reaction to such products can be life threatening for those who have an allergy.

DID YOU KNOW?

On average, it costs around \$13,000 per year to educate a child in a NSW school.

In most Catholic Schools, school fees cover less than a quarter of this cost.

The rest comes from taxpayers like you!

This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs—to *maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.*

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that Flexible Payment Plans forms were due back to CEO last week, 20th February, so if you haven't sent this in and are wanting to take part please return immediately.

Term 1 school fees are due on **Friday 6th March**. We do not have a lot of change available so please ensure if paying at the office you have the correct amount.

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

ST ANDREWS COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Where: St Andrews College, Junior Campus

When: Tuesday 10th March 2015

Time: 9:00am, 9:30am or 11:00am

St Andrews College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the college. The Open Day will be held on Tuesday 10th March. To assist with the organisation of the day, parents are required to book on one of the tours by telephoning Leanne Potts on 9626 4000. Tour times are 9:00am, 9:30am or 11:00am.

Pre Enrolment Meeting: Parents are also invited to attend our Pre-enrolment Meeting on Tuesday 28th April at 6:00pm. The meeting will be in the Holy Family Hall on the Junior Campus.

