

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY NEWS UPDATE

**Term 4**

**Week 10**

**16th December 2016**

This year has been a very busy year and seems to have flown by. As I mentioned at our Thanksgiving Mass yesterday, the children have had an absolutely wonderful year of learning and opportunity and I would like to especially thank everyone for the ongoing support and encouragement demonstrated to students and staff each day. We are especially grateful to our Parish Priests Father Gerard and Father Bolar and previously Father Vincey, who guide and support the faith development of our students, staff and families.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the fabulous St Francis Staff. I am sure that you will agree that they are a professional, dedicated and energetic team who take that extra step each and everyday to cater for all the children and families at St Francis. To work in a school in any of the various roles is a wonderful vocation because we get to touch the future every day. I wish our hard working staff a joy filled Christmas and a very happy and safe holiday.

I would like to thank our Parents & Friends Association for the wonderful support that they offer me as principal, and to the teachers, so that we can work together to make St Francis the best school possible. We are thankful for every contribution that you make.

Last night Year Six and their families gathered to celebrate God's many blessings during their time at St Francis of Assisi. We bid farewell to some of these families as their youngest child now moves on to secondary school. During their time at St Francis, the children and their families have contributed in so many ways, helping and supporting teachers to provide a rich Catholic education.

Lastly, but certainly not least, congratulations to all of our students at St Francis. Across the school all of our children have been striving to do their personal best and to live out our school rules of respecting self, respecting others and respecting the environment. Well done girls and boys, your teachers are very proud of you!

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish all our students and families the joy, love and peace of Christmas. We look forward to working in partnership with you in 2017.

God Bless

**Jenny Bellenger**

*In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts.*



## **DATES COMING UP**

- 16/12/16 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- 11/01/17 OZ Fashions at St Francis
- 16/01/17 OZ Fashions at St Francis
- 30/01/17 SCHOOL RESUMES Kindy to Year 6

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## Merry Christmas

*The staff of St Francis of Assisi wish each and every family a happy and holy Christmas.*

*May the new year bring you great happiness and health.*

*Thank you again for your generous support of our wonderful school.*

### MEDICATION

All medication that we have at school has been handed back to students to take home. Could parents please check the expiry dates and return to the office next year. There will need to be a new action plan provided when school starts in 2017.

### NEW SCHOOL YEAR REMINDERS

All students are expected to wear the St Francis uniform with pride throughout the school year. This includes wearing the correct hat, socks and shoes. This helps to keep students focused on their learning whilst also keeping a consistent atmosphere across the school.

Please note the following uniform expectations from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Shoes are black leather lace ups/Velcro.

Joggers that are **predominantly white** are to be worn for sport. They must be predominantly white, with white laces - no slip on 'Raben' type shoes or coloured Nike Airs are to be worn.

### SPORTS DAY FOR TERM 1 2017

Below are the days that children at St Francis will need to wear their sports uniform.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	Years 1 & 2	Years Kindy	Years 4, 5 & 6	WHOLE SCHOOL

## SCHOOL RESUMES

MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2017.

**ALL** STUDENTS START ON THIS DAY.

### Reconciliation Times @ Good Shepherd Church

Saturdays 11am-12noon

2nd Rite Reconciliation for Christmas

(Wed) Dec 14 @ 7:30pm

(including a Samoan priest who can hear confessions in the Native language)

### CHRISTMAS TIMES

Dec 24 6pm Children's Mass

Dec 24 8pm Youth Mass

Mid-Night Mass @ Midnight

### Christmas Day

Dec 25 7am / 9am / 12noon in Vietnamese

### FAREWELL YEAR 6

As this is our last School Newsletter for 2016 I would like to extend a fond farewell to our Year 6 students. This group has led our student body in the true spirit of our school motto "Strength and Gentleness". We will miss them but know that they graduate from this school as confident young people capable of great things. Congratulations on all your achievements at St Francis and thank you for your contributions to our school community over the last seven years.

We wish you a future filled with great hopes and great things, for great are the plans of God.

May God's blessings guide you in accomplishing your goals throughout the coming years and while you walk this new road, may God be your guide.

God Bless you all!

### ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving to another school next year and have not contacted the office could you please do this ASAP.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you wish to order uniforms for next year please contact Oz Fashions via email [elle@ozfashions.com.au](mailto:elle@ozfashions.com.au) by Friday 16th December. They will be ready to pick up on Monday 19th December from the school office between 9.45am and 11.30am. Alternatively you can place an order via email and arrange a time with Oz Fashions to collect them directly from them at Granville. If you have any other questions please contact Oz Fashions.

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEARS 2 TO 5

On Tuesday 13th December, all students in Years 2 to 5 attended our annual swimming carnival at Stanhope Gardens. The children participated in many events from 25 metres freestyle 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.

I would like to thank our parent helpers, Elaine Sciberras, Amanda Smith and Natasha Hamilton who assisted on the day. We are very appreciative for your time and willingness to help.

The 2017 Zone Swimming team will be announced next year.

## AGE CHAMPIONS

Jnr Girl Age Champion: Claire Whitelaw  
Runner Up: Sharnie Clinch  
11yrs Girl Age Champion: Brianna Gauci  
Runner Up: = Kristina Manay  
Senior Girl Age Champion: Lily Whitelaw  
Runner Up: Kristina Manay

Jnr Boy Age Champion: Heinz Lemoto  
Runner Up: Jordan Toogood  
11yrs Boy Age Champion: Andrew Klemenic  
Runner Up: Ethan Pascual  
Senior Boy Age Champion: Dominic Habil  
Runner Up: Ryan Noldt

## HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st place: Gold  
2nd place: Red  
3rd place: Green  
4th place: Blue





## 2017 Diocesan School Fees

21 November 2016

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the 2017 Diocesan school fees schedule which includes a modest 3.0% increase on the fees from 2016. Every effort has been made to keep the fee increase to a minimum and I am pleased to report that the increase is *less than* the 3.3% education CPI increase for the same period.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 3.0% increase to ensure we have consistency across our Diocese. School-based fees cover the costs of important things such as technology and school administration.

I appreciate that from time to time, some families might experience financial challenges. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to remind you that confidential fee support is available through

- discounts for families with multiple siblings in our schools
- flexible payment plans
- hardship concession policies for families in need
- the Bishop Manning Scholarship Fund
- the Byawalla Co-contribution Scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

### Tuition Fees - 2017

The 2017 diocesan tuition fees are outlined below:

ANNUAL FEES	No charge for 4th+ children	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$1,131	\$849	\$567
	Years 1 – 6	\$1,461	\$1,095	\$732
	Years 7 – 8	\$2,028	\$1,521	\$1,014
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$2,250	\$1,689	\$1,125
	Years 11 – 12	\$2,874	\$2,157	\$1,437

The 2017 term rate for each of the first three terms is outlined below:

TERM FEES	Charged in Terms 1, 2 & 3	1st Child 100%	2nd Child 75%	3rd Child 50%
Primary	Kindergarten	\$377	\$283	\$189
	Years 1 – 6	\$487	\$365	\$244
	Years 7 – 8	\$676	\$507	\$338
Secondary	Years 9 – 10	\$750	\$563	\$375
	Years 11 – 12	\$958	\$719	\$479



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### Diocesan Building Levy - 2017

The Diocesan Building Levy enables us, through our capital works program, to meet the demand for new schools and new classes in high growth areas, and to continue to maintain all schools to a high standard.

All families with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). The levy for 2017 is **\$756 per family**, payable in three equal instalments of \$252 payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

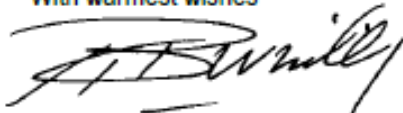
### Annual Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents - 2017

The Diocesan Education Fee Temporary Residents for 2017 is **\$1,869 per student**, payable in three equal instalments of \$623 in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee applies to new students on the following visa numbers: 173, 401, 402, 411, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 442, 456, 457, 459, 462, 476, 485, 497, 580, 600, 601, 651, 675, 676, 679, 685, 884, 944, 956, 976 and 977 including where any of these are the preceding visas for families on bridging visas 010 to 090.

Families charged this fee in 2013 will continue to be charged on a *per family* basis to the eldest student whilst the family has continuous current students.

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education. Please be assured that we will continue to provide exciting learning experiences for them within our Catholic faith environment.

With warmest wishes



Gregory B Whitby  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Parramatta of Diocese



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

### 2017 SCHOOL BASED FEES (non refundable)

The 2017 Resource Fee has been set at \$206.00 per student (an increase of 3% from 2016 in line with the CEDP guidelines).

The 2017 Activities Fee has been set at \$250 per student. The increase from 2016 is due to the addition of a yoga and gymnastics program.

The Activity Fee includes the fees for class excursion, the swimming program, athletics and swimming carnivals plus St Francis Day events.

Please see the next page for a detailed schedule of the 2017 Diocesan fees.





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Summer Reading Challenge*

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **four iPad minis**

The more books you read, the more chances you have to win\*

Enter online at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Entries close 7 February 2017

\*Terms and Conditions apply

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