



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1

Week 8

17th March 2017

"Have Faith & Trust in Jesus"

We need to be reminded that we should always place our trust in Jesus - to trust and know that His love and care will always be with us and guide our lives. As a family we live out and show our faith and trust in Jesus as we deal with life's challenges. Prayer as a family is just one of the many ways of making Jesus part of our lives.

Dear Parents,

In 2017 the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has a theme for the year which is 'Everything is Connected' and we celebrated this theme at our Catholic Schools Week Liturgy last week.

At St Francis we have a strong connection with our school motto: **'Strength and Gentleness'**

The Gospel is embedded within our school values of Respect, Honesty, Tolerance, Forgiveness, Care and Compassion. It encompasses everything we do, everyday.

We commenced this year with the students participating in a Body and Mind Wellbeing Program. This was in response to parents and teachers concerns about how children cope and manage stress and how they deal with various emotions that can be experienced in different situations. The lessons focus on providing learning opportunities for children to explore physical activity and ways to relax their minds so they can stay focused and have improved clarity.

The focus of this program is essentially around developing the Social and Emotional Learning of the students, which is the ongoing process of developing skills needed to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. This will remain a focus for the remainder of this year.

Social: Understanding other people. It also includes being able to step into their shoes, get along with them, and the ability to make good decisions in life.

Emotional: Knowing yourself, and learning how to manage your emotions and behaviour in ways that help you reach your goals.

Learning: Social and emotional skills can be taught and learnt, just like any other skill.

At St Francis we always strive to build relationships and a sense of belonging and connecting which gives children a sense of security that their needs will be met. Our school values and social skills enhance this belief through our Respect and Achievement Awards that are presented by class teachers.

The social and emotional skills are: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Our Religious Education and Personal Development units of work allow further development of these skills across our school grades K-6. On a daily basis our school community endeavours to strengthen relationships with all that we meet and interact.

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DATES COMING UP

- 23/3 Year 6 Mass
- 29/3 Whole school assembly
- 30 & 31 /3 Year 6 Camp

DUE TO THE EXTREME WET WEATHER, CROSS COUNTRY WAS CANCELLED. THIS WILL BE RESCHEDULED AND PARENTS WILL BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY.

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Relationships are strengthened and social and emotional skills developed through repeated experiences of 'give and take'. We encourage conversations with our students about these 'give and take' interactions, which helps children to develop their social and emotional skills. 'Give and take' becomes sharing, cooperating and taking turns and developing friendships with other children. This helps children to understand the feelings of others and how to think things through before acting.

Taking time, tuning in, being there and sharing experiences with our children helps support this development at school. Parents and carers can help their children in a number of ways by encouraging discussion of feelings, providing opportunities to play with others, supporting children's confidence and leading by example. Here are a few other ways to help:

Encourage creative problem solving

Asking questions that help children think of alternative solutions supports their thinking and problem solving skills. When problems arise you can explore solutions together.

What do you think might happen if you try that? Do you think this might work?

Teach children to use positive communication skills

Show children how to confidently and respectfully communicate their thoughts, feelings and needs in a positive way.

I really don't want to play that game. It's too dangerous. Let's play a different game instead.

Give children choices

To develop responsibility children need practice in making choices that are appropriate for their age and experience level. You can help children build decision-making skills by encouraging them to explore options and helping them think through the reasons for their choices.

What do you think we should do?

What happened last time we tried this?

Thank you for your continued support. It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

Jenny Bellenger

PUPIL FREE DAY

Our staff will be involved in a Staff Development Day on **Monday 24th April 2017** (Monday Week 1 Term 2) to focus on our school goals.

This is a Pupil Free Day.

Please note: Tuesday 25th April 2017 is ANZAC Day, which is a Public Holiday.

Students will return to school for Term 2 on **Wednesday 26th April 2017**.

COSHS will be available on this day if there is enough interest. (minimum 12 children required)

EVACUATION DRILL

Shortly, we will once again be practising an evacuation drill or lockdown as part of our safety procedures. Teachers discuss the routine with their class before any drills begin so that children are not distressed. The aim of this activity is not to cause alarm, it is a chance for children to become aware of procedures if the need ever arises.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENROLING NOW KINDER TO YEAR 6 FOR 2018

CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 9832 3062

OR EMAIL stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au



EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY

Week 7 attendance level was 73.6 %

Week 8 attendance level was 81.2 %

Attendance level goal for all Diocesan schools is 90%



Our school needs your help to improve this level. Please remember to plan holidays in the school holidays, not during the school term.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance data reveals that a number of St Francis students regularly arrive late to school. Our school day commences at 8:55 am and concludes at 3:00 pm. Arriving at school on time is extremely important as it can be very unsettling for both the student arriving late to class and for the students already in class that have commenced lessons. It is important that you know that every child who arrives late has their attendance marked with a partial absence. Congratulations to all those children who arrive at school on time each and every day.

WHY IS MY CHILD'S TEACHER OUT OF CLASS?

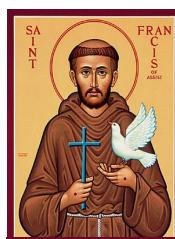
Like professionals in other fields, all teachers are required to keep up to date with current thinking on best practices and new developments in all curriculum areas. From time to time teachers are required to attend professional development opportunities to learn about changes to curriculum, new methods of teaching & learning and other ways of integrating technology. These sessions sometimes occur during the day, after school or in the school holidays. Teachers are also given time at the beginning of the year to conduct assessments to pinpoint your child's learning needs. Some teachers also have additional responsibilities which benefit the whole school. At times, teachers are also required at diocesan events etc. Teachers also have entitlements such as sick leave, long service leave, maternity leave, bereavement leave, jury duty etc. Consequently there will be times when your child's teacher is absent from the classroom. On these days the teacher's program is followed. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partners to liaise with the substitute teacher so that good teaching and learning continues and routines are kept. We thank you for your support in this area.



ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL are now taking enrolments for Year 7, 2018. Please contact the school office on 9830 2400 for any inquiries. Enrolment packages are available from the school office. School office hours are 7.30am - 3.30pm, 175 Buckwell Drive, Hassall Grove. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website <http://www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au>

KR	Ellie Price
KS	Stella Biermann
KV	Tahleshia Rouessart
1B	Leo Price
1R	James Duff
2C	Simrat Saini
2F	Sienna Ribaya

RESPECT AWARDS



3A	Isaac Lalia
3B	Melissa Ghneim
4B	Ayak Adup
4C	Angelica Conate
5B	Hope Alcantara
5O	Ella Calura
6D	Benjamin Barukcic
6S	Isabella Espineda

PROJECT BASED LEARNING (PBL)

Our Years 5 & 6 (stage 3) teachers have been involved in intensive professional learning in order to implement Project Based Learning (PBL) with our students. The PBL projects that the students are involved in are integrated across a variety of Key Learning Areas. Students continue to work towards meeting the NSW Syllabus outcomes. The project based learning programs implemented have a strong focus on the development of 21st century skills including: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Creativity and embed technologies.

Our Stage 3 teachers and school leadership team have been extremely fortunate to have engaged Academic Partners from Texas, Steve Zipkes, and his team from Advanced Reasoning in Education, as well as our colleagues from the Diocese of Parramatta, Catholic Education to support our learning.

On Monday we were privileged to have two educators from Texas along with some staff from our Catholic Education Office who are very experienced in PBL visit our school and spend time with our students and staff. The feedback from the visitors was very positive about the great learning they witnessed at St Francis. Well done to both the teachers of Years 5 and 6 and the students.

What Happens in a Numeracy Block?

‘Nurate’: To be numerate is to use mathematical ideas to make sense of the world.

Students at St Francis follow the Parramatta Literacy and Numeracy strategy called Focus 160. This means that every day, children will undertake 100 minutes of Literacy and 60 minutes of Numeracy. Our Numeracy Block consists of three elements:

1. Warm up (10-15 mins)

Always number based: Counting, Place Value, Addition and Subtraction or Multiplication and Division. Targeted to point of need.

‘Tuning in’ and warming up. Teachers ‘track’ children’s progress.

2. RICH Task (30-40 mins)

Learning Intention discussed and broken down. Success criteria co-constructed. Task differentiated for children.

3. REFLECTION (10-15 mins)

Explicit teaching time. Explore questions raised by students.

At St Francis, children are encouraged to have a ‘Growth Mindset’. See below for some reflective comments from our students regarding a ‘Growth Mindset’:

You don’t need to be fast at Maths to be great. Your brain is growing and changing all the time. Mistakes help grow your brain and challenges are really good for you. Believing in yourself changes the way you learn. Everyone can learn Maths to a high level.

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

every learner every day

ABSENCES ADD UP!



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MISSING MORE
THAN**1**YEAR OF
LEARNING IN**12**

YEARS

DID YOU KNOW

**1 IN 6**

PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT
ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life



SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner
every day 



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

TERM 1 OVERVIEW – 2017

Updated: 10/03/2017



WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
1 JAN	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th Australia Day Holiday	27 th Staff return 2017	28 th 29 th
2 JAN FEB	30 th STUDENTS RETURN	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th 5 th
3 FEB	6 th	7 th Parent Info Sessions Years 2 & 3 6.30pm Years 4, 5 & 6 @ 7.00pm	8 th	9 th Opening School Mass 10am	10 th February Census	11 th Our Lady of Lourdes 12 th
4 FEB	13 th Kindy Info & BBQ 5.00pm Year 1 Parent Info Session @ 6.00pm	14 th Valentine's Day	15 th Blacktown Zone Swimming at Mt Druitt Pool	16 th Reconciliation Yr 5	17 th	18 th 19 th
5 FEB	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd Mass Year 5	24 th Diocesan Swimming Blacktown Pool	25 th 26 th
6 FEB MAR	27 th	28 th Shrove Tuesday Whole School Assembly @ 2.30	1 st Season of Lent ASH WEDNESDAY	2 nd	3 rd	4 th 5 th 1 st Sunday of Lent
7 MAR	6 th Catholic Schools Week	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th 12 th 2 nd Sunday of Lent
8 MAR	13 th	14 th School Cross Country	15 th	16 th Whole School Assembly @ 2.30 Reconciliation Year 6	17 th St Patrick's Day	18 th 19 th 3 rd Sunday of Lent
9 MAR	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd Year 6 Mass	24 th	25 th 26 th 4 th Sunday of Lent
10 MAR APR	27 th	28 th	29 th Whole School Assembly @ 2.30	30 th Year 6 Camp Stage 2 Reconciliation	31 st Year 6 Camp	1 st 2 nd 5 th Sunday of Lent
11 APR	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th Stage 2 Mass	7 th Last day of Term 1	8 th 9 th Palm Sunday HOLY WEEK