



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 3
Week 4
16th August 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy week with students attending the Feast of The Assumption Liturgy on Thursday then on Tuesday many students attended the Zone Athletics Carnival, the Wanderers worked with all students from Kindy to Year 6 on Wednesday, two students representing Year Six in the Cluster Voice of Youth Final and Year Four commenced working with an Author and we must not forget all the great learning that has been taking place each day.

The first priority at St Francis is our beautiful children. We aim to develop each child according to their ability. We strive to develop the whole child, that is to develop each child spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically and academically.

For our school to do its job effectively, the ongoing interest and involvement of parents is vital. Teachers and parents working as partners means common goals can be established and developed more effectively and efficiently. It is important that the children see teachers and parents supporting each other.

Working together assists the children's development and learning in so many ways. A happy, supportive and harmonious link between teachers and parents with realistic common goals creates a unified approach. When a child perceives a breakdown in communication of this vital link a child experiences conflict and may play one off against the other.

We are very fortunate at St Francis to have supportive and caring parents, not only supportive in developing fantastic community spirit, raising funds, but more importantly loyal and supportive in helping and assisting their children's learning.

Sometimes with today's busy and hectic lifestyles it is easy to leave school to the teachers but when we reflect on the points below it is well worth remembering that the link between teachers and parents is paramount in our children's education.

- A child's performance is strongly influenced by his or her parents' attitude to the school.
- Achievement levels tend to rise when parents are seen to be interested and involved in their child's schooling.
- Parents have many ideas and skills that can be very useful to their school community.

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

Jenny Bellenger

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- **Tues 20/8** Year 1 Cake Stall
- **Wed 21/8** Chinese students visiting
- **Fri 23/8** Diocesan Athletics Carnival
- **Fri 30/8** Fathers Day Celebrations
- **Tues 03/9** 2020 Kindy Information Night
- **Thur 05/9** Infants Carnival
- **Fri 06/9** Year 4 Excursion
- **Fri 13/9** Science A-thon



MASS TIMES @ GOOD SHEPHERD
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 6am & 9am
Wed 6am & 7.30pm (Novena)
Sat 8am & 6pm (Vigil)
Sun 7am, 9am & 6pm

VOICE OF YOUTH

On Wednesday, the Cluster Final for the 'Voice of Youth' was held at St Andrews Primary School at Marayong. Students from St Francis of Assisi, Good Shepherd, St Aidan's and St Andrew's Primary School represented their schools talking about a variety of topics. St Francis of Assisi's representative, Ruby Price, spoke confidently about saving the world and the need to look after our planet. Ruby said the experience has given her confidence for future presentations. Well done Ruby.

CAR PICK UP LINE

STUDENT
DROP-OFF
AND
PICK-UP
AREA

It's easy to forget how unpredictable children can be. Before and after school they are excited about seeing their friends or their parents and can easily forget how to keep themselves safe near traffic. As adults, it's our responsibility to be extra aware when driving around schools, especially at times when children might be about.

Community Law Enforcement Officers patrol our schools during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Police also keep an eye out around schools. We ask for your assistance by doing the right thing every time, whether you are just driving through the area or are involved in dropping off or collecting children from school. We all need to work together to keep children safe as they travel to and from school. Be aware that some offences have higher fines in school zones than in other areas and some also include demerit points.

Please respect all families and carers who use our car 'Drop Off and Pick Up Bay' on Armitage Drive. This area is **NOT** to be used for parking and leaving your car. At all times, the driver needs to remain in the car to ensure the drop off and pick up works safely and efficiently. **If you are joining the car pick up line, please remember to join the end of the queue on Armitage Drive and not "jump the queue."** We have had many complaints from drivers who are doing the correct thing and waiting their turn. Not only is it unfair to jump the queue but it is also very dangerous. A reminder that police and council officers regularly patrol (as has been the case recently) and they will fine drivers who are seen doing the wrong thing.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Mrs Shivon Jackson (KA teacher) and her family on the birth of her son Spencer.

Congratulations to Lillian (2M) and family on the birth of her little sister Ashleigh.

We wish both families the very best.

SCHOOL FEES

Period 3 School Fee statements were sent out. If you did not receive one, please contact the school office for a copy. If you are on an arrangement, please check the payments received to ensure you are up to date. If any amounts are still owing from Term 2 please pay this promptly.

Payment for period 3 are due by 28th August 2019.

ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Tuesday we had many students represent our school at the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival. We had a fantastic day out in sun competing against the best athletes from our zone. Congratulations to all students who were able to represent our school on Tuesday. A special congratulations to Evelyn, Heinz, Isaac and Matilda who have progressed to the Diocesan carnival.

Thank you to Mrs Sciberras who volunteered her time to support our school. Your willingness to help our school is always appreciated.



WANDERERS VISIT

On Wednesday representatives from the Western Sydney Wanderers ran a few soccer drills for our students. Each grade had the opportunity to get outside and have a great time learning some new skills.



YEAR 3 MURU MITTIGAR

Year 3 had a terrific day out at Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Centre. We had the opportunity to learn more about the traditional Aboriginal culture and their beliefs.



HELPING CHILDREN SPEAK UP

What do you say to a child who tells you: “If I do what they say, they let me play with them. If I don’t, they walk away and tell me not to follow.” To stand up to a peer group is to risk losing them but to follow the herd is to risk getting in trouble or allowing another child to be hurt.

Many children struggle to assert their thoughts and feelings but assertiveness can be taught. Knowing how to stand up for yourself and others is especially important when it comes to bullying, teasing, peer pressure and other negative behaviours. Building assertiveness skills takes time and practice.

TRY THESE STRATEGIES

TALK ABOUT IT

All too often we tell children what to do without actually giving them details on what we mean. Discuss different communication styles.

Passive: Passive communicators struggle to make eye contact, use a very quiet voice and act as if other peoples’ rights are more important than their own.

Aggressive: Aggressive communicators are loud, imposing and act as if their rights are more important than the rights of others.

Assertive: Assertive communicators make eye contact, use a calm but firm voice and respect their own rights and the rights of others equally.

Use characters from books, TV and movies to illustrate these communication styles.

MODEL IT.

Be the model you want your child to copy. Stand up for your views, even if they may not be popular. This can be a tough one, especially when views clash. Model assertive communication skills. Teach your children to follow these steps when asserting their views:

- **Remain calm.**
- **Make eye contact.**
- **Use a clear, confident voice.**

LISTEN.

There are times when we have to agree to disagree, but that doesn’t mean that we silence our voices. Practising statements like, “I appreciate that you explained your point of view. I have a different opinion, but now I know where you’re coming from,” teaches them that it’s okay to disagree.

USE THE MIRROR.

Practise making eye contact in the mirror. Stand tall. Hold your shoulders back.

By altering their body postures and facial expressions as they practice assertive statements, they can see what works and what doesn’t.

TRY REALISTIC SCENARIOS.

Have your child come up with the problems and take turns acting as the bully and victim or aggressive and passive communicators. Practising the problem from both sides can be eye opening.

The more children practise speaking up at home, the greater confidence and assertiveness they will have out in the world!



Happy Fathers Day!

Friday 30th August
Celebrate Father's Day @
St Francis



All Dads, Pops, Grandfathers and Uncles are invited to come along and join us for our Father's Day Celebrations!

8.15 – 9.00am Sausage Sizzle @ the Hall

9.15am – 10.00am Father's Day Liturgy

10.00am – 10.45am Open classrooms

Followed by the Father's Day Stall for students



Prepaid forms have been sent home. If you would like another one please contact the office

 <https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgdenning>

PARENTS AND CARERS

Dental Staff from Blacktown/ Mt Druitt Dental Hospital Clinics

Will be visiting your school to provide

Years Kindy, 2, 4, and 6

with a short talk regarding oral health information and diet advice plus a

Free Dental Check

The Dental staff will bring portable dental chairs and lights. The dental clinician will use sterilised equipment and wear a new pair of latex free gloves for each child.

Consent forms will be sent home for each child and should be returned as soon as possible to the teacher with all questions completed. Ticked **Yes or No** and signed by the parent/ guardian.

Each student (*with Medicare Number and the consent form ticked Yes and signed by a parent*) will be eligible to have a dental checkup.

A letter (result sheet) will be sent home with each child on the assessment day. This will indicate how the parent should follow-up the dental assessment.

Parents **will not** need to contact the dental clinic, *unless otherwise indicated on their result sheet*

The child's details will be entered onto the hospital computer data base and will remain confidential.

Treatment appointments will be offered on a prioritised basis and sent **directly to the child's address**. Students with urgent treatment needs will be offered treatment appointments first.

Parents may choose to make an appointment with their Private Dentist if the result sheet indicates their child requires treatment.

Children from grades 1, 3, 5 will not be assessed at school.

Parents with children in Pre-school, Years 1, 3 & 5 or children suffering dental pain or trauma, may call the **Western Sydney Local Health District call centre on : 98456766**

Free * dental care is available at NSW public dental clinics for all children under 18 years of age.



NSW Health suggests all children aged 0-18 have a Dental check up every 1 to 2 years and should have their teeth brushed twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.

**Charges may apply for Specialist services*

PRIVACY NOTICE

Information required to determine the *Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA)* for schools

This notice is from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child's school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child's gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, residential address, parental occupation and parental education.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the *ACARA Act 2008* for one or both of the following purposes:

- formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance; and
- assisting government to formulate policies in relation to education matters.

ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school within seven (7) days of receiving this notice.

Further information about ACARA can be obtained from the ACARA website at www.acara.edu.au.

providing quality public transport



Busways Group Pty Ltd
5 Bridge St, Pymble NSW 2073
www.busways.com.au

Does your child catch a school bus? Help them keep it!

As the bus operator that providing your child's school bus services, we're asking for your help getting your child to use their Opal card on every bus trip.

Since the introduction of the School Opal card in 2016, school bus patronage data has significantly dropped. This is not reflected in the number of students actually travelling on our buses for various reasons a large number of students are consistently not using their Opal cards as they should be.

Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used by transport planners and service schedulers to design the bus network that best serves the community utilising the resources available.

If students don't tap on and off then school bus services will appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

Please help us reinforce the message that tapping on and off every bus journey with an Opal card is essential to travel on the bus. This will ensure school services continue to be planned for the students that use it, providing the journey to school your children depend on.

To help us achieve this, please talk with your child:

- Ask them if they tap on and off the bus with their Opal card.
- If they do, congratulate them for doing the right thing and talk about why it's important.
- If they sometimes don't or never do, ask them why.
 - Are they confused about why they have to? Talk about why it's important, and that every tap tells the bus planners that the bus is needed.
 - Do they forget? Help them find a way to remember, such as getting into the habit of getting their Opal card out as soon as they arrive at the bus stop or bus line.
 - Is their Opal card at the bottom of their bag? Help find a handier place to keep it.
 - Are they influenced by friends or peers that don't tap? Talk about how they like to travel on the bus with their friends and how tapping is what keeps the service running.
 - Have they lost their Opal card? To order a new Opal card visit www.opal.com.au.

If there's another reason that you'd like to discuss with Busways, please contact us at infoline@busways.com.au. We are happy to listen and do what we can to help your child feel comfortable using their Opal card.

Thank you for helping us to best serve your school community.

Busways Blacktown P/L
ABN 86 000 173 437

T (02) 9625 8900
F (02) 9625 4703
150 Glendenning Rd
Glendenning NSW 2761

Busways Blacktown P/L
Penrith Depot

T (02) 4721 9500
F (02) 4732 6160
47-53 Mullins Rd
Penrith NSW 2750

Busways Blacktown P/L
Windsor Depot

T (02) 4574 9200
F (02) 4577 9054
91 Mulgrave Rd
Mulgrave NSW 2756

Busways Gosford P/L
ABN 79 817 812 619

T (02) 4368 2277
F (02) 4368 2077
42 Empire Bay Dr
Kincumber NSW 2251

Busways Wyong P/L
ABN 17 000 044 726

T (02) 4392 6666
F (02) 4392 5831
9 Arizona Rd
Woongarah NSW 2259

Busways North Coast
P/L

ABN 75 106 202 340
T (02) 6583 2499
F (02) 6583 2388
6-8 Denham St
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

News from the Bishop's Office

Jesus Light of the World Communities Formation Day: 17 August

The Jesus Light of the World Communities is hosting a Formation Day on the theme 'Here I Am (Isaiah 6:8)' at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Walz St, Rockdale on Saturday 17 August from 9am to 4pm. Morning and afternoon tea will be served. For enquiries, contact Helen on 0488 037 631, Ida on 0424 267 500 or email jlowcommunity@gmail.com

Divine Retreat Centre Inner Healing Retreat: 17 – 18 August

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is holding an inner healing retreat on 17 and 18 August. Accommodation and food will be provided. For more information, please contact 0468 486 782, email drcsydney@gmail.com or visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

Nature, Science and the Bible in Australia: 17 August

The Blackheath History Forum is presenting religious historian Dr Meredith Lake as she discusses the topic 'Nature, Science and the Bible in Australia' on Saturday August 17 at Blackheath Public School. Doors open at 3.30pm with afternoon tea, talk starts at 4pm. \$5 entry fee (free for those 18 and under). For more information, contact richard.white@sydney.edu.au or visit <https://blackheathhistoryforum.org.au>

Christian Meditation: 18 August

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia. Presentations, Introduction to Meditation for newcomers and Meditation for on-going meditators. After the lunch break for BYO picnic lunch we will have Mass. This is a free event and accommodation may be available at the monastery guest house. For enquires please contact Ann Bergman on anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or 9653 2637.

2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar: 30 August

American Catholic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is the guest speaker at The Life, Family and Marriage Office's 2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar on Friday 30 August at St Paul's Catholic College Hall, Greystanes from 7.30pm. Free entry and a light supper will be served afterwards. Donations are welcome. Please register your attendance to 02 8838 3460 or lmf@parracatholic.org

Bishop's Annual Appeal for Retired and Sick Priests: 1 September

There will be a special collection for the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese – on Father's Day. Your donation helps them cover healthcare costs and expenses associated with everyday living, supplementing the pension that some receive. Please give generously this Father's Day Appeal. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Donations can be made here: parracatholic.org/csf

Adult Confirmation: 10 September

Adult Confirmation for 2019 will be held on Tuesday 10 September at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 7.30pm. A Catechesis Day for Adult Confirmation will be held on Saturday 31 August from 9.30am to 2pm. Any adult over 16 years wanting to be confirmed please see your Parish Office for information or contact the Office for Worship on 02 8838 3456 or mary-louise.walsh@parracatholic.org

Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Ongoing Formation: 14 September

The Office for Worship is organising a formation day for those already involved in the ministry, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and the Dying on Saturday 14 September at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, from 9:30am until 2pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 10 September. To RSVP, please contact the Office for Worship team on anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org or 8838 3456.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Perth: 7 – 11 December 2019

ACYF19 is a biennial national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Bishops of Australia. The event involves three days of exciting, large scale Plenary's, tens of workshops, concerts, prayer experiences, fun, expos and concludes with an outdoor mass with the City of Perth. Bishop Vincent and Catholic Youth Parramatta will be leading an expected 200 participants. Free twin-share hotel accommodation is being offered now. For more information and to register visit www.catholicyouthparramatta.org

TERM 3 OVERVIEW 2019

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
July	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th / 14 th
July	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th / 21 st
July 1	22 nd Staff Development Day	23 rd	24 th Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	25 th	26 th Year 5 Incursion Skyworks	27 th / 28 th
Aug 2	29 th	30 th Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day	31 st	1 st August	2 nd Year 3 excursion to Muru Mittigar	3 rd / 4 th
Aug 3	5 th	6 th	7 th Book Fair Grandparents Day	8 th	9 th Voice of Youth Cluster Final	10 th / 11 th
Aug 4	12 th	13 th Zone Athletics	14 th	15 th Feast of Assumption Mass	16 th	17 th /18 th
Aug 5	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd All day reconciliation	23 rd Diocesan Athletics	24 th /25 th
Aug/Sept 6	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th Fathers' Day Celebrations Liturgy & B'fast	31 st / 1 st Sept Fathers' Day
Sept 7	2 nd	3 rd Kindy 2020 Information Session 7pm	4 th	5 th Infants Carnival	6 th Year 4 excursion to Brewongle	7 th / 8 th Blessed Virgin Mary B'day
Sept 8	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th A-thon	14 th / 15 th
Sept 9	16 th Voice of Youth	17 th	18 th	19 th Kindy Golden Ridge Farm	20 th	21 st / 22 nd
Sept 10	23 rd	24 th Voice of Youth Final	25 th	26 th St Francis Day	27 th School closes	28 th / 29 th