



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1
Week 5
1st March 2019

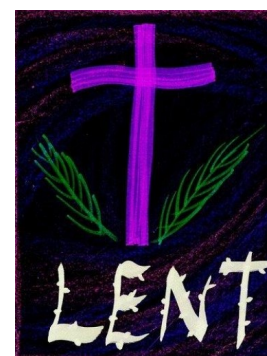
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Wednesday we celebrate Ash Wednesday. During this important time of Lent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter, the following reflection has the potential to speak to each one of us: Lent

What to give up

Give up complaining	Focus on gratitude
Give up pessimism	Become an optimist
Give up harsh judgement	Think kindly thoughts
Give up gloom	Enjoy the beauty that is around you
Give up gossiping	Control your tongue
Give up sin	Turn to virtue
Give up giving up	Hang in



A Children's Prayer for Lent

Lord, please show me what I should give up for Lent and when I've given it up remind me to pray to You instead to thank You to love You to hear from You each and every day in Lent!

Many thanks to the parents who were present on Wednesday at our first General Parent Meeting for 2019. The meeting provided an ideal opportunity to discuss and share ideas about working together in partnership, for the good of our children. Additionally, Mrs Louise Gray, our Instructional Leader and Leader of Learning for Years 1 and 2 spoke about her previous experience and her new role at St Francis, her presentation on the learning taking place was positively received. We are blessed to have a very supportive community of parents at St Francis who help to ensure its success. Being part of a committee is a great way to meet new people and, of course, help the children at St Francis. Your time, big or small, during the year is very much appreciated as we work together to provide the best possible Catholic Education and environment for your child and to build upon our wonderful Christ centred community.

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

Jenny Bellenger

DATES COMING UP

- 04/03 Year 3 to 6 Athletics Carnival
- 05/03 Wellness / Yoga
- 07/03 Catholic Schools Week - Open classrooms @ 9.15am followed by Mass
- 08/03 CSW Open Day - Tours at 9.30am and 1.30pm

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



ENROL NOW

OPEN DAY

8th March 2019

Tours of the school at 9.30 am & 1:30 pm

Information Sessions 10:00 am & 2:00 pm

CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK

This year from 3 - 9 March 2018 St Francis of Assisi school will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

Catholic Schools Week is about forging and strengthening connections between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing our activities and actions.

During Catholic Schools Week, we take the opportunity to highlight not only the best of what we do, but also what happens in our schools every day.

For that reason, we invite you and your family to join us on Thursday 7th March at 9:15 am for a 30 minute visit to your child's learning space. Following this visit you are invited to attend our Catholic Schools Week Mass in the school hall at 10 am to celebrate with our school during Catholic Schools Week.

This is an ideal opportunity to support our community of St Francis and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

Our school has a supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to give students the best education possible.

This special week on the Catholic Schools' calendar provides an opportunity for the community to recognise our committed and gifted teachers and support staff for their work in encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion in our young people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Francis of Assisi Primary School and look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week next week.

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY TRANSPORTING STUDENTS OVERSEAS



An article in the local newspaper the this week, the Blacktown Advocate.

STUDENTS in Glendenning have been transported to a school almost 4000 kilometres away thanks to a cutting-edge virtual reality program launched at St Francis of Assisi Primary School this month.

The program, coordinated by Catholic charity Mary Mackillop Today, gives students access to 360-degree virtual reality technology, offering them an insight into

the lives of students in East Timor.

Students at St Francis of Assisi are the first to benefit from the interactive experience, which is being rolled out in schools across Australia this term.

The immersive experience follows nine-year-old Maia as she heads back to school in her East Timorese community and gives students a glimpse into her way of life.

Teacher Chris Boyer said students were fascinated to explore a typical school day in a country they had been closely connected to through fundraising.

"We hear lots of stories about East Timor, but to see it in a virtual, 3D model, made it more powerful for the kids," Mr Boyer said. "We've been working closely with the East Timorese for a long time, so the students are

definitely passionate about the culture and really want to help.

"Since there's a visual, it's easy for the young kids to compare their lives and leads to a lot of discussion and drives their passion to help even more."

Mr Boyer said the technology was revolutionary in allowing students to see some of the struggles East Timorese children face each day.

CHANGING GOING HOME ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder to parents that our official school day is from 8:55 am until 3:00pm, and that your child is required to be present between these times. Children should not be taken out of school early unless it is for an important reason (ie. Appointment for specialists etc.) Likewise, any changes of going home arrangements should only be made in cases of emergencies. As you can appreciate, contacting classes for children to come to the office for early departures or to advise going home changes is disruptive to the learning, in particular, to the whole school if the class is not in their room and an announcement needs to be made. Please note children will only be called to the office when you arrive to collect them. We ask that you do not contact the office requesting your children be ready and waiting for your arrival as delays in traffic etc. may result in children waiting for long periods. We thank you for your support in this matter.

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 learning 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 and day book is followed. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partners to liaise with the casual teacher so that good teaching and learning continues and routines are kept. We thank you for your support in this area.

NEW P & F COMMITTEE

On Wednesday we held a P & F meeting in the staffroom. This gave parents an opportunity to come along and hear about how the P & F operates and things that parents can help out with when volunteering. On the day parents also met our Instructional Leader Mrs Louise Gray.

A new P & F Group were chosen on the day. Congratulations to:

Natasha Soulsby - President

Tya Shen - Vice president

Jennifer Dunk - Secretary

Vicky Maharaj - Treasurer



CHANGE OF DAY FOR WELLBEING IN WEEK 6

Due to the Athletics Carnival for Years 3 to 6 on Monday 4th March, we will transfer our Wellness/Yoga program to Tuesday 5th March. This is for the whole school. ALL students will need to wear their sports uniform on Tuesday. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 can wear their normal school uniform on Monday 4th March.

ATTENDANCE

Mrs Brenda Jackson is the Attendance Family Liason Officer for St Francis School. Mrs Jackson will monitor and maintain attendance for our school, particularly Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is absent from school, could you please ensure that you contact the office before 9.30am via phone, email or Skoolbag. If a student's attendance falls under 90%, Mrs Jackson will contact the family to arrange an attendance meeting to discuss strategies on how to improve attendance.

Kindergarten have had a great week and have met the CEDP target attendance of 90% this week. Francis Bear will be visiting Kindergarten this week. He is the mascot for our school attendance and will visit a different class each week if they have had good or improved attendance.

		Attendance Category	
K	91.6%	Regular	
01	78.7%	Emerging	
02	84.3%	Chronic	
03	79.5%	Complex	
04	84.3%		
05	83.0%		
06	87.2%		

DIOCESAN SWIMMING



Congratulations to our squad that represented us at the diocesan swimming carnival last week. An extra congratulations goes to Mia Hampton who qualified for 200 individual medley and Zoe Suarez Walsh for the 50m freestyle. These girls also qualified for the relay team alongside Zoe Hampton and Giselle Velasco. We wish these girls lots of luck at their next carnival!

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL MONDAY 4TH MARCH

Our Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 4th March. To promote team spirit, we are encouraging students to wear the colours of their house. Clothing should not have any inappropriate slogans or logos and be predominately the colour of the students colour house. No singlets or ripped clothing.

Deane: Blue

McCormack: Red

Miriam: Green

Riley: Gold

This is not mandatory. Your child is still able to wear their sports uniform on the day.



St Andrews College

is about doing more and going beyond



OPEN DAY – TUESDAY MARCH 5

St Andrews College is offering parents and students the opportunity to tour the Junior Campus

Visit the College website to book a tour time

For further details phone 9626 4000

www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au

Junior Campus Tour Times:

9.00am, 9.45am, 11.00am,
1.15pm and 2.00pm

Junior Campus
Years 7 to 10

116 Quakers Road Marayong

Senior Campus
Years 11 and 12

50 Breakfast Road Marayong



Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton

Schedule for the Sacrament of Confirmation - 2019

Parent Information Sheet

Parent Information night and registration

April 29, Monday @ 7:30pm at the Church

Note: Completed registration form and copy of Baptism certificate must be submitted on this night. *Registration form can be collected from St Francis School office.*

Confirmation classes – 2019 – all to be held at Good Shepherd School:

Attendance is a MUST:

May 05 – First lesson @ 10:30 to 11:30am

May 12 – Second lesson @ 10:30 to 11:30am

May 19 – Third lesson @ 10:30 to 11:30 am

May 26 – Fourth lesson @ 10:30 to 11:30 am

Rehearsal with Sponsors:

June 01, 2019 – Saturday @ 1:00- 4:00pm

Rite of Confirmation:

June 02, 2019 – Sunday @ 2pm

Sponsor:

Must be baptised, practicing catholic, 18 years and over. Godparents and siblings can be sponsors.

Main celebrant:

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD

Bishop of Parramatta

Age of Children:

Must be 10 years of age by May 2019. Please note: if your child is over 10 years old and just received their 1st Holy Communion in 2019, Confirmation must be deferred to 2020. It is a requirement by the Diocese that children can receive One Sacrament per year.

Fees: Contribution of \$20 per child to cover lesson materials and certificate.

For further details, please send email to sacraments@tpg.com.au

ST CLARE'S

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
HASSALL GROVE

OPEN DAY
Wednesday 6 March
4pm – 7pm

**NOW ENROLLING
FOR YEARS 7 to 12**

Enquiring minds, compassionate hearts

P: 9830 2400

www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au



Parents Representative Council

SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY



Learn effective way to deal with child anxiety and positive behavior practices

What can you do?

How is the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP) helping?

Our guest speaker for the evening is:

Anoushka Houseman

Clinical Psychologist

Wellbeing Coordinator - Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)

Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Monday, 4th March 2019

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)

(PRC AGM- will be held prior to guest speaker)

St Patrick's Primary School: 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Light supper and refreshments will be provided and
a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

www.prc.catholic.edu.au



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THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSOR

Floral Expressions

For details on the school fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116

