



# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

**Term 1**  
**Week 3**  
**15th February 2019**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, I am very proud of our beautiful children. They are treating each other with respect and understanding, focusing on their learning and working together as a faith community. Our fantastic start to the school year continues.

Our children are very settled and enthusiastic about their learning. Our new Kindergarten students have been particularly impressive and are well and truly already part of our St Francis community.

My appreciation and thanks to the many parents who attended the Kindergarten BBQ and Information Session last Monday and to the parents and carers who attended the Information Sessions for Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday evening. Your support is very much appreciated.

Many thanks to all the teachers for their time and commitment in facilitating these sessions.

Parents and Carers know their children better than anyone else and sharing this knowledge gives teachers a valuable resource to assist them in progressing your child's learning. Therefore, if there is any relevant information teachers need to know about your children please make a time to meet with the class teacher.

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

Jenny Bellenger

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK OPEN DAY - KINDERGARTEN 2020

Prospective parents are invited to attend our Open Day & Enrolment Day for Kindergarten 2020 on Friday 8th March from 9.30am - 10.30am or 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

A presentation by Mrs Bellenger will be followed by a tour of our Kindergarten classrooms led by our student leaders. Enrolment packs will be available on the day or from our website.

Enrolment forms are being accepted now and are available to download from our website.

## CENSUS CHANGE OF DATE

If you know that your child will be absent on Monday 18th February, please email the school explaining their absence prior to the day. Likewise, if your child is unexpectedly absent on the day, please email the school by 10:00am on Monday 18th February simply advising your child's name, class, the reason for their absence and when they will return. Please note: Auditors have advised that written advice from parents is mandatory. This is a requirement that applies to every day of the school year, however, Census data is directly related to Government funding for our schools and the requirements outlined above are set by the Department of Education. Thank you.

## DATES COMING UP

- 18/02 February Census
- 22/02 Whole school assembly @ 2.40pm
- 22/02 Diocesan Swimming - Blacktown
- 27/02 P & F Group Meeting @ 9am
- 04/03 Year 3 to 6 Athletics Carnival

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

## ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The St Francis swim squad represented us exceptionally at the Zone Carnival on Wednesday. They arrived with nothing but determination and they left with pride and a plethora of ribbons. Each competitor from our school swam with zeal and the results showed. Congratulations to all members of our squad in particular Mia Hampton who was awarded runner up age champion. Mia, along with Giselle Velasco, Zoe Hampton, Zoe Suarez-Walsh, Jordan Toogood, Aaron Forneste, Hendrix Campbell and Caleb Hogan, will compete next Friday at the diocesan swimming carnival. We wish our squad good luck.



## STUDENT ATTENDANCE / LEAVE

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves.

When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much learning. Missing just 2 days a month is the equivalent of missing 4 weeks of school every year – almost 10% of their learning.

We do understand that children may sometimes need to be absent from school through sickness or misadventure. We understand the work demands of parents and their ability to take leave does not always coincide with school holiday periods.

We ask that leave for extended periods – such as overseas holidays – is kept to a minimum - and wherever possible within the usual school holiday periods.

As part of the implementation of the formulated National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school holiday periods will now be included in Student Attendance Data as absences. Parents are requested to complete an Application for Extended Leave form for absences of 5 school days or more. This form is on our website: Community/School Notes/Administration Forms. Please submit this form together with a copy of your travel documentation (e-ticket/booking form) at least three weeks prior to the proposed leave date. This Application for Extended Leave will then be responded to by Mrs Bellenger. Thank you for your assistance.

## PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please remember the road rules around the school when dropping off and picking up your children.

If you are using the car pick up/drop off area, please remember that it is not a parking area. In the morning parents should pull up, drop off their children, and then leave. **Do not get out of the car.** Students will need to walk into school on their own if using this option. If you need to get out of the car, you will need to find parking elsewhere.

When picking up your children in the afternoon, parents form a queue on Armitage Drive. Please do not cut in on the queue, as this only upsets parents who have been patiently waiting their turn. Please go to the end of the line.

Also, the car parks on school grounds near the office and the hall are for **staff parking only**. Parents are not permitted to park here. Only those with disabled parking permits are able to park here.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to the Caparas family (Jayden 4M, Caitlynn 2T and Aubrey KB) on the birth of their little boy Aiden James. We wish them all the best.

## P & F MEETING

On Wednesday 27th February there will be a P & F Meeting in the staffroom at 9am. The P & F will speak to parents about volunteering and being a part of the P & F committee, and what it involves.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you all on this morning.

## SUBMITTING AN ITEM FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

A reminder to parents that if you would like to submit an item for approval to be printed in our school newsletter, we ask that you email your item to the school by 12 noon on a Thursday. As you can appreciate, children often inform us of achievements, however, we ask that achievements be advised in writing by a parent as children often miss important details. We thank you for your assistance.

## SCHOOL IS COOL BUT NOT IF YOU'RE LATE

Being at school on time in the morning is paramount. Your child's learning is often disadvantaged if they are late. They also often feel embarrassed arriving after everyone else. They miss important messages and/or the start of their lessons, and their learning results can suffer. If on the odd occasion you arrive after 8.55am you, as the parent, must visit the office to sign for your child. Many thanks for your support in this area.

A photograph of two young girls in school uniforms sitting at a desk. They are both looking towards the camera. The girl in the foreground is smiling slightly. The background is a classroom setting with a window and some colorful decorations.

# 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



# WELCOME TO PBS4L AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



PBS4L stands for Positive Behaviour Support for Learning. The purpose for PBS4L is to develop effective school wide systems and practices that are informed by data to gain more positive outcomes for students both socially and academically.

The PBS4L team at St Francis of Assisi have been working very hard to ensure our children gain maximum results. We're sure your children are talking about Gubbio, our lovable mascot.

It has taken considerable time to develop Gubbio, who has a strong link to St Francis. The story behind Gubbio began when St Francis was living near the town of Gubbio. The people came to him because they were very frightened. A ferocious wolf had been attacking their sheep and goats, and several people had also been attacked. They asked his advice. St Francis decided that he would approach the wolf even though the villagers warned him of the danger.

As St Francis approached the snarling, vicious creature, he cried out to him, "Brother Wolf, come here." Immediately the wolf calmed and, to the amazement of the villagers who had followed at a distance, the wolf immediately calmed and sat down at the feet of St Francis.

It turned out that the wolf had been injured and left behind by his pack. Lonely and unable to feed himself by hunting wild creatures, he found the easiest source of food - the village animals, thus causing distress and fear to the people of the village.

On finding this out, St Francis brokered a deal between the wolf and the villagers... they would supply him with food and he would change his ways. The world, being accepted by the villagers, changed and they lived in harmony for many years.

Gubbio the wolf (named after the town where St Francis helped to make peace) is our PBS4L mascot. We can all try to like 'Gubbio' by realising that when we make a mistake, we can learn from it and change our ways. But it is more than that, it is also about everyone in our St Francis community being aware that we need to work and play together, being aware of the feelings and needs of others, in order to create harmony.

With Gubbio, comes a wonderful reward system that each and every child will benefit from. The children will be rewarded for respectful behaviour in all settings within the school environment, with a Gubbio token. Tokens earned to a specified amount can be cashed in for many different rewards eg. Sitting next to a chosen peer for the day, 10 minutes of outdoor play etc.... There will be an abundance of rewards the children may choose from.

As an additional class reward system, each class will gain pieces of a puzzle to make up Gubbio. Each time the class teacher feels that the whole class has been demonstrating respectful behaviours, they earn a piece to make the Gubbio picture. They add a piece of the puzzle until he is complete. The class reward will be given for this team effort.

To reinforce more consistent effort and achievement in respectful behaviours by individual students, staff may award *Gubbio Respect* certificates to these students.

- Once students collect 5 certificates, they will earn a Tau.
- Once students collect 10 certificates, they will earn their bronze St Francis medal
- Once students collect 15 certificates, they will earn their silver St Francis medal
- Once students collect 20 certificates, they will earn their gold St Francis medal.
- This accumulation of certificates and medals is not restricted to a calendar year but stays accumulating throughout the student's entire time at St Francis of Assisi.
- Medals will be awarded at Friday afternoon school assemblies and parents of award recipients will be advised prior to the assembly so they may attend.

We encourage you to continually share the Gubbio respect with your children outside of school. Looking forward to spreading the good work of Gubbio with your children.

The PBS4L committee

### SPORTS DAYS

Each grade will wear their sports uniforms on the following days during Term 1:

Monday - ALL SCHOOL

Tuesday - Kindergarten and Year 1,

Wednesday - Year 2, 5 and 6

Thursday - Year 3 and 4



### NOTES DUE

Athletics note Yr 3-6	-	Friday 22nd February
Book Club Issue 1	-	Friday 22nd February
Technology Note	-	Friday 22nd February
Year 6 t-shirt note	-	Friday 1st March

### WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Our next assembly will be held next Friday 22nd February at 2.40pm in the hall. They will be held each fortnight on even weeks for the rest of the term.



## 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](http://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





# Cool Kids Music Co.

Excellence in Group Primary School Music Tuition

## CONTACT ON:

✉ [enquiries@coolkidsmusic.com.au](mailto:enquiries@coolkidsmusic.com.au)

🏠 [www.coolkidsmusic.com.au](http://www.coolkidsmusic.com.au)

☎ 0457 6 MUSIC (0457 668 742)

Music lessons  
at our school  
are provided by  
Cool Kids Music Co.  
who is a registered  
Creative Kids  
provider

## Create something great

### Claim your \$100 Creative Kids voucher today



### NSW Government is helping your cost of living

We're making it easier to access hundreds of creative activities that support your child's development.

Claim your **\$100 Creative Kids voucher** and create something great. Creative Kids is available for all NSW school children and is one of more than 40 NSW Government rebates and savings.

[service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids](http://service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids) • 13 77 88





## School Opal Card

As part of our campaign against fare evasion, and our on-going commitment to provide the level of service needed to transport students to and from your school, Busways conducts regular checks of School Opal card.

**All students must be in possession of a valid Opal card or pay a fare.**

**Students in possession of an Opal card must also tap on/off with their card when boarding our buses.**

This is important, because the Opal data collected determines the level of service we are able to provide to your school. If students don't tap on and off, the services will appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

To apply for a School Opal card or to report a lost or stolen card, go online to [www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/](http://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/)

Students who are ineligible for School Opal will need to purchase a Child/Youth Opal card or pay a fare to travel on our buses.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.