



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1
Week 8
19th March 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. The students participated in a class liturgy and throughout the week they did a variety of activities to celebrate this special week. In previous years, parents were invited into the learning spaces to see all the wonderful things their children do at school. Unfortunately, this year that was not possible due to both COVID and the building construction of our new school. We do hope parents appreciate and understand we have limited space this year and need to be mindful around the NSW health advice around social distancing.

We do appreciate it is difficult for parents not being able to connect with class teachers and see what the children are learning in their spaces. Therefore, the staff are currently organising a parent video for each grade to inform parents what is happening with the learning and for parents to see who their child's teacher is. These videos will be made available through Skoolbag and Facebook.

In October 1820 Irish priest, Fr John Therry put his "Faith in the Future" when he founded the first Catholic school in Australia. That school, run by a former convict, George Marley, which Catholic historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, had 31 students. By 1833 the number of Catholic schools in the colony had grown to 10.

In 2021, in the Parramatta Diocese alone there are 84 Catholic Schools providing quality learning and teaching in a faith-centred environment.

At St Francis, just one of those 84 schools, we are blessed with highly professional and dedicated teachers who see their role as educators in a catholic school as a vocation. Their commitment to each and every child in the school can be evidenced by the way in which the teachers nurture the relationships that they build and the way in which they focus on each individual child's needs and capabilities.

During this year of celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia we pray.....

"In the century ahead grant those teaching and Learning in our schools....

And the families that entrust their young people to us,

A love of learning and a willingness to be the face of Christ In the world of tomorrow. Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved"

Amen

Our role as teachers and parents is to keep children safe, while at the same time encouraging their independence. This can be a delicate balance, and a challenge for us all to navigate at times.

Personal Safety is a component within our Personal development, Health and Physical Education syllabus for all stages of learning. The syllabus states that all children can learn ways to keep themselves safe. In schools we refer to this as Protective Behaviours.

There are two main themes that are taught from Kindergarten to Year 6 in the Protective Behaviours program:

'We all have the right to feel safe all the time.'

'We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is.'

At St Francis we want to empower all our students to be able to assert their right to feel safe, listen to what their body tells them and to follow up by taking action to either solve problems on their own or to seek assistance from a trusted adult. There are four core content areas that every grade focus on with examples determined by the age of the students

Protective Behaviours is revisited in all classrooms throughout the year.

Child Protection is everyone's business. At St Francis we are mandatory reporters and we have policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of all our students at school. We greatly value the support of parents and carers in providing a safe school environment for our students. It is in partnership we can do great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger

Principal



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

Chosen among all men, St Joseph reveals to us the perfect model of Christianity through his purity of heart, patience, and fortitude.

March 19th is the feast day of St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers, travellers, fathers and immigrants.

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a **“Year of St Joseph”**, running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Everything we know about the life of Saint Joseph is contained in the gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke. The Bible tells us that Saint Joseph was descended from the royal house of David

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary. While we do not know much about him, what has been written regarding his life reveals to us that he was a faithful and prayerful man who loved and trusted God very much. He is honoured and respected as a saint, for he responded to the call of God in the unfolding plan of salvation for all human kind.

Joseph loved Mary and the child Jesus. He was a good and faithful father who helped form Jesus as he grew up and worried about him just like any loving parent. As a father, St. Joseph taught Jesus the skill of carpentry and the ability to work with his hands. As a good Jewish father, he taught Jesus Jewish law and teachings. He cared for and guarded Mary, his beloved wife and the well-being of their home.

Today, the entire Church of God remembers and reflects upon the humble and empowering gifts St. Joseph's life teaches us.

Let us pray that St. Joseph will help to be compassionate in our caring for others, as we continue to plant seeds of Unity and Reconciliation.

Saint Joseph.....Pray for us.

YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.**



DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021
catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph

PBS4L FORTNIGHTLY FOCUS



Each fortnight we will have a school wide focus linked to one of our school expectations. Our focus for weeks 9 and 10 is to:

listen and follow adult instructions.

Students have spent some time in the classroom learning about what this looks like. Students are expected to listen and follow adult instructions in all areas of the school especially the classroom and the playground. Please continue to encourage this at home.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a serious and rapid allergic reaction usually involving more than one part of the body. St Francis currently has students who can suffer severe allergic reactions (life-threatening) through contact with nuts. As we endeavour to provide for the different needs of all our students, your cooperation is invited to assist the school in supporting and catering for the needs of these particular students, and any future students, by providing your child only with foods that are nut free.

If your child is anaphylactic, please provide the school office with an Action Plan from your doctor and Epi-pen if required. Action Plans are to be updated each year.



KINDERGARTEN 2022

We have begun accepting applications for enrolment to Kindergarten in 2022. We have had strong early interest from new families seeking a place for next year. I would encourage all families with siblings who will be starting Kindergarten in 2022 to submit their enrolment applications as soon as possible to ensure that a position is allocated for next year.

COVID-19

Parents are reminded that children experiencing COVID related symptoms (sore throat, cough, flu like symptoms, fever) must have a COVID test and must only return to school after negative notification.

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

School fee statements have now been sent out to families. If you have not received your statement please contact the office, so a copy can be organised. School fees were due on the 17th March.

Reminder letters will now be sent to families from the 22nd March if you have not finalised your Term 1 statement or setup a payment arrangement.

Mrs Falconer
Finance Officer

HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to the following students who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Isabella received her First Holy Communion in December at St Aidan's in Rooty Hill.

Camille de la Cruz and Charlise Sue Fong received their First Holy Communion on 24 January 2021.

Lillian, Louisa, Caitlynn and Katara received their first holy communion on Saturday the 6th for March at St Andrews Parish Marayong.



WINTER UNIFORM

All winter uniforms are now available on the QKR app.

The last delivery to the school will [Wednesday 31st March](#).

Next delivery after school holidays will be [Wednesday 21st April](#), Term 2.

Please place your orders now to make sure you avoid disappointment and your child has a uniform for Term 2.

Please note that we are happy to exchange sizes if they are incorrect. All exchanges need to be emailed to elle@ozfashions.com.au.

Children will wear their **full winter uniform** in Term 2 and 3.

The winter uniform is available for purchase through our uniform supplier Oz Fashions for the students who

The winter uniform includes:

FOR GIRLS

A checked tunic, yellow long sleeved shirt, navy blue jacket or V-neck jumper, tie and navy blue tights.

FOR BOYS

A yellow long sleeved shirt with the school logo, navy blue pants, a tie and the navy blue jacket or V-neck jumper.

NAPLAN

All schools participating in the NAPLAN Online in 2020 are expected to take part in a practice test on Thursday 25th March 2021. The practice test is a trial-run and preparation for NAPLAN Online and will provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions they will experience.

The practice tests include an omnibus test (combination of Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy questions) and a Writing test, both approximately 40 minutes in length. All students in Years 5, 7 and 9 are expected to complete both tests. Year 3 students will only participate in the omnibus test.

In advance of taking NAPLAN Online, students, teachers and parents are invited to use the public demonstration tests (link below) to familiarise themselves with the type of questions and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment.

<https://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

We encourage all year 3 and 5 student to bring headphones to school to use during the NAPLAN practice.

CROSS COUNTRY POSTPONED

Due to the wet weather our Cross Country has been postponed to Monday 22nd March. Students in primary who are competing are asked to please wear their sports uniform on Monday. It is our mufti day on this day so if children want to wear mufti, they need to wear something comfortable to run in or they can change when they are finished. We hope the rain clears for our race!

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Friday 26th March, Years 3 to 6 will be attending our annual Athletics Carnival at the Blacktown International Sportspark in Rooty Hill. Parents are welcome to attend the carnival on the day and need to sign in using the venue's QR code. There will be a designated area in the grandstand for parents to sit. Children will be sitting in their house colour groups.

Children are welcome to wear a shirt that is predominantly their house colour or their normal sports uniform. We are definitely looking forward to a fun filled day!



ATTENDANCE

Just a reminder to parents that if your child is unwell and unable to attend school please notify the office by 9.30am. If they are unwell with cold or flu like symptoms such as a runny nose, cough and fever, your child will need to be COVID tested. Once you receive the results please send them to the school email : stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au

**COMING SOON....COMPASS PARENT PORTAL AVAILABLE IN TERM 2.
MORE DETAILS IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**



Mufti Easter Egg Collection Day

Monday 22nd March

Please bring along an Easter egg or Easter themed gift with an Easter gift bag.

Easter raffle will be drawn

Friday 26th March

