



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 2
Week 10
25th June 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents and teachers are both vital and critical to the wellbeing and development of our children and we must always work together to make the most of children's learning and to nurture their talents.

This is especially refreshing given that the workload of a teacher is often criticised by the media and perceptions of a '9 to 3' day are still present. In comparison, our teachers spend the '9 to 3' part of the day with the children, facilitating their learning. Countless hours aside from this time are then spent each day correcting and assessing the student's work (this term in particular has seen teachers meeting to analyse children's work samples, results and assessments against criteria linked to our syllabus to ensure a correct achievement level) planning lessons, preparing resources, meeting with support teachers to discuss children's needs, professional development to continually improve the quality of their teaching, regular meetings with parents to discuss children's progress, staff meetings, organising excursion opportunities, carnivals and many, many more while, at the same time, juggling their own family lives and finding time for reflection and self-renewal.

I offer my appreciation and thanks to you as parents for your valuable role as the primary educators of your child and to the teachers, a dedicated team of professionals who give so generously of their self, skills and time.

Improving the learning outcomes for all children at St Francis of Assisi is our core business. The children are our first priority. This is a great Catholic school that has helped produce not just well-educated young adults, but compassionate people who, because of their faith, confidently embrace a future with hope and joy. I hope that you are as proud to be a part of this community as I am.

As we end Term 2, I would like to thank you for your support, enthusiasm and positive feedback throughout the term. It has certainly been an exciting time, filled with many examples of faith, fun and learning. I look forward to seeing our wonderful students at the beginning of Term 3, Monday 12th July, after a well-earned break.

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

Jenny Bellenger

PARENT CALENDAR

Parents are able to view the calendar through the Compass Parent Portal. If you scroll ahead you will see there are dates that have been put in for upcoming events. Please note that these are subject to change at anytime due to COVID-19 restrictions.

DATES COMING UP

25/06—Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

12/7 School resumes

14/7 State of Origin Mufti Day

16/7 Kindy 100 Days

29/7 Information Night for Confirmation @ Good Shepherd Church

Draft New Curriculum

Living Life to the Full

The Rationale around our Draft New Curriculum '*Living Life to the Full*', explains the 'why' of the curriculum.

Rationale

Education within the Diocese of Parramatta is a ministry of the Catholic Church, walking with humility in the way of Jesus Christ, serving all of God's people.

The aspiration of *Living Life to the Full* is to invite each student to discover a meaningful, hope-filled and flourishing life through an encounter with the teaching of the Christian Gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church.

Responding to the signs of the times and inspired by the living Gospel, the Curriculum engages in dialogue and encounter which informs and develops an understanding of the inclusive mission of Jesus Christ.

The '*love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us*' (Romans 5:5). This love was at the heart of the life of Jesus. Drawing upon the intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church and the witness of parents and teachers this curriculum seeks to communicate the love of God through prayer, reason and action within a dynamic of relationship and dialogue. Students are encouraged to become agents of their own experiential learning through inquiry and to grow in Christian maturity.

The Curriculum aspires to educate through the head, heart and hands in building intentional faith communities that promote, teach and exemplify an authentic way of being through inclusion and being 'places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds' (Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, 1997 n. 10).

Following the Way of Jesus who was totally attuned to the heart of God the Father and completely consumed by a passion for the world, *Living Life to the Full* seeks to awaken in young people the desire for personal and social transformation through intentional discipleship. It seeks to nurture a strong sense of inclusion, positive regard and belonging. Understanding that '*the word of God is alive and active*' (Hebrews 4:12), a dynamic and diverse life of faith is fostered:

- A faith seeking understanding.
- A faith exemplified by Mary, the Mother of God, that understands each person is made in the image and likeness of God who is love (1 John 4:8).
- A faith that transforms into Christian service towards all, particularly the marginalised and the most vulnerable.

The Curriculum reflects Jesus' invitation to '*Come and see*' (John 1:39) and to "Put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4). Seeking to follow His example and inspired by an Incarnational Spirituality, the Curriculum invites students to discern God in all things '*since it is in God that we live, and move, and exist*' (Acts 17:28).

In these ways, *Living Life to the Full* seeks to awaken a sacramental vision of reality, through proclaiming the living Gospel. With Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent and the whole faith community of the Parramatta Diocese, we strive to ensure that every young person is invited into experiences of *metanoia*: a joyful, blessed, transcendent and transformational education. Catholic education is understood as an invitation to human flourishing, one that liberates each person to '*have life and have it to the full*' (John 10:10).

REFLECTION

A kind word or acknowledgment goes a long way in lifting a person's spirit.

Drop a pebble in the water, just a splash and it's gone,

but there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on. Spreading, spreading from the centre, flowing on out to the sea,

and there is no way of telling where the end is going to be. Drop a careless, unkind word,

and in a minute it is gone;

but there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on. They keep spreading, spreading, spreading, from the centre as they go and there is no way to stop them,

once you've started them to flow.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness;

just a flash and it is gone;

but there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on. Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave,

'til you wouldn't believe the volume of one kind word you gave.

TECHNOLOGY

As a parent you have a responsibility to monitor your child's use of technology at home, in particular, over the holidays. As a school we speak regularly to our older grades about appropriate technology use.

Suggestions include:

- Viewing your child's text messages (both inbox & outbox)
- Viewing internet history
- Viewing emails sent and received
- Encouraging your child to block any children on social media if needed
- Setting up rules of usage and following through with restricted or no mobile phone, internet usage etc. for a period of time
- Monitoring games they play against others on the internet, particularly those that are age specified.

Please let us know if we can help you in this important area.

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day
just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

SPORTY SOCKS-A-THON

Thank you to everyone for their amazing support and sponsorship for the Socks-a-thon. As a school community we raised an amazing amount of \$13134.05.

Congratulations to Joshua Lowe, Oliver Lowe and Ronin Bondal who managed to raise the highest amounts individually.

Class 1A and 3R raised the most as a class. These students along with anyone who raised over \$100.00 were invited to a pizza party today for their great contributions to the Socks-a-thon fundraiser.

Well done to everyone who participated. Check out our Facebook page for the video that was posted showing the children having a marvellous time on the day.



STATE OF ORIGIN MUFTI DAY WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY, 2021

Bring a **GOLD COIN** donation and wear your **TEAM COLOURS**



#TEAMMAROON

#QLD

#TEAMBLUE

#NSW

BUILDING UPDATE

The building is on track for completion at the end of the year. The plan is for students to commence 2022 in their new learning spaces.

Below are the latest photo updates:



Parent Information Sheet

Parent Information night and registration

29 July, Thursday @ 7:30pm at the Church

Notes:

1. Completed **Registration form** and copy of **Baptism certificate** must be submitted on this night. The Registration form will be available at the back of the church, beginning July.
2. Children must have received their 1st Holy Communion.
3. Children do not need to attend.

Confirmation classes: Child & Parent/Guardian (Attendance is a MUST):

08 August – 1st lesson, 10:30am to 11:30am

15 August – 2nd lesson, 10:30am to 11:30am

22 August – 3rd lesson, 10:30am to 11:30am

29 August – 4th lesson, 10:30am to 11:30am

Note: If you have made other plans for the above dates, please defer.

Rehearsal with Sponsor:

04 Sep – Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00pm and possibly

11 Sep – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00pm

Rite of Confirmation:

05 Sep – Sunday @ 2pm and possibly

12 Sep – Sunday @ 2pm

Note: The Confirmation dates are subject to change depending on the number of registrations and changes to NSW Health Restrictions.

All children require a Sponsor:

A sponsor must be baptised, practicing catholic, 18 years and over.

Godparents and siblings can be sponsors. All sponsors must be present during Rehearsal.

Confirmation Name:

All children must choose a Saint's name as their Confirmation name. It is advisable for the children to know something about their chosen Saint. If your child is baptised with a Christian name, eg: Matthew, Mark or John, there is no need to choose another Saint's name.

Age of Children:

Must be 10 years of age.

Please note: if your child is over 10 years old and have just received their 1st Holy Communion in 2021, Confirmation must be deferred to 2022.

It is a requirement by the Diocese that children can receive only One Sacrament per year.

Fees:

Contribution of \$15 per child to cover lesson materials and certificate.

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

TERM 3 OVERVIEW 2021

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
June/ July	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd / 4 th
July	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th / 11 th
July 1	12 th School Returns	13 th	14 th Mufti Day Gold Coin Donation	15 th	16 th Kindy 100 Day Celebration	17 th / 18 th
July 2	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th / 25 th
July / Aug 3	26 th	27 th	28 th Year 2 Ranger Jamie INcursion	29 th Book Fair	30 th Grandparents Day	31 st / 1 st
Aug 4	2 nd Yr 5 Writing NAPAN Trial	3 rd Yr 3 Writing NAPLAN Trial	4 th Book Fair Ends	5 th	6 th	7 th / 8 th
Aug 5	9 th	10 th Blacktown Zone Athletics	11 th Voice of Youth Cluster Final	12 th	13 th Feast of the Assumption Mass 10am	14 th / 15 th Feast of the Assumption
Aug 6	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th Year 4 Excursion to Brewongle	20 th All Day Reconciliation Diocesan Athletics	21 st / 22 nd
Aug 7	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th / 29 th
Aug / Sept 8	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd Year 1 Zoo Excursion	3 rd Father's Day Liturgy & Celebration	4 th / 5 th
Sept 9	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th Kindy Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm	10 th	11 th / 12 th
Sept 10	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th St Francis of Assisi Mass & Celebration 10am	18 th / 19 th