St. Francis of Assisi School Newsletter

10th October, 2016

From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Whilst our focus is very much on the teaching and learning that is currently taking place we are very mindful that the 2017 school year is just around the corner (what a scary thought!). Most of our preparations for next year are nearing completion. We have almost settled all our staffing and we are in the final stages of organising our class lists. Over coming weeks our attention will be focused on our incoming 2017 Prep students. It is always exciting seeing these young children take their first tentative steps into school. It is almost as amusing as watching parents as they hover nervously around their children.

Letters were mailed last week to parents setting out the orientation days and times for our 2017 Prep children. Our Prep Teachers for 2017 will be Mary Mellor, Elena Beers, Bridget Green, Michelle James, Natalie Marciniec and Katherine Uccellini. The Orientation dates are as follows:

Mary Mellor (Prep M), Natalie Marciniec (Prep N) & Michelle James (Prep W)
Monday 7th November 9.30 am - 10.45 am
Monday 14th November 9.30 am - 10.45 am

Elena Beers (Prep B), Katherine Uccellini (Prep U) & Bridget Green (Prep G)
Wednesday 9th November 9.30 am - 10.45 am
Wednesday 16th November 9.30 am - 10.45 am

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

As a school community we gathered to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day on Tuesday, 4th October. The students attended mass and I received a special blessing as the new Principal of the school from Father Anthony. The students then participated in fun activities throughout the day.

We did book Redleap Reserve, on Wednesday 5th October to play games on however it was under an inch of water so we had to cancel those plans.

Unfortunately due the recent wet weather and the forecast for more chilly and wet conditions over the coming days, the decision has been made to hold the scheduled St Francis Fun Day games for Prep, Year 1 and Year 5 at school rather than heading to Redleap Reserve. This will allow the students to enjoy their activities in the comfort of their classrooms or in the sheltered areas of the St Francis playground. All Prep, Year 1 & 5 students are to wear plain clothes tomorrow.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THERESA

I would like to congratulate Theresa who received the Student Recognition Award for Services in our community. This award is sponsored by the Whittlesea Shire Council and is awarded to one of our students annually. Theresa received this award for her services in the school but also in the community. Well done and congratulations Theresa.

SENIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Last Friday, 7th October all Year 3-6 students attended Meadowglen Athletics track for our annual Senior Athletics Carnival. Students participated in athletic and novelty events throughout the day and it was great to see so many parents there supporting the children. I would like to thank Brett McCarthy, our PE teacher, for organising the day and ensuring it ran smoothly.

IPADATHON:

Forms went out at the end of last term for our annual Ipadathon. The Ipadathon will be held next week beginning Monday, 17th October. There is an IPAD to be won for each year level — (7 to be given away as prizes!). For every $10 raised—your child’s name will be placed on a raffle ticket in this draw, so get busy collecting sponsors.

The grades will be going at the following times:
Preps  Tuesday 18th October at 9.30 am
Year 1  Thursday 20th October at 9.30 am
Year 2  Monday 17th October at 9 am
Year 3  Monday 17th October at 11.45 am
Year 4  Tuesday 18th October at 2 pm
Year 5  Friday 21st October at 9.30 am
Year 6  Wednesday 19th October at 2 pm

Children are permitted to wear their sports uniform on their Ipadathon day. These times may be changed if the weather conditions are not suitable (e.g. Too hot or raining).

Once the children have completed the Ipadathon the teachers will return the forms to the children with the number of laps walked written upon the form. Students will then have a fortnight to collect and return money (Wednesday 2nd November) gained from sponsors before we have the draw for the IPADS on Monday, 14th November.

PS: All money should be returned after the children have completed the Ipadathon. The last day to have your money back by is Wednesday 2nd November.

All proceeds will go to a playground behind the Year 6 building.
BLUE BADGES
We are waiting on a delivery of our Blue Badges. Could all students please hold on to their Gold Awards until the badges arrive. An announcement will be made when they arrive and it will also be in the newsletter. We apologise for any inconvenience.

YEAR 6 DANCING
Ken Marshall has returned this term to take Ballroom Dancing classes with our Year 6 students. These lessons will culminate at the Graduation Dinner on Tuesday, December 13th.

SCHOOL CLOSURE
Please note that Monday 31st October is a school closure day. Tuesday 1st November is Melbourne Cup Day (Public Holiday).

YEAR 5 CAMP DATES
Our Year 5 students will be going to Phillip Island Adventure Resort for camp on 26th October—28th October, 2016.

SUMMER UNIFORM
Children are now permitted to wear either their Summer or Winter uniform. All children are expected to be in full summer uniform by Wednesday, 2nd November. Parents are reminded that in Terms 1 & 4 our Sunsmart Policy ‘No Hat / No Play’ is in place which means that the children are required to wear their school hat at lunchtime and recess.

FAMILIES NOT RETURNING TO ST. FRANCIS IN 2017
Notes have been sent home today confirming your child’s enrolment at St. Francis in 2017. I have had many enquiries from families who wish to enrol into St. Francis in 2017. If your family is not planning to return to us in 2017 could you please let the office know in writing as soon as possible.

YEAR 6 END OF YEAR - SOME EARLY DATES
The Year 6 Graduation Mass will be on Monday, 12th December (Due to a clash with Loyola’s Orientation Day we could not have it on Tuesday, 13th December). The Year 6 children will be dismissed after the Mass. The Graduation Dinner will be at Casa D’Abruzzo on Tuesday 13th December. I will provide further details of events for our Year 6 children when they are finalised.

PARISH EDUCATION BOARD
Current members on the Parish Education Board have a three year tenure. At the end of this year we will have openings for people to join our Parish Education Board. If you are interested please come and have a chat.

Baby News
Congratulations to Ellie and Amin Bagheri on the birth of their first son Artin. Ellie has been helping in the library this year. Both mum and baby are doing well.

God bless,

Mark Basile
Principal
Congratulations also to the following children who have recently been awarded Blue Badges:
Ella-Jane G. (2G), Kiara M. (Prep M), Sera M. (2F), Grace R. (1O), Danai K. (Prep U),
Maya K. (Prep T), Matteo D. (2R), Angelo D (4C), Matthew G. (1P), Jerry G. (Prep B),
Allie K. (1F), Deanna A. (Prep T), Vincent V. (Prep U), Keeley D (2B), Patrick B. (1F),
Maddison M. (3T), Jackson M. (3T), Amy G. (3D), James G. (6M), Emily P. (3T),
Jakob P (2G), Jamie H. (2R)

Children’s Liturgy News

In this week's lesson we will be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. At Children's Liturgy, children will hear a bible verse or parable story, which will then be discussed, followed by songs of praise and prayers. We welcome all children to join us each week during the Sunday 10.30 am Mass. Lessons run for around 20 minutes, (all children under 4 must be accompanied by an adult). For further information about children's liturgy at St Francis of Assisi, or to offer assistance in helping run our sessions, please contact the Parish Office.
We hope to see you there!
Sunday 16th October 2016

P-2 FAMILY MATHS NIGHT

How and why is the teaching of mathematics changing?
What can parents do to support their children’s learning of mathematics?

If you’re interested in finding out some answers to these questions, please come along to the Family maths night on Wednesday 26th October from 5-6pm in the Grade 1 building.

The whole family is welcome and the activities will be targeted for Year P-2 students.

The session will begin with a brief discussion on the various factors around how and why school maths has changed from our own experiences of maths education. There will be some interesting discussion on the increased emphasis on mental computation and estimation and our openness to a variety of methods for solving problems.

Finally, we learn maths best by doing maths, so we’ll play some new maths games and share some simple and practical strategies for supporting children at home in a fun and engaging way.

If you have any questions or queries about the evening, please feel free to contact me.

Teresa De Bono
P-4 Numeracy Leader
tstratto@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au
**CALENDAR DATES FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th October</td>
<td>Prep, Year 1 &amp; Year 2 Assembly - Big Hall - 2.30 pm (Year 1C, 1O &amp; 1P presenting). Parents welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th October</td>
<td>St. Francis Feast Day Celebrations - Prep, Year 1 &amp; Year 5</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12th October</td>
<td>Regional Athletics</td>
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<td>Thursday 13th October</td>
<td>Year 6 Dancing</td>
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<td>Thursday 13th October</td>
<td>Excursion Year 3D &amp; 3T—Hurstbridge and Kinglake</td>
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<td>Monday 17th October</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; 4 Assembly - Big Hall - 2.30 pm (3A &amp; 3R presenting). Parents welcome</td>
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<td>Monday 17th October</td>
<td>Prep Marine Life Incursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 19th October</td>
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<td>Wednesday 19th October</td>
<td>Year 4 Incursion</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th October</td>
<td>‘Hit the Target’ Maths Tournament</td>
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**ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE**

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<td>Year 3 &amp; 4</td>
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Print this page and place it on your fridge
Some words of wisdom from Michael Grose...
Problem-solving is one of the four major skills (optimism, social skills & independence being the others) that resilient kids share, yet it’s the one that many of us aren’t equipped to develop. Start by stepping back and asking good questions when kids bring you their problems to solve.

**How to turn requests into problems for kids to solve**
When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach them to be afraid of making mistakes. That’s fertile ground for anxiousness and perfectionism, which often go hand in hand.

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve.

Of course, if you keep solving them, they’ll keep bringing them. “Mum, my sister is annoying me?” “Dad, can you ask my teacher to pick me for the team?” “Hey, I can’t find my socks!”
It’s tempting if you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out. Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cueing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns. “What can you do to make her stop annoying you?” “What’s the best approach to take with your teacher?” “Socks, smocks! Where might they be?”
Here are 5 questions you can ask kids to encourage them to resolve their own problems:

1. **“Can you solve this yourself?”**
   Get kids thinking they can do it.

2. **“What do you think needs to happen?”**
   Start kids thinking about solving problems.

3. **“What’s the first step?”**
   Sometimes just getting kids started is enough to get them working out issues themselves.

4. **“How would you like me to help?”**
   Get kids considering the type of assistance they need.

5. **“What’s the best way to do this?”**
   Get kids assessing and prioritising.

*Nicole Federico*
*Learning Support*
Last term we had 33 students in Year 5 and 33 students in Year 6 participate in the 2016 International English and Mathematics Competitions as part of our Extension- Reach for the Stars Program. They needed to use high order thinking and problem solving skills to work through 50 questions in 50 minutes. Last week, we received the results of the competition and we are very proud of every child’s efforts in the lead up to and on the day of the competition.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the following students for their contributions. Their awards will be distributed at the Year 5/6 Assembly on Tuesday 25th October at 2:30 pm. All parents are welcome.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Costanzo, Mrs DeBono and Mrs Butler for organising focus teaching group sessions for the children in the lead up to the event.

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<td><strong>MATHEMATICS</strong></td>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>Christian C</td>
<td>Max B</td>
<td>Jason R</td>
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<td>Tanisha C</td>
<td>Jessica D</td>
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<td>Andy O</td>
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<td>Laura D</td>
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Welcome back to a new term filled with many exciting events and learning opportunities. I hope all families had a relaxing and safe holiday.

As is our tradition, throughout the first 2 weeks of this term we will be celebrating the life and legacy of our patron Saint, St Francis of Assisi. On Tuesday last week we gathered as a school and parish family to give thanks for St Francis of Assisi and the students in Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 enjoyed a plain clothes fun day on Wednesday. Unfortunately the inclement weather prevented us from utilising the neighbouring Redleap Reserve, but students still managed to enjoy some extra games and fun within our school grounds.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we will also be holding a ‘St Francis ‘Bumper-sticker’ competition throughout the first 2 weeks of this term. The students are invited to use any materials/media and all entries need to be submitted by Friday 14th October. Any parents who wish to submit an entry are welcome to do so. The winning entries (as judged by our school’s Art Captains) will be made into stickers and distributed to families so St Francis’ message of love and faith can be shared with the wider community. The students in Prep, Years 1 and 5 will have their plain clothes fun day on Tuesday 11th October and, weather permitting, will attend Redleap Reserve for their games sessions throughout the day.

As we often reflect on and learn about the Rosary during the month of October The Legion of Mary will be holding a one-hour presentation on Praying the Rosary to Grades 3/4 at St. Francis of Assisi, Mill Park School Hall on 24th October. A history of the Rosary, the message of Our Lady of Fatima, a Walking Rosary and a Marian Kit will be presented to help the children understand and love the Rosary. Parents and Grandparents are invited to participate in this event.

A schedule for the day is as follows:
- 4B,4M, 4A and 4I at 10-11am,
- 4C, 4J, 3A and 3R at 12-1pm
- 3T, 3D, 3P and 3M at 2-3pm

In keeping with our St Francis of Assisi tradition, throughout Term 4 all students from Years 3-6 will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as a part of their preparation for the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Classes will be rostered to receive this sacrament of renewal and restoration over a number of weeks and the first classes will begin to receive this life-giving expression of God’s love and grace this week.

A Time to Pray

The season of Spring is a season of new life and new beginnings and it is the perfect time to reflect on our own faith journey. During October we remember the faith of St Francis of Assisi as we strive to model our life upon his example of discipleship, humility and love for God. It is a timely opportunity to deeply consider our faith and how, if asked, we would articulate it. Below is one of our Year Six student’s reflection upon their faith that I wanted to share with the wider faith community.

“I believe in God,
The maker of the Earth and all living things, I believe in the God that helps me and is always on my side and always loves me. I believe in the God that pushes me through the dark days and always makes sure that I am safe and okay. I believe in Jesus,
I believe in our Saviour, the Son of God who puts his life on the line for us. I believe in the man who performed many miracles - like healing the sick and lame. I believe that Jesus rose on Easter Sunday and I believe that Jesus is the only begotten son of God.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
I believe in the power of miracles, in the power of Jesus rising on the third day. I believe in the third part of the Holy Trinity.
I believe that the gifts and fruits of the spirit should be used every day as they are the keys to living a good life. Above all else.....
I believe that if I keep believing, praying, thanking God, going to mass and staying loyal to my faith, I will be the best person I can be”.
(SFOA Year Six student 2016)

God Bless.

John Dwyer
Religious Education Leader
Ipadathon: Reminder to collect sponsors for this event. There is an Ipad to be won for each year level, every $10 raised your child will receive one entry to go into the draw.

School Banking: School Banking day is every Wednesday. Students can deposit into existing Youth Saver/Dollarmite accounts.

Commonwealth Bank Youth Saver / Dollarmite Accounts: Accounts can be opened at any Commonwealth Bank branch. Commbank will donate $5 to our school for every Youth Saver/Dollarmite account opened.

If you have any advertising needs you may advertise on our P.A. Notice board outside the office for $2.00 a week. Any queries please contact Trish on 0412 344 813.

Second Hand Uniform:
We are asking for donations of the new school uniform which are still in good condition. All donations can be handed in at the office.

WE NEED MORE HELPERS!!!!
If you would like to volunteer for the Parents’ Association and for all other queries please contact Christine Tolevski on 0412 666 945 or Suzana Ilijevski on 0407 481 494 or via email papres@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

Community News

TERM 4 - 2016 CLASSES AT MILL PARK COMMUNITY HOUSE

- Computer Courses: Introduction to computers, Word, Excel, All are Learn Local courses.
- Accounting: Bookkeeping (basic and advanced), MYOB, All are Learn Local courses.
- Medical: Medical Reception, Medical Terminology, Medical Accounts.
- Recreation: Yoga, Meditation, Dressmaking, Embroidery, Patchwork, Cake Decorating, Teensew, Kids Craft,
- Occasional Childcare: On-site childcare to support courses and Occasional care.
- Art Courses: Adults Painting, Kids Painting

Call Lynne or Sandra on 9404 4565 – Mill Park Community House
68 Mill Park Drive, Mill Park. www.millparkcommunityhouse.com

Diamond Valley TOY LIBRARY

Inside Diamond Valley Regional Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

- More than 500 toys for kids up to 7 years old
- Membership only $50/year
- Party packs and special needs toys
- Grandparents and organisations welcome to join

www.DiamondValleyToyLibrary.org.au
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Prep B  Amelia T for being prayerful during Mass. Well done!
Prep J  Massimo P for practising his words and writing. Well done!
Prep M  Isaak K for a great start to Term 4. Keep up the great work, Isaak!
Prep N  Natasha J for her detailed recount about her holidays
Prep T  Maya K for writing a detailed recount about her holidays
Prep U  Olivia B for sharing stories about her amazing holiday
Year 1C  Genevieve C for her wonderful creation in response to the story of St. Francis and the Wolf
Year 1D  Andrew P for writing his holiday recount with a sizzling start
Year 1F  Katia V for sharing her brilliant powerpoint presentation and holiday recount about her trip to America. Great job!
Year 1H  Telia S for using a planner to successfully record key words about her holidays
Year 1O  Amy N for writing a great recount about her holiday
Year 1P  Alby F for making an effort to focus and listen attentively
Year 2B  Theo D for reading with fantastic expression. Well done!
Year 2F  Annabelle C for showing persistence and diligence in her work
Year 2G  Isabella L for working hard and completing her stories on time
Year 2R  Luigi A for working hard during reading rotations. Well done, Luigi!
Year 2U  Julia P for her great work using location language during our mapping unit
Year 2W  Elijah S for trying his best in his writing. Well done, Elijah!
Year 3A  Tomas M for writing an interesting sizzling start for his holiday recount. Well done!
Year 3D  Peter N for writing an interesting holiday recount using the thinker’s hats. Well done!
Year 3M  Latisha F for helping others and sharing her resources with her peers. Well done!
Year 3P  Jesse A for always being helpful and trustworthy in the classrooms. Thank you Jesse.
Year 3R  Tylah C for his valuable opinions after his reading about Wilbur in the novel “Charlotte’s Web”
Year 3T  Isaac E for being such a cheerful and kind classroom member
Year 4A  Chloe K for growing in maturity and responsibility throughout the year
Year 4B  Dallas S for his positivity within the classroom environment
Year 4C  Joshua S for contributing to class discussions
Year 4J  Tania J for the way she has settled into her new school learning environment
Year 4M  Tasha D for a positive attitude towards learning
Year 5K  Amelia D for his amazing effort in all areas of the curriculum
Year 5M  Jason R for being a respectful and responsible class member
Year 5O  Charlotte B for always being a positive, helpful and productive learner
Year 5R  Andre F for always being a fantastic listener
Year 5S  Emma O for a positive start to Term 4!
Year 5T  Natalie P for a great start to Term 4. Well done Nat. Keep it up!
Year 6B  Chelsea G for her willingness to attempt all tasks with a positive attitude
Year 6D  Ian R for extending himself and incorporating all the elements required in his holiday recount. Well done and keep it up!
Year 6H  Kyle J for seeking feedback to improve his narrative writing
Year 6M  James G for displaying great organisational skills with classroom work and home learning
Year 6S  Nicholas T for using his initiative and making more appropriate choices
Year 6W  Marcus D for his engaging sizzling starts!

Pupil of the Week

Prep  Lex C (Prep T)
Year 1  Christopher M (1O)
Year 2  Aiden V (2G)
Year 3  Charlotte B (3T)
Year 4  Luca C (4C)
Year 5  Amelia D (5K)
Year 6  Hasheal P (6H)

Keys To Life Award

Prep  Maeve S (Prep J) for Persistence
Year 1  Liana D (1O) for Persistence
Year 2  Chiara R (2G) for Organisation
Year 3  Gabriela R (3T) for Organisation
Year 4  Christian B (4C) for Organisation
Year 5  Olivia M (5K) for Confidence
Year 6  Olivia G (6H) for Getting Along