



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI UPDATE

Term 4

Week 4

2nd November 2017

Dear Parents

This week we celebrate the feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

Many of you would remember when All Saints Day was a Holy Day of Obligation. This is no longer the case in Australia but still they are both significant days when we remember those who have died.

The feast of All Souls owes its beginning to Seventh Century Monks who decided to offer Mass on the day after Pentecost for their deceased community members. In the tenth century the Benedictine monks chose to move their Mass for the dead to November 2nd, the day following the Feast of All Saints. In this way everyone, in what is known as the Communion of Saints, could be remembered together. This "Communion" consists of all the "known" Saints, all others who have died - the Holy Souls - and us who are yet to die, but will surely do so. The Old Testament tells us that "... it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead...". 2 Mac, 12.46. Also, it can be a time when we ask God to bring healing to hurts that might still exist between us and them; to any regrets we might have about things unsaid or undone between us and those who have gone before us.

We look to those who have gone before us and reflect on the values and wisdom that are supportive to us in our lives. We remember what has been shared with us and why it is important. At funerals we often hear about the symbols and rituals that have been important to the person who has died, maybe they have passed on their love for the Rosary or their devotion to prayer. These are gifts that we hold onto as an important part of our faith.

This is a blessing that the dead can pass onto their loved ones, a way in which they can still have an impact on lives.

The Feast of All Souls is not only a time to remember our ancestors and any legacy of example or values that we might have inherited from them. It can be a time for us to reflect on the inheritance that, even now, we are passing on to the next generation. Is what we are leaving, through the manner in which we live our lives, conduct our communication and express our feelings, that which we want to be remembered for?

Will it provide lessons to live by, the best advice shaped by our values and virtues?

Will we be ancestors that others can be proud of and draw inspiration from because of the positive message our life left behind?

There is a Jewish prayer that is most suitable for All Souls Day: "This day we remember those who gave us life. We remember those who enriched our lives with love and beauty, kindness and compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding. As we reflect upon those whose memory moves us this day, we seek consolation together with the strength and insight born of faith."

In the Mass of the Faithful Departed, there is this blessing:

"In His great love, the God of consolation gave us the gift of life.

May He bless us with faith in the resurrection of His Son,

And with the hope of rising to new life. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

DATES COMING UP

- 03/11 Staff Development Day
- 09/11 Year 2 excursion to Fairfield Museum
- 09/11 2018 Kinder Transition starts @ 9.00am (Day 1)
- 16/11 2018 Kinder Transition starts @ 9.00am (Day 2)



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2017/2018

Enrolment forms for Reconciliation 2017 and 1st Holy Communion 2018 are now available in the St Francis School office for collection. These forms need to be handed in at the 'Information Session' for parents. A photo copy of your child's Baptism Certificate needs to accompany this form. Forms are available from the St Francis School Office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs Kate Owens the Religious Education Coordinator here at St Francis School.

The Information Session for parents regarding 1st Holy Communion will be held on Sunday 29th October @10:30am in the Good Shepherd Parish Hall.

Lesson dates are the 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November from 10.30am to 11.30am.



SOCIAL SKILL - HELPING OTHERS IN NEED

Our first Australian saint Sr. Mary MacKillop said, "Never see a need without doing something about it". This quote reminds us that if you help others they will help you. If we see someone in need we offer assistance or go to a teacher for help, this allows all of the children at St Francis of Assisi to feel safe and cared about. In using our friendship skills and working together and making sure that you do your part as well as you can, you not only help others in need, you help everyone in the school community and your home.

ATTENDANCE & FRANCIS BEAR

The St Francis of Assisi Primary School attendance this week was 77.5%. Don't forget the CEDP expected attendance is 90 to 95%.

Congratulations to 5B who have had all students at school for 3 days this week. This class has consistently shown high attendance over the year, not just this term. Francis bear will visit 5B in week 5.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

A reminder that our Staff Development Day will be on Friday 3rd November. There will be no supervision for students on this day. COSHC will be providing care on this day, if you are interested please complete the COSHC form that is in this newsletter.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. The St Francis staff will be working on their formation goal.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2017

Year 5 students will be hosting the 9:00am Mass at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday November 5th. This is an opportunity for all families at St Francis of Assisi to come along and celebrate our faith together.

It is an ideal opportunity for us to gather as part of a vibrant worshipping community. If your child is participating in the Sacramental program this year, the first session is following this Mass at 10:30am.

Morning tea will follow the Mass – what a great opportunity for you have a cuppa and catch up with friends or even meet new friends.

All children from St Francis are invited to be part of the children's choir on the day – Fr Gerard will come beforehand to train them!

Please set aside the time to join us for what should be a wonderful celebration.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL YEARS 2 TO 5

Our annual school swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 12th December at Stanhope Leisure Centre. Permission notes for the carnival were sent home with your children. We are always looking for parent volunteers so if you are able to help please complete the volunteer section on the note. (All volunteers must have completed the online Building Child Safe Communities for Volunteers Form. Details on how to complete this are on the note).

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Swimming Program notes have been sent home with all children. Please return these notes to school as soon as possible. The swimming program starts on Monday 27th November and finishes on Friday 8th December.



THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the parents and families for their understanding and cooperation with the stop work meeting today.

YEAR 1 EXCURSION TO ROUSE HILL HOUSE AND FARM





St Francis annual

***Talent
Show*** !

Week 7

Friday 24th November

Calling all 'Little Big Shots'

AUDITIONS

Held Week 5 in class