



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1

Week 3

16th February 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Ash Wednesday commenced on Wednesday and this marked the beginning of Lent.

The season of Lent goes for forty days and is a time for Catholics to prepare for Easter. Lent is usually a time of fasting, almsgiving and repentance as well as a time for reflecting on Christ's suffering and sacrifices for us.

As part of St Francis social justice initiative, we support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Caritas Australia organises Project Compassion to bring thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Families are encouraged to discuss with their children the importance of almsgiving during Lent to Project Compassion.

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

Jenny Bellenger



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

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.

When a student is not sick and requires leave, the Principal – Mrs Bellenger - needs to be notified of this in writing prior to that leave being taken. If the leave is not approved, you will be informed in writing by the school office.

Where a leave application is for 5 days or more, parents are required to complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form for approval. The form can be found on the school's website in Community/Notes & Forms/Administration Forms. All children accessing extended leave for travel need to be issued with a certificate of extended leave approved by the principal.

DATES COMING UP

- 19/2 Tree Planting Year 5
- 23/2 Diocesan Swimming - Blacktown
- 27/2 Whole School Assembly in the hall @2.30pm
- 01/3 Year 6 Reconciliation
- 09/3 Open day for Catholic Schools Week
- 15/3 Patrician Brothers visiting Year 6

MASS TIMES @ GOOD SHEPHERD

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 6am & 9am

Wed 6am & 7.30pm (Novena)

Sat 8am & 6pm (Vigil)

Sun 7am, 9am & 6pm



CYBERSAFETY

Here are some tips for parents to keep your child safe online:

BE SAFE

- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them
- Set rules and monitor to make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit
- Teach your child to tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about something they have found on the internet or received in an email
- Discuss with your child the importance of keeping personal information private. This sort of information can be used to identify or locate where they live, go to school or activities in which they are involved

BE RESPECTFUL

- Talk to your children about cyber bullying. Online communication should be responsible and respectful
- Children and adolescents who are being cyber bullied sometimes change their behaviour. If you are concerned they might be a victim of cyber bullying, talk to them and tell them you are concerned. Arrange a talk with a teacher or school counsellor
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to keep evidence. Tell them to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted person/adult
- Children and their parents can contact social media companies and ask for defamatory material to be taken down. If the material is not gone within 48 hours, a complaint can be lodged with the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner at www.esafety.gov.au

BE RESPONSIBLE

- Consider using inbuilt filters and controls on your digital devices and home network to manage your children's online access. Keep your virus protection up to date
- Talk with your child about being careful when downloading files or clicking on links. Some files or links may have harmful viruses or are trying to obtain personal information
- Certain online activities (downloading illegal videos or music, plagiarism, sexting, identity theft, 'hacking' networks) are illegal and can result in criminal charges

For more information visit: www.esafety.gov.au <http://cnadifitalcitizenship.weebly.com/for-parents.html>

CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK OPEN - OPEN KINDERGARTEN 2019

Prospective parents are invited to attend our Open Day & Enrolment Day for Kindergarten 2019 on Friday 9th March 2018 9:30am - 10:45AM.

A presentation by Mrs Bellenger will be followed by a tour of our Kindergarten classrooms lead 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.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fee Accounts for 2018 should be received by mid next week. If you do not receive it, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Parents will have the opportunity this year to take up the FPP offer online and by the post. Forms should be returned for processing by **9th March**. Should parents not return these forms by due date, the family may receive a reminder notice. It is very important to keep to the start date provided and repayment plan selected. If you want to pay each term, current fees are due on or before **21st March 2018**.

During the year if you need to discuss your school fee account, can you please do this via phone 8886 9600 or email fran-gldgfees@parra.catholic.edu.au as this helps keep your situation private and also allows us to have your notes at hand.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, 12 students from St Francis Primary School attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt Pool. It was a great day for all with great sportsmanship being shown.

Congratulations to Mia Hampton, Jordan Toogood, Heinz Lemoto and the junior girls relay team who were successful in their races and will be moving onto the Diocesan Carnival next week. Thank you to all of the parent helpers who assisted on the day. We wish you all the best of luck!



COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM

Coles Sports for School Program commenced on the 7th February. For every \$10 spent at Coles Supermarkets, customers will receive one Sports for Schools voucher (exclusions apply).

A Coles Sports for School box will be placed on the student letterbox, outside the staffroom, where you can put the vouchers you collect.

By collecting these vouchers our school is able to choose some sports gear. There are over 800 quality sports items up for grabs.



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 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.

CELEBRATING ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ash
Wednesday

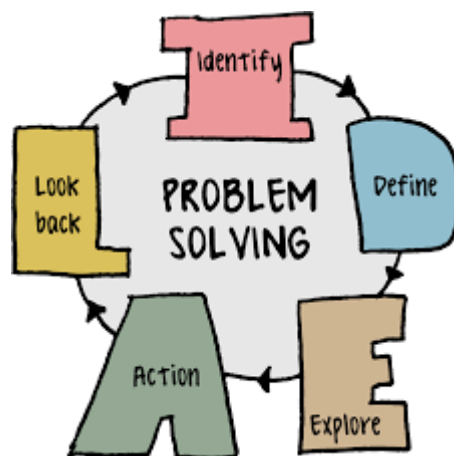


SOCIAL SKILL—BEING A PROBLEM SOLVER AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Problem solving is a tool, a skill and a process. It is a tool because it can help you solve an immediate problem or to achieve a goal. It is a skill because once you have learnt it, you can use it repeatedly, like the ability to ride a bicycle, add numbers or speak a language. At St Francis of Assisi we encourage the students to use a range of thinking skills, plan and carry out investigations, consider different strategies, find things out before making decisions and solve a variety of problems at school and at home. Teaching children to become effective thinkers is recognised as an important goal of education. For students to function successfully in a highly technical society, they must be equipped with lifelong learning and thinking skills necessary to process information in an ever-changing world.

Family Discussion Starters:

- ♦ What has been the hardest problem you have ever solved?
- ♦ How did you solve it?
- ♦ What do you do when a problem is frustrating and you can't seem to solve it?



MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.