

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

**Term 4**

**Week 6**

**23rd November 2018**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many things in our lives and in our world are subject to change. Yet all of us find security in relationships and values that endure. Foremost among these are our family relationships. We can confidently accept change if we know that we will continue to be loved by our family and by God. We help impart this sense of trust and confidence in our children with our daily assurances to them that nothing can change our love for them.

As you gather as a family, look through several family photo albums. Observe and talk about things that have changed in your family life over the years. Talk also about the things that have stayed the same. We do not need to fear changes in our family life because we know that the most important aspects of our family life do not change, such as our love for one another. The same is true with God and God's love for us. Jesus teaches us that things in our world will change and that the world itself will one day end. We don't need to be fearful because God's love for us will never end.

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

Jenny Bellenger

## STAFFING

The process for St Francis Primary staffing for 2019 is well underway. We have a number of staff who have been successful in gaining positions in other schools and their replacements will be announced soon. At the end of the year, we will farewell Mrs Shields, Ms Vickers and Mr Sultana. We will have the opportunity to thank these wonderful teachers through our regular 'end of year' celebrations. We will keep the parent community aware of staffing developments through the coming weeks.

## CLASS GROUPS 2019

Over the next few weeks the teachers will spend a significant amount of time ensuring that all students have a positive transition from one year to the next. This includes teachers meeting with each other to learn about all the students that they will be teaching the following year.

This is a very thorough and thoughtful process. Teachers take many factors into consideration when regrouping children, including social and learning needs.

I ask parents to trust the decisions made in grouping students, as I trust, if there has been a problem and/or concern regarding a child's needs this would have already been conveyed to teachers during the year.

If you have a significant circumstance, not including friendship requests, please write a letter to me or email the school email address. It will be reviewed in light of the grade grouping processes and consideration may be given to your request.

## DATES COMING UP

- 30/11 - Talent Quest in hall @1.45pm
- 03/12 - Swimming Program begins
- 13/12 - Year 6 Graduation
- 17/12 - Swimming Carnival for Year 2 to 5

## MASS TIMES @ GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Wed 6am & 7.30pm (Novena)

Sat 8am & 6pm (Vigil)

Sun 7am, 9am & 6pm



## 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 3rd December and finishes on Friday 14th December. Children will travel to and from the pool by bus and will need to make sure they are on time each day so they can get on the bus with their class.



## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual school swimming carnival will be held on Monday 17th 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).

## ST FRANCIS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

This time of the year is a good time to revisit the St Francis rules and expectations. I have included some of the rules and expectations for all St Francis school members.

Throughout my day, I encounter and observe members of our school community following the school rules and expectations. It is wonderful seeing our students wearing their hats, hearing them welcoming each other in a respectful way and taking care of our school environment.

St Francis parents and staff are role models for our students. We have a significant role in modelling the correct ways to navigate a way of life that exemplifies our school rules:

- **Respect Self**
- **Respect Others**
- **Respect the Environment**

When striving to model the school rules I am always reflecting on the following quotes:

- *'Never see a need without doing something about it'* Mary MacKillop
- *'The standard you walk past, is the standard you accept'*

I am asking all parents and carers to support the St Francis rules and expectation at all times, modelling to their children that they value being part of the school community and support school decisions accordingly.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Wednesday 5th December, 5pm.**

**Food available from 5pm. Carols start at 6pm**

It's the time of year when we will all come together to celebrate our annual Christmas Carols.

This year we would like to offer **guaranteed front row seats** to those who volunteer to help while your children perform. There will be a limit of front row seats available for each class, so make sure you hand in your form ASAP. Allocation of front row seats will be given to those who hand in their form first, from each year group.



## PERSONAL GROOMING AND HAIR

- Hair is not to be coloured or tinted - unusual styles or cuts are not allowed.
- Styles that are not permitted are: ridges, lines, undercuts, steps etc.
- Hair should be clean and tidy. long hair (shoulder length or longer) must be tied back (helps prevent the spread of head lice)
- Hair ribbons in school colours are allowed
- Nail polish or any make-up is not allowed
- For safety reasons, we ask that children wear minimal or no jewellery at all to school; this also prevents the problem of expensive or sentimental items being lost.
- Children may wear a thin silver or gold chain necklace, with a cross or other religious symbol attached under the line of their shirt, only studs or sleepers to be worn in ears, and only one earring in each ear.

## COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal to find a resolution for your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff. If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office.

## MEDICAL ALERTS AND MEDICATION

If your child is an asthma sufferer, anaphylactic or has any other allergies or conditions, we advise all parents to ensure that their Medical Plan is up to date. A copy of the latest medical plan is to be provided to the office, who in turn will make copies for the teacher. We want to ensure that ALL staff are kept informed and ready to take action if necessary.

Parents of students who are required to take medication during school hours are to complete an Authority to Administer Medication form (available from the office). All medication must be prescribed by your doctor if required at school.

## SICK/UNWELL STUDENTS

If your child is unwell, we ask that you refrain from sending them to school.

## ABSENCES / PARTIAL ABSENCES

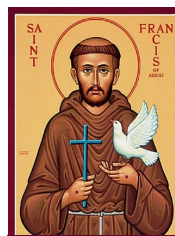
Parents and carers are responsible for explaining the absences of their children from school promptly in written form to the school within seven days from the first day of any period of absence. This can be done on the Skoolbag app.

## APPLICATION FOR EXTENDED LEAVE (FIVE OR MORE SCHOOL DAYS)

All applications are to be approved by the School Principal. Forms are available from the office.

## RESPECT AWARDS

KS	Stella Shaba
KV	Kyden Chai
1A	Tahleshia Rouessart
1B	Jayden Pathirathna
1M	Aarav Bhat
2B	Aansh Patpatia
2C	Ayesha Mapanao



3B	Jayden Caparas
3D	Tenei Magann
4C	Kaydence Wells
4R	John Paul Tarabay
5A	Jonathan Venturato
5S	Pretorius Wilson
6B	Maria Bullen
6O	Marley Wells

## STAGE 3 OZ TAG GALA DAY

Well done to all the Stage 3 Girls and Boys who represented St Francis of Assisi Primary School in our first ever Oz Tag Gala Day. Our students displayed excellent skills in every game and put in a tremendous effort. Both teams also showed great leadership on and off the field. Well Done!

A big thank you to all the parents supporting their children on the day.



## CONGRATULATIONS



Last weekend, Kayden travelled to Warrnambool, Victoria, to compete in the Victorian BMX State Championships.

Kayden won the 9 year old boys race against some of the fastest children in Australia.

Congratulations Kayden on a fantastic achievement.

## TERM 4 CONCLUDES

**TERM 4 CONCLUDES ON  
WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER**

(Thursday 20th December and Friday 21st December are Pupil Free Days).

## TERM 1 2019 START DATES

**STUDENTS IN YEARS 1 TO 6 RETURN TO SCHOOL  
ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2019**

**KINDERGARTEN 2019 START ON  
THURSDAY 31ST JANUARY**

## YEARLY LEARNING REPORTS

The teachers are in the process of writing reports for your child that will let you know about your child's learning during the second half of this year.

Reports will be sent home on Wednesday 12th December. We do not have an official parent-teacher interview at this time of the year, however, once you have received your child's report, if you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to see them.

## ATTENDANCE

KS	82.2%
KV	87.5%
1A	73.7%
1B	79.2%
1M	70.8%
2B	70.4%
2C	93.0%

3B	77.1%
3D	92.6%
4C	85.4%
4R	85.2%
5A	84.2%
5S	89.5%
6B	91.3%
6O	95.5%

## 2019 KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

Over the past three weeks we held the 2019 Kinder Transition Program. What a wonderfully talented and settled group of students. A special thank you to the current Kindy parents for providing morning tea.

A warm welcome to our new Kinder families. We look forward to having them join our St Francis community in 2019.



# THE GREATEST SHOW



## St Francis annual ***Talent Quest!***

**Friday 30th November  
2018**

**1.45 pm in the hall  
Families are welcome  
to join us**

every learner  
every day ☒

## When is sick too sick for school



If I am sick please call the school or write me a note  
to let the school know why I am not at school.

### Send me to school if ...

- ✓ I have the symptoms of a cold or hayfever
- ✓ I have a sprain, strain or pain and I can function (walk, talk and eat)
- ✓ If I have asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc - school personnel are trained to manage my condition. Talk to the school about my health plan
- ✓ I haven't vomited or had diarrhoea for 24 hours

### Keep me home if ...

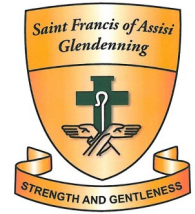
- ✓ I have a temperature higher than 37 degrees
- ✓ I am vomiting or have diarrhoea
- ✓ My eyes are red, and crusty (conjunctivitis)
- ✓ I have influenza (flu) - combination fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches
- ✓ I have the symptoms of an infectious disease. Go to NSW Health - A-Z of infectious diseases for more information



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

Dear Parents,

As we enter the season of Advent, we are all very busy making preparations for our family Christmas celebrations. Some families around us struggle at this time to make ends meet. The St Vincent de Paul Society does great work to help provide these families with Christmas hampers.



You can help St Vincent de Paul spread Christmas cheer this year by donating items for their Christmas Appeal Hampers. Hampers are distributed through our local Conference members. Please send your donation in to your child's classroom before Tuesday next week. Please ensure that all food items are in date with several months until expiry.

Below is a list of suggestions: (items in bold are needed the most)

**Biscuits (assorted sweet and savoury)**

**Jam/honey/vegemite**

**Pasta sauces**

**Tins of salmon/tuna**

**Tinned meat**

**Tinned soup**

**Tins of vegetables (eg. carrots, peas, corn, potatoes)**

Instant noodles

Cereals

Coffee, tea, sugar

Hot chocolate/Milo

Drinks (eg. soft drink, fruit juice, cordial)

Pasta

Rice

Long life custard/cream/milk

Tins of fruit



Thank you

Mrs Kate Owens



#idpd2018

GUESTS OF HONOUR

- **Minister of Disability**  
Hon. Raymond Williams
- **Mayor of Hills Shire**  
Michelle Byrne
- **Mayor of Blacktown**  
Stephen Bali

## CONTACT LIST

Office: 02 8882 9327

Prof Sen: 0423 094 496

Alison: 0415 682 846

## REGISTER NOW!

[info@abilitiesempowered.org](mailto:info@abilitiesempowered.org)

## EVENT BRITE

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/18181831101>



**ABILITIES  
EMPOWERED**

Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it.

**FREE EVENT!**

# INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAY EXPOSITION

**SUNDAY, 02 DEC 2018  
1PM - 4PM**

ROUSE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

39-41 CLOVER AVE NSW 2155

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES  
INFORMATION KIOSKS

FUN ACTIVITIES  
BOOK LAUNCH

## POWERED BY



**ACHIEVERS  
ACADEMY**



## EVENT PARTICIPANTS

**Uniting**



Loan Market 

**hireup**



**headspace**  
National Youth Mental Health Foundation

**ada** Australian  
Dyslexia  
Association  
Solutions for those who learn differently.



**Musical  
Between**  
A Music Therapy Service

**achieve  
australia**

