



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 4

Week 8

7th December 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that in only a week and a half, the school year will come to an end for 2018. The busyness of this tail end of the year in the commercial sector, let alone schools and life itself, is often frantic. Many parents I speak to often express how busy they are. Not surprisingly, the children also talk about how busy they are throughout each week with commitments. I encourage you to intentionally make and take opportunities to spend time as a family. It is this special family time that children crave, cherish and remember. Our children grow up so quickly. The early years are indeed precious. Whether it is a walk in the afternoon, a meal together, sharing a book, or just good conversation, time together is important. We should spend time on what is important. What is more important than family?

The reading from (Matthew 25:31-46) contains a powerful message for our children and us as adults. Christ's teaching through this passage highlights how our faith can be expressed in practical charity to others. It is a simple and accessible message that as parents we can role model for our children in the way we treat others.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick and go to visit you?' 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Jenny Bellenger

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.

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).

DATES COMING UP

- 10/12 Swimming Program continues for Kinder to Year 6 @ Emerton Swimming Pool
- 12/12 Reports going home
- 13/12 Year 6 Graduation in the hall @ 6.30pm for 7pm start
- 17/12 Swimming Carnival Years 2 to 5 @ Stanhope Leisure Centre
- 18/12 Thanksgiving Mass @ 10am followed by Parent Helper Morning Tea
- 19/12 Last day of term 4 - Water Fun Day and Luna Park



2019 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Congratulations to the following students who were elected by the teachers and their peers to be the captains of St Francis for 2019. These students were elected because like Jesus and St Francis they display courage, compassion and build community.

CAPTAINS

Laura Taliman - Kuri

Jharrell Yusores

VICE CAPTAINS

Zoe Duff

Pretorius Wilson

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.

CHRISTMAS TREATS

In these last weeks of school, children like to carry out the Christmas spirit by sending and receiving Christmas cards with lovely messages of joy and thanks. This is a lovely gesture. As there are a number of children at St Francis who have severe allergies, we kindly ask that you do not send in any edible treats for the children to give to each other. This includes gingerbread, chocolates, candy canes, marshmallows or any other lolly, biscuit or cake. We ask this so that we can ensure that our school community remains safe for all of our children.

Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

NOTES NOW DUE

Notes for the Swimming Carnival for Years 2 to 5 are now due.

Notes for the Water Fun Day which is on the last day of school, were sent home on Wednesday and need to be returned as soon as possible with the payment of \$10.00.

SCHOOL FEES

School fee arrangements are coming to an end. If you have any fees outstanding you will receive a statement with any amounts owing.

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**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Wednesday night our community gathered together to celebrate Christmas with the presentation of the Nativity. The children showed great excitement and were a delight to watch. Our Christmas concert was well supported with a fantastic parent turn up. The weather was beautiful, allowing us to take advantage of the outdoors. Thank you to the Parent Group who cooked and served sausages. A special thanks to the St Francis staff in preparing the children for the concert. What a fabulous community we belong to.



END OF YEAR REPORTS

Reports will be coming home soon. Our reports (Years 1 to 6) by law are required to award an achievement level to each child using a mandated A to E scale for each Key Learning Area. It is imperative to note that under this system the mid-year report refers to the first half of the year's teaching and learning and subsequently **the end of year report refers to the second half of the year.**

The second half of the year introduces different concepts, content units and skills. It is therefore possible that your child's achievement in a particular Key Learning Area may be different.

Example One: Half Year Achievement level of C End of Year Achievement level of C

Your child is continuing to have a sound understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

Example Two: Half Year Achievement level of B End of Year Achievement level of C

In the first half of the year your child had a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In the second half of the year, different concepts have been covered with different learnings gained. Both examples may well illustrate that your child is working to their potential.

As you can appreciate, these reports present many challenges including determining what on average constitutes an A, B, C, D or E given the achievement level is for the whole Key Learning Area.

As directed by the Diocese, Years 1 to 6 will also have comparative data included in their reports. This does apply to all Diocesan schools.

LOST PROPERTY

There has been a large amount of lost property this term with no names on the items. If it is not collected by the end of term it will be added to the second-hand clothing pool. Please remember to label all items and check regularly to make sure the name has not faded. A huge thank you to Mary Gauci (grandmother of Elissa and Isabella Restuccia) who washed a large number of clothes for the clothing pool. Your help is appreciated.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Year 6 who have managed to retain an attendance level of 90% or higher all year. Well done to the students and this great effort. They are setting themselves up well for high school. Their reward will be an afternoon of sport one day next week.

THANKSGIVING MASS AND PARENT HELPER MORNING TEA

On Tuesday 18th December Thanksgiving Mass will be held in the hall at 10am.

Following Mass parents who have assisted the school throughout the year will be asked to join us for a thank you morning tea that will be held in the staffroom.

