



# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

**Term 3**  
**Week 8**  
**11th September 2020**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrate NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK. The theme of the 30th anniversary of this important week is: Putting children first. The same theme that was used to launch the very first campaign.

'The aim of the week is to bring abuse and neglect out of the shadows and put children's wellbeing on the national agenda'.

Under this year's theme of 'Putting children first' all Australians are encouraged to look at how they can prioritise children in their lives and communities and to engage in National Child Protection Week.

Putting children first means prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children. To grow up well children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them, and access to essential things like food, shelter and healthcare.

For children to thrive we need to come together as a community and put children's needs first during National Child Protection Week and every week.

At St Francis all staff are mandatory reporters and we have policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of all our students at the school. Along with our PBS4L focus, we have Well-being, Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policies which are available for any member of the community upon request.

Throughout the year all teachers focus on two very important concepts with their students:

**Everyone has the right to feel safe.**

**There is nothing so awful that you can't tell someone else (parent, teacher, relative or another trusted adult)**

Depending on the age of students the following will be discussed:

Personal space – body boundaries mean you don't have to hug or kiss anyone, even 'Great Grandma' if you don't want to. You are the boss of your own body.

Body safety – no one has the right to ask to see or touch your private parts. If they do, yell 'no' or 'stop' and run to tell a trusted adult.

Emotional awareness – be aware of what happens in our bodies when we become scared or uncomfortable. Not feeling 'right' or feeling 'uncomfortable' are warning signs.

Secrets – no one should ever keep secrets that make them feel bad or uncomfortable. You are allowed to share a 'bad' secret with trusted adults.

Safety networks – who is in your safety network? Who can you tell if you feel uncomfortable or have seen something that you didn't want to? The 'helping hand' or 'network hand' assists children to identify individuals or services that can assist them. The children write the name of one trusted adult on each finger, who they can ask for help if they feel unsafe. In the palm or web of the hand older students may include details for [Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800](https://www.kidshelpline1800551800.org.au/) or Emergency 000.

We greatly value the support of parents and carers in providing a safe school environment. The National Association to Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect (NAPCAN) is an organisation dedicated to preventing Child Abuse and Neglect. Their website has useful resources, contacts and information to inform, guide and assist parents in this important area. Check their website for more details at <https://www.napcan.org.au/>

It is in partnership we can do great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger  
Principal

## UPDATED COVID 19 INFORMATION FROM CEDP

### Important Self Isolation Information

Advice about how to manage self-isolation, particularly with siblings, is available from [NSW Health](#) and from the Western Sydney Local Health District [Community Resources website](#). Importantly:

In most cases, siblings of students identified as a close contact are able to return to school as normal unless they also have been identified as a 'close contact' by NSW Health or are not able to isolate from the sibling who is a confirmed close contact;

Where families find it difficult to isolate siblings from other family members who are a confirmed close contact of someone with COVID-19, the sibling should not attend school during the period of isolation;

If a parent/carer is unable to isolate effectively from a child identified as a close contact, they should not attend work during the close contact's isolation period. Family members of close contacts are asked to keep a very close watch for COVID-19 symptoms and follow the advice provided previously about what action to take if they have concerns.

### Vertical Student Groupings

Recent advice from NSW Health requires schools to keep students in Year or Staged groups wherever possible. While this is often very challenging in a school setting, it is designed to minimise the risk of spreading infection through the school, should a member of the school community acquire COVID-19.

### Parent/Carer Contact Information

It is very important that our school's parents/carers contact data is kept up to date should it need to be used quickly. Please contact the school as a matter of urgency if your contact details have changed. If we had a reported positive COVID-19 at St Francis all family details are required so that parents and carers receive communication quickly in a timely manner. As you can appreciate, this might also be required out of normal school hours.

### Safety & Hygiene

At St Francis we will continue to follow the guidelines from NSW Health. The guidelines are:

- Vigilance in ensuring that staff and students do not attend school or work if they are unwell.
- Exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19.
- Encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren) or staff.
- Students absent or sent home due to flu like symptoms need to be COVID-19 tested.
- Staff and students must not return to school or work until they return a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free .
- Schools must sight the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students and staff to return to school.
- Prohibit return to school for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 until a negative COVID test result has been reported.
- Ensure that adults maintain physical distancing at all times.
- Ensure good hand hygiene at all times (e.g. upon entry to the school, entry to the classroom and upon exit of the classroom).

Schools should limit activities to Year or Stage groups whenever possible. (....continued next page)

#### COVID-19 symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Loss of smell



Loss of taste

#### Stay Safe



**Clean your hands thoroughly** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser



**Cover your nose and mouth** when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or your elbow. Put the tissue in the bin and wash your hands

## **UPDATED COVID 19 INFORMATION FROM CEDP (continued)**

### **School Operations and School Related Activity**

Some of the changes required from schools are:

- Students to stay within their relevant cohort, year group for all learning activities.
- Schools must not travel outside of their local community area or zone for all inter school activities.
- Some group activities such as choirs, changing and the use of wind instruments in a group setting are not permitted.
- Dance activities will require risk assessments and a COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- A Year 6 or Year 12 graduation assembly is allowed with restrictions.

### **Guidance for Community Use and Visitors to the School**

Some of the changes required from schools are:

- P&F social events or functions are no longer permitted.
- All community user groups must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

### **Stopping of Certain Practices**

Certain practices must cease altogether. These include:

- Activities that result in the mixing of students from schools in different regions, such as sporting-related activities, drama and debating.
- School-related overnight events (e.g. retreats, camps, excursions) as there is increased risk of transmission of the virus in a residential type setting with shared facilities.
- School-related social activities (e.g. school formals, dinners or dances; graduation ceremonies; or parent engagement functions).

### **Additional Advice**

Schools are advised that Kindergarten orientation and transition to school activities remain on hold until further notice. Advice is being developed to support schools to consider alternate ways to engage families and children in preparation for starting school in 2021.

## **ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021**

### **ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

ENROLING NOW KINDER TO YEAR 6 FOR 2021

CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 8886 9600

OR EMAIL [stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au)

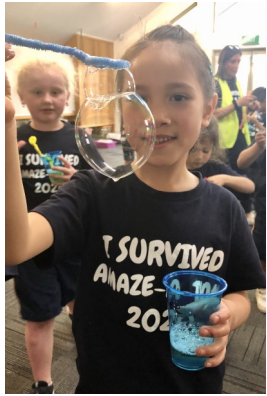
## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Very exciting news - Mrs Abigail Sanchez and her husband are expecting their first child in December this year. Continuing with the exciting news, we also congratulate Miss Elianne Abi who announced her engagement last week.



## AMAZE-A-THON

Last Friday we held our Amaze-a-thon. All the children and staff had a fabulous time trying out all the different activities. Thank you to Mr A and Mrs Gittoes for planning such a fantastic day.



Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton  
Schedule for the Sacrament of Confirmation - 2020

**Parent Information Sheet**

**Parent Information night and registration**

12 October, Monday @ 7:30pm at the Church AND

13 October, Tuesday, depending on the number of registrants.

**Notes:**

1. Completed registration form and copy of Baptism certificate must be submitted on this night. Name of contact person (parent/carer), email address and mobile number must be provided on the form.
2. **Before this day**, please inform the Coordinator, Priscilla Corpuz if you are interested, by sending an email to [sacraments@tpg.com.au](mailto:sacraments@tpg.com.au). Please advise number of children you want to register. Do not email registration form.
3. Only one parent/carer must attend as we are required to observe physical distancing. Children do not need to come.

**Confirmation classes: Venues to be advised:**

**Attendance is a MUST:**

18 Oct – First lesson @ 10am to 11am

25 Oct – Second lesson @ 10am to 11am

01 Nov – Third lesson @ 10am to 11am

08 Nov – Fourth lesson @ 10am to 11am

**Note:** The above dates fall on Sundays. Weekday sessions, after school, might become available depending on the number of registrations we received.

**Rehearsal with Sponsor:**

14 Nov – Saturday @ 1:00- 4:00pm.

**Rite of Confirmation:**

15 Nov – Sunday @ 2pm

**Note:** Once again, depending on the number of registrations, a 2nd batch of Rehearsal and Rite of Confirmation will be made available, being 21 Nov and 22 Nov, respectively.

**All children require a Sponsor:**

Must be baptised, practicing catholic, 18 years and over. Godparents and siblings can be sponsors. All sponsors must be present during Rehearsal.

**Confirmation Name:**

All children must choose a Saint's name as their Confirmation name. It is advisable for the children to know something about their chosen Saint.

If your child is baptised with a Christian name, eg: Matthew, Mark or John, there is no need to choose another Saint's name.

**Age of Children:**

Must be 10 years of age. Please note: if your child is over 10 years old and just received their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion in 2020, Confirmation must be deferred to 2021.

It is a requirement by the Diocese that children can receive One Sacrament per year.

**Fees:**

Contribution of \$15 per child to cover lesson materials and certificate.

For further details, please send email to [sacraments@tpg.com.au](mailto:sacraments@tpg.com.au)



# GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

REGISTRATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF

## CONFIRMATION 2020

Child's LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's GIVEN NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(please use BLOCK letters)

DOB;(D/M/Y) \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: M F

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptised

at:

**Photocopy of the Baptism Certificate must be attached to this form**

Parish you normally worship at: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail address if available can be included)

Name of parent to be contacted regarding the programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*When signing you are fully committing yourself to your child's faith development, in participation & in attendance.*

OFFICE ONLY:				
Contribution	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baptism Certificate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Catechists' Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**The whole world  
at home.**

## HOME.

It used to be where we  
came back to after work.

After school.

A place of family.

A place for relaxation.

## BUT THEN 2020 HAPPENED.

And suddenly the whole  
world was at home.

And, at least for a while,  
home was our entire world  
as, through our screens, we  
entered the homes, and  
the worlds, of strangers.

## Important dates for entrants

**Entries close midnight,  
Sunday 27 September 2020.**

Winners will be announced at the presentation  
ceremony.

**Presentation date:** Thursday 3 December 2020  
at 6 pm to 7 pm.

**Venue:** Max Webber Library Function Centre  
Level 1, Corner Flushcombe Road and Alpha Street,  
Blacktown.

Entries can **only** be submitted online at  
[westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au), or via [admin@westwords.com.au](mailto:admin@westwords.com.au)

**Max Webber Library**  
Corner Flushcombe  
Road and Alpha Street,  
Blacktown  
Ph: 9839 6677

**Our Library @ The  
Mount Druitt Hub**  
Ayres Grove, Mt Druitt  
Ph: 8886 2000

**Dennis Johnson Library**  
Corner Stanhope Parkway  
and Sentry Drive, Stanhope  
Gardens  
Ph: 9421 2670

**Lalor Park Library**  
Corner Freeman Street and  
Northcott Road, Lalor Park  
Ph: 9624 5243

**Riverstone Library  
& Digital Hub**  
1st Floor Riverstone  
Village, Market Street  
and Riverstone Parade,  
Riverstone  
Ph: 9627 3823

/BlacktownCityLibraries

@BlacktownCityLibraries



BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

# 2020 Mayoral Creative Writing Prize

The whole  
world at  
home.

Open to adults and children aged 8 years  
and above, who live in Blacktown city.

**Entries close midnight, Sunday 27 September 2020**

Entries can **only** be submitted online at  
[westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au), or via [admin@westwords.com.au](mailto:admin@westwords.com.au)



The whole  
world at  
home.

BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

# 2020 Mayoral Creative Writing Prize

## Competition guidelines and criteria

Welcome to the Mayoral Creative Writing Prize 2020. It  
is open to adults and children (aged 8 to 17 years) who  
live in Blacktown city. The poems and short stories must  
be works of fiction.

### Categories

All entries can be either poetry or short stories. They  
will be judged in the following age categories, 8 - 11  
years, 12 - 14 years, 15 - 17 years and adult (18+).

### Theme

The whole world at home. Weave your ideas,  
experiences and imaginings based on this theme into  
your short story or poem.

### Judging

Your work will be judged on how original it is, how  
you have constructed your story or poem, the use of  
language, (including creative expression, grammar,  
sentence structure, punctuation and spelling) and the  
way you have developed characters, atmosphere, or  
setting or used words in a creative way.

It is critical that this work is original and not copied  
in any way. Copied work will be disqualified.  
An independent judging panel will assess all  
submissions.

For more information, please contact WestWords:  
Western Sydney's Literature Development Organisation,  
on 8677 4815 or by email: [admin@westwords.com.au](mailto:admin@westwords.com.au)

## Announcement of the prize winners

The presentation ceremony will take place on Thursday  
5 December 2019, at 6 pm. All winners and Highly  
Commended recipients will be invited to attend.

### Prizes

The total prize pool is \$1,600. Winners aged 17 or  
younger will receive \$100 and their school, if located in  
Blacktown city, will receive a corresponding \$100 as an  
incentive to encourage the budding authors of our local  
area. Adult winners will receive \$200.

Age	Categories	Prize	School prize
8 -11 years	Poetry	\$100	\$100
	Short Story	\$100	\$100
12-14 years	Poetry	\$100	\$100
	Short Story	\$100	\$100
15-17 years	Poetry	\$100	\$100
	Short Story	\$100	\$100
Adult	Poetry	\$200	-
	Short Story	\$200	-

## Submission criteria

- The work must be original and completed in the last  
6 months.  
Entries can be either:  
• poem, maximum of 25 lines  
• short story, maximum of 500 words.
- Only one entry per person is permitted in each  
category.
- Each entry must have one entry per online form.
- Members of staff, members of Council, their  
partners and members of their immediate families  
are ineligible to enter this competition.
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence  
will be entered into.
- All participants will receive a letter recognising their  
participation. A presentation ceremony will be held  
on Thursday 3 December 2020, where the winners  
will be announced.
- Submit entries with a completed entry form online at  
[westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au).

