



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 4
Week 2
23rd October 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome again to Term 4 - I know it is hard to believe that we have arrived at the final term of the 2020 school year!

Like many of the St Francis staff and families I took the opportunity to take a break away. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with family and friends. Just to have the time to be able to move away from the regular routine was fantastic and from what the children have been telling me, they have also very much enjoyed, beach days, camping, bush walking, sleep ins and long days at the park with family and friends. We really were blessed with amazing weather and so much to be thankful for even in this year of the pandemic.

While we are still not connected by our physical presence with each other as we are used to, the St Francis school community has demonstrated great resilience, adaptability and flexibility throughout 2020 and has found new and creative ways of supporting each other.

This week the Year 6 students were fortunate to be able attend Wedderburn Camp on Monday and Tuesday. The students were very excited and had an absolutely amazing time. St Francis school was the first school to be welcomed back by the Wedderburn staff this year, so they were thrilled to have our students attend their centre.

Thank you to Mrs Rodricks, Mr Daglis and Mr Andreatta for the organisation and supervision of the students.

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

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be held in Week 3 on Wednesday 28th October. Children will need to wear their **FULL SUMMER UNIFORM (NO SPORTS UNIFORM)**. Envelopes were sent home with students at the end of last term. Do not send this to school with payment. Keep it until the photo day and send it in with your child on the photo day. Orders can also be made online using the code **YVN ME5 LQ5** on the Advanced Life website: www.advancedlife.com.au

TERM 4 END FINISH DATES

END OF YEAR STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER, THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER, FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS

DATES COMING UP

28/10	School Photos - ALL STUDENTS TO WEAR FULL SUMMER UNIFORM
29/10	Year 4 incursion - Mad about science
30/10	Virtual Book Fair online ordering starts
04/11	Character Dress Up
06/11	Virtual Book Fair online ordering closes

KINDERGARTEN 2021 TRANSITION PROGRAMME

At the end of Term 3, the NSW Government indicated to schools that arrangements for Kindergarten Orientation for 2021 Kindergarten students could go ahead.

The St Francis of Assisi Kindergarten Transition Programme will take place on:

Tuesday 10th November

Tuesday 17th November

Tuesday 24th November

Next week, families will receive information about the programme and their children's attendance at the Kindergarten Transition sessions.

We look forward to welcoming our 2021 Kindergarten students to St Francis on these days.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL FOR 2021

To estimate enrolments for 2021, it would be appreciated if the school could be notified in writing, of any children who may be leaving St Francis of Assisi at the end of the year from grades other than Year 6. Thank you.

CLASS GROUPS FOR 2021

The school will shortly commence the annual process of forming class cohorts for next year.

Teachers and school leadership have extensive knowledge of how children **learn** and **relate** in their current classes and in the playground. All this information is carefully considered in the discernment process used to form **balanced class groups** across each grade.

If you have a **significant** consideration, not including a friendship request, you are required to put the request **in writing** (not email) to the Principal stating the child's name, child's present class, your request and briefly the reason for the request.

It is important that parents understand that this is not an opportunity to make any teacher requests or state any preferences for next year.

Parental requests will be reviewed in light of the school's class formation process and there is no guarantee that requests will be granted. There are many factors, which affect the placement of students - parental requests being just one of these.

Parents and caregivers are asked to **respect** the decisions made and **trust** that the school has taken all factors into consideration in the best interest of each child.

For requests to be considered, they must be received at the school office **no later than Monday 9th November, 2020.**

THE WELL

The Diocese of Parramatta recently launched **The Well** – a new online platform that provides free, 'on-demand' inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities. With over 80 (and growing) videos, podcasts and other online resources, at any time of day or night, you can watch and listen to:

High-energy children's shows, information and reflections on the sacraments, recordings of young musicians around the Diocese leading praise and worship, thought-provoking discussions from local and international speakers, inspirational sharing from young people and young women.

SOME TIPS FOR HOME READING

- Establish a home reading routine. Read aloud with your children every day. Ten minutes for each child around a book of his/her choice. If English is your second language, read in your home language. If you lack confidence in reading aloud, the fact that you are reading with your child is what matters. Talk about the illustrations and contribute where you can. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.
- The reader holds the book! There is a lot of power and control in the world of reading. The reader needs to have the power.
- During home reading time, turn off electronic devices and give each child ten minutes of your undivided attention.
- Before you read a book, set your child up for success. Reading is not a test! Reading time is only ten minutes so do some of the following: Keep the introduction short – one minute is enough. Talk about the illustrations and the title. Read the blurb and talk about the author, talk about any unusual words, read a page here and there as your child flicks through the book, discuss the characters. This is a short introduction, not an interrogation. If the book is already a familiar one, then this step is not necessary.

Source: PETAA Parent Resource

TECH TIPS

Creating healthy digital habits in your child

Digital devices are here to stay, so it's imperative to look at how kids can remain in control of their screen use and ensure the time they are investing online is adding something helpful, positive and meaningful to our lives.

Here are four tips to help kids develop healthy digital habits. Being mindful of home time is spent looking at our devices is certainly not just reserved for young people.

Encourage creation not just consumption

Is your child more of a consumer or creator when they are online? Check to see if they spend time online in creative mode such as making things, creating their own videos or presentations, editing photos, writing posts, coding a video game or composing a song. Encourage them to be creative rather than mere consumers of digital content.

Discuss who they are following

The digital world encourages leaders and followers. It places people and individuals from all walks of life in close contact with your kids. They can follow companies that can fuel their passions. For instance, if they love space, search for NASA and related accounts. If they love photography, help them find great photographers sharing their work online. When they are following people that teach, inspire and ignite their passions, they are less likely to spend valuable time with energy zappers.

Digitally de-clutter regularly

Many children collect apps on their devices in the same way that former generations collect football cards or swap cards. Encourage them to delete the apps they no longer use or apps that offer no benefits to their lives. Could there be better games to play?

Show children good practices

Most children learn much more from what they see and experience, rather than from what they are told. As a parent be intentional with your screen time: Do you:

- Follow people that support you or challenge you in helpful ways or inspire an lift you up?
- Interact in positive ways:
 - Give people your attention rather than scroll while others are talking to you?
 - Put your digital devices away in order to fit all the other important things into your day?

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR AND DRESS UP



In Week 4 we will be having a “Virtual Book Fair”. Parents are able to purchase books online using the details above. Further information on how to order will be sent home next week.

On the 4th November, children will be able to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character.

PROTECTING EVERYONE

Thank you for your support as we continue with a number of currently established routines: -

- Hand sanitizing for all students as they enter the school gates.
- Regular handwashing/sanitizing of hands throughout the day.
- Maintaining the ‘goodbye at the gate’ with parents not in the school grounds.
- No assembly in the morning, with children going straight into class at 8.55 am and commencing their learning. A reminder that the gates will be closed at 8.55am. If you arrive after this time, please walk your children into the office and sign them in.
- We will have virtual assemblies for the students and parents in Weeks 3, 6 and 9.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fee Statements will be sent home this week for the families who have fees still owing for 2020, due date of 18th December. If you need to go on a payment plan over the Christmas period please contact the school office to arrange.

Mrs Bellenger did decide, due to COVID-19, to put through a credit of \$100 to each students School Activities Fee and \$55 to Year 6 students School O/nt Excur - Meal. This will show on your statement under Student Records as a charge of \$76.00 and then under Payments/Adjustments 2 credits of \$88.00 for the School Activities Fee. Due to the amount, the Year 6 credit will only be under Payments/Adjustments. Any family that has finalised their fees in full, the credit is still on your account and will be taken off 2021 Fees. If your in Year 6 and going to a Catholic High School, I will organise the credit to be transferred. Any accounts that had a concession applied in 2020 will be brought back to zero.

YEAR 6 CAMP

Year 6 had a wonderful time at Wedderburn Christian Campsite on Monday and Tuesday. The giant swing, zip line, bushwalking and archery were some of the activities Year 6 experienced.

