



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 4
Week 4
6th November 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

The month of November is traditionally the month when we remember in a special way, those who have died. All Saints Day on the 1st November is when we celebrate the life of saintly people. All Souls Day on the 2nd November is a special day when we pray that the souls of our dearly departed will make their way to Heaven.

The Feast of All Saints is a holy day as we believe that saints encourage and inspire us by the quality and courage that they have lived their own grace-filled lives. While we have information about many saints, and we honour them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honoured. Saints, of course, are all around us in our families, in our workplaces and in the community. There are men and women whose generous spirit reflect the Gospel's call to love and serve God and others. Then there are the hidden saints of our daily lives, those who, unknowingly, have inspired us. Some of these people do it by making the ordinary through a spirit of simplicity and humility. Some do it by demonstrating extraordinary courage in sickness and adversity. Then there are others that rally against injustice and work tirelessly to bring about equality and dignity to others.

Everyone, I'm sure, knows a quiet saint who will never be canonised but has shown us something of how to live as a follower of Christ. These are the people whose faith leads them to be generous, kind, patient and full of hope.

We are all called to be saints each day. This is our challenge as followers of Jesus, to face up to our weaknesses and mistakes and try to be more Christ-like.

All Souls Day has its roots in the sixth century Benedictine tradition of praying to the dead. It was a way of recognising the human bonds which go beyond death. By the tenth century this feast was all about praying for the dead, that they might know the merciful love of God.

We remember in prayer, family members or friends who have died this year. While the Feast of All Saints is a day to remember the glories of Heaven and those there already, the Feast of all Souls reminds us of our obligations to live holy lives and to continue to pray for those who have died.

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

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

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

06/11 Virtual Book Fair online ordering closes today!!

18/11 Jersey Mufti Day—Gold Coin Donation

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.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORT

Each student will receive their End of Year School Report for 2020 on Tuesday 8th December. If you have any questions about your child's learning at any time, please contact their classroom teacher.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2021

Please be advised that in 2021 school will begin on the following dates:

- Wednesday 27th January staff return
- Thursday 28th January - School begins for Years 1-6 in 2021
- Monday 1st February - School begins for Kindergarten 2021

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We will advise exactly how this will look closer to the date as we work out what is possible with the restrictions on large gatherings and group singing activities.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION – TBA

Details of the graduation are to be advised as we work on what is possible with the current NSW Health and CEDP restrictions.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school you need to advise the office. This can be by phone 8886 9600, email stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au or through e-forms in the Skoolbag app.

If your child is unwell with COVID 19 symptoms they will need to be COVID tested and the results sent to the office before returning to school.

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR AND DRESS UP



TODAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ORDER BOOKS ONLINE

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

At St Francis, we strive to build a learning community in partnership with the home and parish, which models relationships based on:

- Mutual respect
- Affirmation and welcoming of individual differences
- Sharing and forgiveness
- Collaboration and support
- Generosity, gratitude and service.

Our community focuses on:

- Nurturing cooperative relationships between students, staff, parents and parishioners
- Using effective ways to communicate within and across the school community.

At times, issues may arise at school that cause you concern and you would like to speak to someone about these. The following procedures are in place. At all times the dignity, rights and beliefs of all those involved are respected.

- The first point of call is the child's class teacher. Contact the school office via email or written note to the teacher to make an appointment with the teacher concerned.
- If you are not satisfied with the solutions offered or believe that they have not been given a fair hearing you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Assistant Principal or Principal to discuss the issues further.

A comprehensive outline of the St Francis School Complaint Handling Procedures can be found on the school website: <https://www.stfrancisglendenning.catholic.edu.au/-/media/Files/CEDP/Global/Policies/Managing-Complaints-Policy.pdf>

BOOK WEEK CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday the students of St Francis were able to dress up as one of their favourite book characters. Thank you to all the students who dressed up for our Book Week celebrations. The students had so much fun celebrating literature and reading at St Francis. Keep your eyes on Facebook over the next week for pictures of each grade.



BASKETBALL

St Francis of Assisi have been very fortunate to have a professional coach from the NSW Basketball Academy attend our school. The program will run for 6 weeks for K-6 during their sport time promoting healthy and active lifestyles. The students are enjoying their lessons developing the skills of basketball and participating in games and activities.



JERSEY DAY

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2020

**WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTS JERSEY
OR TEAM COLOURS.**

Please help us to raise funds to support a charity by
contributing a gold coin donation on Jersey Day.

YEAR 7 2021



Patrician Brothers' College Blacktown

ENROL NOW

CONTACT US 8811 0300

www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au | patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au



Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith