



# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

**Term 4**  
**Week 8**  
**2nd December 2022**

*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we educate our students.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

As 2022 draws to a close, we reflect on what an amazing year of faith, fun and learning we have had along the way. Thank you to the children. They are the reason we are here. Their enthusiasm for life and learning is a wonderful example to us all. To you, our parents, the primary educators of your children, I give thanks for your support and partnership in providing so much for the children. No matter what your contribution over the year, big or small, it is appreciated and has benefitted the children. We wish all those venturing on from St Francis the best that life has to offer and we welcome new families to our community for next year.

Special thanks and farewell to Mr Robert Barden our Acting Assistant Principal. He has done a great job in this leadership position and we wish him all the very best in his new role as Religious Education Coordinator at Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville.

To Mrs Veronica Morrison and Mrs Alison Andrews our School Counsellors, we say 'thank you' for supporting our children and their families. Your dedication to your role has benefitted so many students and families. Mrs Andrews' hours at her other school have increased and therefore she will not be working at St Francis next year. We wish her all the best.

Mrs Grace Cavasinni has decided to retire at the end of this year. She does so with a heavy heart as she has been part of this community for the past 25 years.

Congratulations and thank you to Mrs Louise Matthews who has been appointed at Hills Grammar Dural. We thank Mrs Matthews for her work here at St Francis. Your contribution to St Francis has been very much appreciated. We also say farewell to Ms Katrina Almazar, Ms Monika Kumar, Mrs Leanne Ward, Miss Jaymi Winters and to our IT trainee Ms Mirosaini Sriskandarajah and thank them for their support. We wish all the staff who are leaving God's blessings for the journey that lies ahead.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Education over the past year. Together they facilitate learning so that the children work towards reaching academic and human excellence in a faith filled community. Their generosity in terms of time, themselves and sharing of skills is often outside the normal hours of the day but it is in their giving so much that they receive.

Our sincere thanks to our office ladies and support teachers. Their smiles greet so many and their support for the children, parents and staff is uncompromising. To Magdy, our grounds maintenance person, thank you for keeping our school looking so good and functioning as a learning environment.

I would like to also sincerely thank the Leadership Team for their outstanding support to myself, the teachers, the children and school community. Their expertise, dedication and leadership is very much appreciated.

We are blessed to have had Father Vincy and Father Bollar guiding our parish community in its spiritual journey and relationship with Christ. We thank them for their faith, love and care.

I look forward to another year of faith, fun and learning in 2023.

May God's blessings be with you and your families.

Thank you for your continued support. It is in partnership that we can achieve great things for our children.

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

## STAFFING 2023

Teachers are now finalising their class lists for 2023. They take into account the academic abilities, behavioural needs, social issues and learning needs of ALL children. I'm sure you can understand that this is a complex and lengthy process which the teachers put a great deal of thought into. They make the best decisions that they can regarding all the children in our school and ensure a fair and equitable process is followed.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mrs Jenny Bellenger – Principal	Mr Jason Fisher – Assistant Principal
Mrs Cristina Cignarella – Religious Coordinator	Mr Chris Boyer – Numeracy Instructional Leader
Ms Lisa Walsh – Literacy Instructional Leader	Mrs Rose Keane – Diversity Instructional Leader
Mrs Sandra El-Hakim – PBS4L Instructional Leader	Mr Frank Daglis – PBL Instructional Leader

KINDERGARTEN - Mrs Daniela Attard, Miss Gemma Egan and Miss Isabella Berttucci

YEAR 1 - Miss Michelline Macahilig, Mrs Andrea Santos and Miss Emily Galdes

YEAR 2 - Mrs Rebecca Battikha, Mrs Anna Dedovic, Miss Annmaree Hudson & Mrs Ingrid Akkari

YEAR 3 - Mrs Sandra El-Hakim and Mrs Patricia Dumlao

YEAR 4 - Miss Megan Moller, Miss Alison Agala and Mr Frank Daglis

YEAR 5 - Mrs Toni Mitchell and Miss Christie Stevenson

YEAR 6 - Mr Chris Boyer/Ms Lisa Walsh and Miss Natasha Estrada

LIBRARIAN - Mrs Patreece Griffiths-Smith

LIBRARY ASST. - Mrs Gordana Sudulic

DIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER - Mrs Rose Keane

DIVERSITY TEAM - Mrs Louise Gray, Mrs Marie-Louise Jolicoeur, Mrs Sarah Martin, Mrs Shivon Jackson, Mrs Amanda Hajgato, Mrs Sue Cividin, Mrs Cristina Cignarella

MUSIC SPECIALIST - Mrs Amanda Hajgato

JAPANESE - Mrs Amanda Cox

READING RECOVERY - Mrs Amanda Cox

R3 – Mrs Cristina Cignarella

TEACHER RELEASE - Mr Matteo Andreatta, Mrs Patreece Griffiths-Smith, Mrs Kathy Abbey, Mrs Kirsty Horvath

OFFICE ADMIN - Mrs Lee-Ann Falconer, Mrs Brenda Jackson, Mrs Christina Williams

SCHOOL ASSISTANTS – Mrs Carol Zammit, Mrs Carmen Muscat, Miss Kylie Nield, Mrs Gordana Sudulic, Mrs Sharon Gatt, Mrs Daniella Diana, Mrs Fiona Rankin, Mrs Michelle Moller, Mrs Ashlee Russel, Mrs Ana Gregoriou, Miss Isabella Biordi, Mrs Margaret Flynn

GENERAL ASSISTANT – Mr Magdy Saad

## DATES COMING UP

04/12/22 - Swimming Program continues

08/12/22 - Christmas Concert @ 6pm

09/12/22 - Semester 2 reports go home

12/12/22 - Swimming Carnival Years 3 to 6

13/12/22 - Thanksgiving Mass

14/12/22 - Year 6 Graduation in the school hall @ 6pm

15/12/22 - Year 6 Luna Park

15/12/22 - Last Day of Term 4 for children



## SWIMMING CARNIVAL - Years 2 to 6

A Compass notification was sent out to families on Monday 28th November with the permission note attached for the Swimming Carnival that will be held at Blacktown Leisure Centre at Stanhope on Monday 12th December. Please make sure the permission note is completed online by Tuesday 6th December. Click on the link below to complete the permission note.



If there are any children in Year 1 who will be turning 8 in 2023 and are a competent swimmer (can swim 50m or 100m confidently), can you please complete the online permission form.

[Click here to complete the permission form](#)



## YEAR 6 GRADUATION

The Year 6 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 14th December at 6pm in the hall at St Francis School. Please make a note of this date on your calendar.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's Christmas concert will be on Thursday 8 December, commencing at 6:00pm. Students in all grades will be performing two special Christmas songs and dances. The children are excited to be celebrating the Christmas concert live with you this year, after the past couple of years being restricted due to COVID. The school choir will also be performing a song prior to the grades' performances. With playground construction still in progress, parents are invited to watch the concert in the hall. Due to limited space, students will watch a livestream in their learning spaces. A letter was sent home to parents via Compass earlier this week. Please refer to this for further details about student arrival time and what to wear.



## MEDICATION AND MEDICATION PLANS

On the last day of school, all medication we have at school will be sent home with students. This gives parents a chance to update any medication or plans for allergies, anaphylaxis or asthma before the new school year.

When school returns can you please bring all medication into the office on the first day. Parents will need to bring this to the office as a medical authority form will need to be completed.

## 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 and small gifts like candy canes and other treats. This is a lovely gesture, however, due to COVID-19 restrictions we ask that children do not bring in these gifts. 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.

## LAST DAY FOR PAYMENTS

Any payments for school fees, Luna Park, Gala Days etc will need to be finalised before Tuesday 13th December. The school office will not be able to process any form of payment (whether this be by EFTPOS or QKR) after this date.

## CHANGE OF SCHOOL IN 2023

To estimate enrolments for 2023, 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.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos have arrived and will be sent home with your children this week. If you have any issues, please contact Advanced Life photographers directly. If you ticked collect from the office they are ready to be collected.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Ronin (Year 2) and his family on the birth of his little sister.

We wish them all the best.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Jessica Kennedy (Year 4) who represented CEDP and joined 30 girls from multiple dioceses across NSW yesterday at Wagga Wagga to trial for the MacKillop Girls Cricket Team. After the trial process a team of 12 girls were selected. Jessica was successful and made the MacKillop Girls Cricket Team for 2023. She will head to Bathurst next February to play at the NSW PSSA State Girls Cricket Championship, which is played over 4 days.

Dear Parents,

As the season of Advent approaches, 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 by Friday 2nd December. 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

God bless you for making Christmas that much more special for so many families.

