



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1
Week 6
3rd March 2023

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe but we are already over the halfway point of the term. Last week we held the Parent Information Sessions. It was great to see so many parents and carers attend the sessions and to be able to sit in the learning spaces for the first time. We hope the sessions were informative and provided an opportunity for parents to meet their child's class teacher.

Last week Mr Jack De Groot our new Executive Director of Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese visited St Francis. It was an opportunity for him to see our new school buildings and the playground areas. He was extremely impressed by what he saw when he visited the learning spaces and complimented the staff on how the students were so engaged and on task with their learning. He did make a comment about how different the learning spaces and playground are now to when he went to school, and he loved the new Kindy play area.

Earlier in the term we took part in our Opening School Mass which was both beautiful, meaningful, and well attended by parents and families. The Year Six students received their Leaders badges. Staff and families new to the school received a blessing from Father along with our new Kindergarten students. Thank you to our Assistant Parish Priest, Father Bola for his spiritual nourishment and leadership and to our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Cignarella for planning and preparing the children to participate in this first Eucharist of the school year.

Last week we began the season of Lent by being marked on our foreheads with the ashes burnt from last year's palms. The season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday is always 46 days (40 days and 6 Sundays) before Easter Sunday.

The number 40 traditionally symbolises a period of testing, trial or probation and has important biblical significance:

- Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 days before commencing his ministry.
- Jesus stayed with his disciples for 40 days after His resurrection before ascending into Heaven.
- Jerusalem was destroyed 40 years after the crucifixion of Christ.
- Moses lived for 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land with the chosen people.
- Moses stayed on Mt Sinai for 40 days and nights.
- The prophet Elijah took 40 days to reach Mt Sinai.
- The number 40 also represents a generation of human life.
- The number 40 is traditionally attributed to the Christian virtue of humility.

The season of Lent leading to Holy Week & Easter provides us with a time to deepen our spiritual relationship with God and to translate this into action through fasting (giving up), almsgiving (giving to others) & prayer. In doing so we are led to step out of our comfort zone and become humbler and more charitable and in service to others.

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

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate and give thanks for Catholic Schools, especially our own school, St Francis of Assisi, and all those who work here.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2023 is;

"Our Teachers Make the Difference"

At St Francis, we are truly grateful for the hard work of all our staff. We value their commitment, passion and dedication. We appreciate the difference they make for all those in their care.

The students will commence the week with grade liturgies where they will acknowledge, pray for, and bless all the wonderful staff at St Francis.

A Prayer for all Staff

Giver of all wisdom and greatest of all teachers,
look upon our teachers with love.

Grant them the resolve to nurture eager minds
and to never give up on those who fall behind.

Bless their hearts for they rejoice when students succeed
and encourage them when they falter.

Bless them with gentle patience for the path of learning is never easy.

Kindle a spirit and passion in them for it is the flame that ignites the love of learning.

Help them see the potential in each student as their belief in them means much.

In still in them a commitment to keep on learning as it shows others to not fear new knowledge.

Inspire them to touch the future as they influence how big we dream for ourselves.

Bless our teachers who have come before for their work endures to this day.

Let the light of your example shine upon all teachers
to build up with their words,
to love with their minds,
and to share with their hearts.

Amen



Click on:

'Thankyou God for the Staff at St Francis

CONGRATULATIONS

Eden Brooks of 4 Green represented Rouse Hill Little Athletics Club at Narellan for the Regional Athletics Carnival.

Eden won gold medals in the following events:

100m, 200m, relay, long jump, discuss and shot put.

Eden will be participating in the State Athletics Carnival in March. We wish her all the best.



CONGRATULATIONS

Noah Jackson (Year 4) has been representing Nepean and NSW for Oz Tag. Noah received player of the weekend while representing NSW. Noah will also be representing Australia in a tournament this weekend. Congratulations and good luck!!



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Jessica Kennedy of Year 5 who has been in Bathurst this week as part of the Mackillop Cricket Team.

Yesterday morning Jessica and her team played the last game of the tournament before the finals. They needed a win to get a chance to play for a bronze medal. Things were tight at the end but Jessica and another team mate helped their team out of a sticky moment getting the winning runs which was very exciting for their team.

They made it to the finals where they played and won to come away with a bronze medal.

Jessica had a great time away. The team Jessica was a part of finished 3rd out of 13 teams which is a great achievement.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy.

From 2023, NAPLAN is moving to Term 1 and will take place from Wednesday 15 March to Monday 27 March. The reason for this change is so that results can be returned to schools earlier in the year which will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and plan accordingly.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling.

In preparation for NAPLAN 2023, our school will undertake activities to help students to become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Students and parents can access the public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

NAPLAN CHANGES FROM 2023

Beginning this year there will also be changes to the way that NAPLAN results are reported. Parents and carers will get earlier and simpler information about their child's NAPLAN achievement based on the following 4 levels of achievement:

- Exceeding
- Strong
- Developing
- Needs additional support.

The descriptors for each category will make it clear to parents what their child's literacy and numeracy skills are at the time of NAPLAN testing, and we will continue to work with you to meet your child's needs. NAPLAN will remain one of many useful ways that we assess your child's learning and support needs.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child is on a Medical Action Plan, could you please take the time to check that the plan is valid and that any medication required is still in date. Medical Action Plans are valid for 12 months. A visit to the doctor may be required if your child's plan is approaching the end of its validity. We would appreciate it if updated Action Plans be sent to us via the school email or sent with your child.

SPORTS DAYS

Each grade will wear their sports uniforms on the following days during Term 1:

Kindy - Wednesday & Friday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday

Year 1 - Thursday & Friday

Year 5 - Wednesday & Friday

Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 6 - Thursday & Friday

Year 3 - Tuesday & Friday

STUDENT ABSENCES

A gentle reminder to parents and carers to please notify the school if your child is absent. The automated attendance SMS system is an efficient way for parents/carers to notify the school of their child's absence. If a student is absent, an SMS notification will automatically be sent to parents/carers. The notification will contain a one-time link that can be clicked on to add an attendance note for your child. The one-time link is valid for 48 hours. Other ways to notify the school of your child's absence include contacting St Francis School via email stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au, by phone 8886 9600) or sending a note with your child to school when they return.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are due on Wednesday 15th March. If you are taking up one of the payment arrangement options please ensure you visit <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp> and complete the relevant the Flexible Payment eform.

LABELLING

After the expense of purchasing uniform items, there is nothing worse than the loss or misplacement of them. More often than not, it has just been left in the school playground or been picked up by another child. Avoid undue stress and ensure **ALL BELONGINGS** are clearly labelled with your child's name. If items are labelled they are put into our lost property box, and these items will be returned to the appropriate children.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Just a friendly reminder when parking around the school to drop off and pick up your children.

In the morning, if you wish to walk your children into the school please park correctly on the surrounding roads of our school and do not block driveways of our neighbours. The kiss and drop area (bus area) is to drop your children off only. Please do not park here.

We have had a number of parents who are stopping at the crossing or in the driveway of the BP to let children out of their car. This is extremely dangerous for the children getting out of the car. Please make sure you park correctly or use the kiss and drop if you do not wish to leave your vehicle.

In the afternoon when using the car pick up option, please ensure you join the end of the queue on Armitage Drive. Do not cut in or pull up in front of other drivers who have are already waiting.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL



ENROLING NOW KINDER TO YEAR 6 FOR 2024

CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 8886 9600

OR EMAIL stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL GLENDENNING

ENROL NOW

Open Day

9th March 2023

Tours at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm



You are invited!

Tour our wonderful school and see quality learning and teaching in action!



Families love St Francis of Assisi Primary School because we offer:

- A dynamic learning community founded on Gospel Values
- A challenging environment where all are committed to excellence and growth
- Positive and trusting relationships with students, families and the wider community
- Active student engagement utilising learning technology
- Catholic Out of School Hours Care
- A wide variety of extracurricular activities



We're enrolling now for 2024



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese



Follow us at parra.catholic.edu.au





It's Gotta

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NETBALL

REGISTER NOW FOR 2023

10 +
Registration



6-9 years
Registration



EASTERN CREEK PIONEERS NETBALL CLUB

MORREAU RESERVE, ROOTY HILL

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Contact: 0425 213 080

OR REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/343fd2> (10+ years)

<https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/f43b5f> (6-9 years)

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