



St Francis Catholic College

A Diocesan Catholic College in the Edmund Rice Tradition

Newsletter # 13 – 14th September 2017
(Next Newsletter #14 – 12th October 2017)



***“Preach the Gospel at all times and
when necessary use words.”***

St Francis of Assisi



Principal's Message

THE FEAST DAY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

As stated in last fortnight's newsletter, a Feast Day in the Catholic Church is one day of the calendar year that celebrates the life of a canonised saint. The proper Feast Day for St Francis of Assisi is the 4th of October. Unfortunately, this falls in the second week of the school holidays and so we have decided to celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis on the last day of Term 3.

All Catholic schools make a big deal of their founding saint's Feast Day. It is an opportunity to educate the students, staff and parents on who the saint was, why they were made a saint and discuss their values and why they are relevant to our lives today.

St Francis of Assisi is a very well-known saint. He was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He grew up in a wealthy family. His father was a highly successful cloth merchant and he led a privileged life. Francis was a good student and he enjoyed learning and singing as a boy. As part of his education, he was taught French culture. His father taught him about the family business and wanted him to become a businessman.

About the age of nineteen Francis became a soldier and went into battle against the nearby town of Perugia. Francis was captured and taken prisoner. He was held in a dungeon for a year and was only released when his father paid ransom money in return for his freedom.

Over the next few years, Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. The first vision was when he was sick with a high fever. At first he thought that God had called him to fight in the Crusades. However, he had another vision that told him to help the sick. Finally, when praying in a church, Francis heard God tell him to "repair my church, which is falling in ruins."

Francis gave all his money to the church. His father became very angry with him. Francis then left his father's home and took a vow of poverty. As Francis lived his life of poverty and preached to people about the life of Jesus Christ, people began to follow him. By 1209, he had around 11 followers. He had one basic rule which was "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps". This required his followers to also take a vow of poverty. As numbers continued to grow, Francis travelled with many of his followers to Rome to get the approval for their religious Order from the Pope. At first the Pope was confronted by their vow of poverty but eventually he agreed to allow Francis to start the Franciscan Order because of his strong devotion to the Catholic Church.

Francis believed that actions provided the best example of a Christian life, telling his followers to "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

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KEY DATES:

- 15 Sep NAPLAN Readiness testing
- 22 Sep SFCC St Francis of Assisi Feast Day - Mass & Carnival
(OFFICE CLOSED ALL DAY)
8:30am – School Day starts at Mary Mother of Church, Macquarie Fields
9:00 am – Mass followed by Morning Tea
12:00 pm – College Carnival (Students only)
- 22 Sep End of Term 3
- 4 Oct St Francis of Assisi Feast Day
- 9 Oct Term 4 Begins (Pupil Free Day)
- 10 Oct All students return – Summer Uniform compulsory

St Francis Catholic College OFFICE HOURS – Term Break

- 25-27 Sep 8:00am – 3:00pm
- 28-29 Sep CLOSED – Power Upgrade
- 2 Oct CLOSED – Public Holiday
- 3-6 Oct 8:00am – 3:00pm

St Francis Catholic College UNIFORM SHOP HOURS – Term Break

- 4 Oct (Wed) 9:00am – 1:00pm
- 7 Oct (Sat) 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Contact: sfcc@noone.com.au for an Appointment



Principal's Message

(continued)...

He immersed himself in nature. He loved writing about God's creation and there are many stories about Saint Francis preaching to animals. He talked to birds and some suggest that they sang back to him. It was also said that Francis could tame wild animals with the sign of the cross. Francis set up the first known Nativity scene which incorporated animals to celebrate Christmas in 1220.

Francis was the first person in recorded history to receive the 'stigmata'. This is where unexplained wounds appear on the hands, feet and side of the body which reflect the wounds of Christ's crucifixion. Francis experienced stigmata around 1224. The last few years of his life Francis was mostly blind. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141. He was declared a saint of the Catholic Church only two years after his death and his feast day is celebrated on the 4th October. The great work of the Franciscans continues all around the world.

Warm regards-
Simon Abernethy

Edmondson Park – Permanent Site

The permanent site continues to progress quickly. Last week the huge College Reception building was delivered to the site. Classrooms will continue to be delivered each week until around the end of October and then all buildings except for the Hall, Staff Common Room and Staff Study (which are currently being used at Oran Park) will be on site. From there, car parks, walkways, stairs, ramp and play areas and ovals will be the priority.

I am very appreciative of Mr Kristian Brassington, the owner of Sydney Aerial Imagery who continues to provide outstanding photos of all stages of construction from his drones.



St Francis of Assisi Feast Day

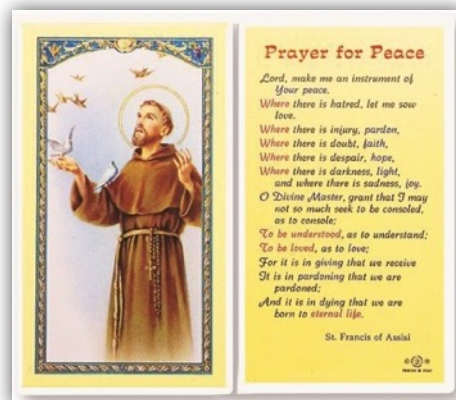
On the last day of Term 3 (22nd September 2017) we will celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, which will fall in the school holidays (4th October 2017).

Our day will begin with Mass, followed by morning tea and conclude with a carnival afternoon. Please see details below:

DATE: Friday 22nd September 2017
TIME: 8.30am arrival for a 9.00am start
VENUE: Mary Mother of the Church, 58 Edgar Street, Macquarie Fields NSW 2564
UNIFORM: All students to wear their **SPORTS UNIFORM** and bring their normal school bag

- The morning bus services (Bus A & Bus B) will be diverted after their regular pickups, directly to the Church.
- Any students who need to attend OOSH in the morning or are dropped off at the College in Oran Park, will be transported by the College mini-bus to the Church. This mini-bus will leave at 8am.
- Parents can also drive their children directly to the Church for 8.30am.

After Mass parents/carers, friends and staff are invited to share in a morning tea which will be served in the Church Hall. Further information about the Feast day was sent home earlier this week.



Novena for Father David Catterall

Over the last nine days our College community has been praying for the Parish Priest of Mary MacKillop – Oran Park, Father David Catterall. Father David has recently been diagnosed with cancer, this is the fourth time in his young life he has had to battle this disease.

Father David has been a strong supporter of our College, especially in our temporary location of Oran Park, he has opened his Church and services to us without hesitation. Along with praying the Novena our K-6 students have been colouring a section of an image each day to represent the nine days of prayer. From this we have created Father David a prayer garden along the entrance path to the College. This has also been filled with crosses from all students, K-7.

Father David is extremely grateful to the community of St Francis for their prayers and well wishes. He hopes to be back at the Parish soon.

Healing for Fr David Catterall

*May our faith and hope be fired afresh
by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like
Mary MacKillop, may live with courage,
trust and openness.*

Ever generous God hear our prayer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen



40th Anniversary – Mary Mother of the Church

Thank you to the many staff, students, parents and family members who attended the Parish Anniversary Mass. In particular I would like to thank the students who attended in school uniform and those who were part of the flag of nations procession. The following students helped run a stall to promote the College: Nerayo Santos, Neeco Santos, Barrie Hibbs, Sarah Anscombe, Lourdes Elias, Nereena Santos, Paige Muiser, Zach Muiser, Fabienne Elias, Paul Fonti, Noah Pellicciaro, Tiarna Pellicciaro, Angelo Kuk, Dominik Kuk, Nikolas Kuk, Oliver Kuk, Daniel Vecerin, Matthew Vecerin, Vanessa Wilson, Ellie Muscat, Zoey Saba, Tanisha Saba, Nathan Vrh.



Pastoral Care

St Francis Inaugural Student Leadership Team

We are currently in the process of electing our first Student Leadership Team. Students from Year 2 to 7 have had the opportunity to apply for the following positions:

- Junior Years Learning Captain (Two positions available) – Only Years 2 and 3
- Middle Years Learning Captain (Two positions available) – Only Years 4 – 7
- House Leader (One leader per house) – Only Years 4 - 7

Students selected for the aforementioned positions will be in the role for 12 months commencing Term 4 this year. The Student Leadership Team will be responsible for a variety of initiatives, attend fortnightly meetings and ultimately serve as the student body 'voice' as they work closely with staff.

We have been inundated with over 80 applications and the quality is outstanding! The College Leadership Team and Staff House Leaders will be reviewing all applications and plan to formally announce the 2017/18 Student Leadership Team early next term. Whilst only ten students will have formal positions for 2017/18, there will be a plethora of opportunities for all students during their time at St Francis to develop their leadership skills and be an instrumental part in the College's development.

Congratulations to all students who completed an application form. It takes great courage to put yourself forward and we are delighted by the standard of students we have at St Francis.

Mr Chapman
Pastoral Care Coordinator

The Competition Heats Up – Tomatoes to Go!!!

As part of science week (14-18th August 2017), all classes (and the office) were given a tomato plant to care for. Each class will eventually submit a tomato from their plant, and the class that produces the heaviest tomato will win a pizza lunch.

And the competition is really heating up BIG RED TIME!

Sadly however, we have had a few tragedies and some classes are now out of the competition (*ummm... we think you need to water them!!*) We are also waiting to see if some of the other innovative ideas have worked: playing music to their plant, adding banana skins, fertilizers and one class is even using a grow light!



To check on the progress of our Tomato plants and be ready to separate the weeds from the crop, we have appointed Mrs Tomasetta (aka Mrs Galvin) and Mrs Tomaseena (aka Mrs McDonald). They will do a weekly inspection, and water the Class plants during Term Break.

Students, please remember to bring your tomato plants to the Office on the last day of Term!



Balance of College Fees due 30th November 2017



The balance of your 2017 College Fee account is due on the 30th November 2017.

Statements will be sent out in the first week of the holidays. The College Reception can accept EFTPOS or Cash or you can pay directly into the College's bank account by BPay (Biller Code: 48741, Ref: 7815002840). Please contact the office if you need any assistance on Ph: 4645-3400.

Please note, if you are having any difficulty in making your College fee payments, please contact Reception to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss your situation.

Sports News

Primary Touch Footy Gala Day

A few weeks ago, we participated in the Touch Football Gala Day. There were 2 St Francis Teams, a Year 3 and 4 Mixed team who played against boys and a Year 5 and 6 Boys team. The parents and referees were able to play the last game to help us! It was a really fun day. We learnt a lot of new skills and we even scored some tries!!

Written by Zoey Saba and Ethan Talevski (3Blue).



Senior Basketball Gala Day

On Tuesday the 12th of September, a team of ten Year 5 and 6 students attended the South West Region Basketball Gala Day. On the day, the boys participated in 4 games playing other teams from St Johns Campbelltown, St Justin's Oran Park, St Thomas Moore Ruse and Mary Immaculate Eagle Vale.

The team showed great sportsmanship and teamwork, improving as the day went on with more games and experience under their belt. Mr Glynn was thoroughly impressed with the work ethic of the boys who were asking to do training between each game wanting to improve all the time.

Even though wins were hard to come by the students can all hold their heads high knowing that they represented St Francis with grace, humility and solidarity.

St Francis Senior Team:

Year 5: Nicholas Arhontakis, Samuel Cilia, Aydan Kaya, Oliver Kuk, Zach Muiser, Michael Stramandinoli, Daniel Vecerin

Year 6: Elroy Breccia, Phillip Langov, Joshua Vaga

Coach: Mr Glynn



Year 6 Excursion - Canberra

Students from St Francis have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate was paid directly to the College.

Day 1

On day 1, 6 Blue arrived early for their exciting trip to Canberra, accompanied by St Justins Oran Park. Our first stop in the A.C.T was Parliament House, where we visited the Senate and the House of Representatives. We got to see both in session and we learnt plenty of new and interesting information.

After having lunch, we took a trip to the Australian Institute of Sport. We played some interactive games and were able to pretend we were real Olympians. We also viewed the training grounds of some of our Aussie medallists.

After a lively day, we settled into our rooms and met our new roommates. We couldn't wait for the next day!

Day 2

The following day we got up early to have breakfast and leave for the War Memorial. Once we got there we went on a tour and saw the tomb of the unknown soldier where we dedicated a poppy to him and all soldiers, before heading to the National Museum of Australia.

In the National Museum of Australia, we participated in various challenges and while on a tour, we saw interesting items including Phar Lap's heart and we had a photo in a giant scoop.

We then headed to the National Gallery of Australia where we were taken on a guided tour. We witnessed many beautiful artworks. There was traditional art, art dedicated to Ned Kelly and some sculptures. Some of our highlights were The Poisonous Rain, the Ned Kelly artworks and a puzzle piece artwork.

Our final destination for the day was the Telstra Tower. At 7pm, we went to the top observation deck which was over 870 meters above sea level, where we saw the beautiful city lights. It was extremely cold and windy and our hair was blowing everywhere. I think we almost blew away.

Day 3

It was our final day in the ACT and we went to Questacon. We had a great time going into all the galleries and some of us even lined up to have a go on the steep free fall ... it was AWESOME! We then saw a fun science show about moving things with levers and catapults.

We then began the long ride home. While camp was fun, there's no place like home!

Keira B and Nereena S (6 Blue)



Parent Reminder

R U OK Day (Thursday 14th September 2017)



Advertisement

TERM 4 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! TERM 4 COMMENCING **25/9/17**



- Soccer training Academy for all children (boys & girls) aged 3 -13 year olds
- Introduces and develops the Soccer skills of its players to produce our future Soccer Stars in a fun and friendly environment!
- Develops your child's social and physical skills with the encouragement of the students being part of a team
- Promotes a healthy and active lifestyle
- Coaches qualified by Football Federation Australia

8 Week Term Pricing (Please Note: 8 Weeks payment is required upfront, prior to commencing)

3-4 years	\$20pp each session > \$160 for 8 week term (2 nd child/renewal \$140)
4-5 years	\$20pp each session > \$160 for 8 week term (2 nd child/renewal \$140)
6-9 years	\$22.50pp each session > \$180 for 8 week term (2 nd child/renewals \$160)
10-13 years	\$25pp each session > \$200 for 8 week term (2 nd child/renewals \$180)

Term 4 commencing 25 September 2017

Age Group	Location	Date & Time
3-4 years	Edensor Park Community Centre 45-59 Allambie Road Edensor Park NSW	27/09/2017 6:30-7:30pm (every Wednesday for 8 week term)
4-5 years	St Johns Park Soccer Field 89 Edensor Rd, St Johns Park, NSW	30/09/17 10:30am-11:30am (every Saturday for 8 week term)
6-9 years	St Johns Park Soccer Field 89 Edensor Rd, St Johns Park, NSW	25/09/2017 6pm-7pm (every Monday for 8 weeks)
10-13 years	St Johns Park Soccer Field 89 Edensor Rd, St Johns Park, NSW	25/09/2017 7pm-8pm (every Monday for 8 weeks)

Contact Head Coach Maythem Abdal on 0420996770 or email
juniorstarssoccerschool@gmail.com for registration details.

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram – Junior Stars Soccer School/@juniorstarssoccerschool