

ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 6 August 2020

St. Francis of the Fields is a community united in faith and committed in action, to live, learn and grow in God's love.

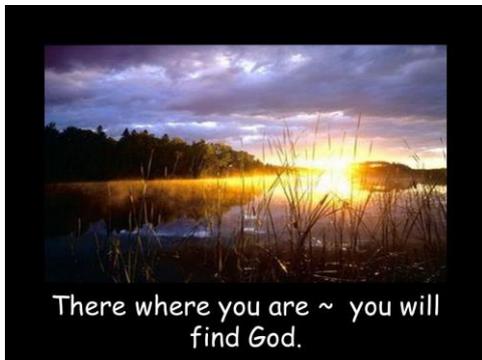
Dear Families,

Mary MacKillop Feast Day is held every August 8th, in honour of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She was the first Saint of Australia, and her influence in the country has spread far and wide. She is recognised for her commitment to the poor, helping those who needed it the most in any way she could. I share with you a prayer that Mary MacKillop shared with her Josephite nuns...

*"Bless those who live in crowded suburbs,
isolated towns, in derelict housing or on the
street, in boarding houses and brick veneer
homes.*

*Bless those alone in crowds and overlooked in
busy communities, those who need the love of
fierce compassion and the intervention of
practical aid to improve their lives.*

*Bless us as we respond to your prophetic maxim:
'There where you are you will find God.'*



Students attending school

The latest criteria for children attending school during home learning is that on-site supervision in rural and regional Victoria will be available to:

- Children whose parents cannot work from home
- Vulnerable children. Vulnerable students are defined as:
 - children in out-of-home care,
 - children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm,
 - children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service, or mental health or other health service).
- Any child with a disability.

The increasing number of covid-19 cases in Bendigo demonstrate the need to be vigilant with our hygiene, social distancing practices and wearing of masks. The situation is no longer just a "metro" issue, it is very much a Bendigo one. Again I ask parents and

caregivers, if you are working from home, please keep your children at home. I pray this will ensure the safety of our students, staff and parents and avoid the possibility of school closure.

Notifying school of students attending school through PAM

I ask that all parents complete questions via PAM confirming student attendance for Week 7 & 8 (24 August to 4 September). **PAM will open on Monday 17 August from 9.00am and close on Tuesday 18 August at 9.00pm.** This will allow the school to finalise our skeleton staffing for Week 7 & 8.

Thank you

I am blessed to be part of our St. Francis of the Fields community. I am incredibly appreciative of:

- Our parent community who are taking on Home Learning, once again, whilst working from home;
- Our staff who communicated with students and parents about the expectations for Home Learning 2.0 and then produced home learning packs in a short period of time whilst also preparing online work for Week 5;
- Marg Hand, who catalogued and distributed 380 i-pads to our students in one day with help from Kerry, Hayley and Jen;
- Our Curriculum Leaders (Nat, Jess, Kate, Amy, Linda and Bernadette) who have contacted the parents of those students who will be supported with intervention programs during home learning;
- Our Parents & Friends Community who purchased the Wushka reading platform for our children to use whilst at home.

Thank you!

Weekend Maintenance

Unfortunately, weekend maintenance is required to be cancelled again whilst restrictions are in place.

Pick up in the afternoon

During Home Learning 2.0 student pick up will return to 3.20pm.

Christ has no hands but yours.

Tim Moloney – Principal

Repeat - Bricklayer Needed

Raelene Gooch – our OASIS Teacher – is asking for a bricklayer to help us with the Memorial Garden.

It is only a small job, and we have the bricks already here.

If you think you might be able to assist with this small job, please email Raelene - rgooch@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au





Pastoral Wellbeing

Maintaining Strong Family Traditions

By Michael Grose



Strong families develop their own traditions and rituals that define them and bind members together. Birthdays, Christmas, Diwali, bar mitzvahs, and Ramadan are some traditions and rituals that families enjoy. They are the coat hooks upon which we hang our family memories. By definition, they are permanent and not set aside when life gets busy.

Rituals can be as simple as a parent saying to a child 'I love you' each day as they go to school, a weekly game of cricket or another sport, or the bedtime-story routine that so many children love. The permanence and uniqueness of rituals give them their significance.

My own family, for example, has developed a very strong food culture that is shown through the traditions and rituals that we maintain. A meal takes time and effort to prepare and there's an expectation that everyone contributes in some way. When the children were young the contribution was in preparation, table-setting or post meal clean up. The tradition of contribution continues as a new generation of children visit and do their bit to assist. Like most traditions this mealtime ritual was nurtured as a result of past parental experiences and gradually became refined over time to reflect our own family's unique identity.

Develop traditions early

Family traditions are best developed when children are pre-school or primary school aged.

Parent approval is important so kids will generally comply when enjoyable family traditions engender a relaxed, calm atmosphere. Adolescents are likely to challenge many of their family's traditions and rituals, which is often difficult for parents to encounter. It helps to establish the traditions that are negotiable and those that are non-negotiable so you can approach adolescent challenges with some flexibility.

Defend them fiercely

When a child tells you that 'everyone at school is allowed to do....' you can reply by saying, "In our family we do it this way." Leaning against family tradition in this way gives you a strength to resist children's pester power. Family traditions and rituals need to be fiercely defended by parents.

Make family meals non-negotiable

This writer recommends that shared mealtimes should be non-negotiable in families. It's no coincidence that countries with strong food cultures are also known for their strong family cultures. Shared mealtimes build connection, are great tools for developing children's manners and respectful actions. They've also been linked to the maintenance of good mental health in children and young people, presumably due to the opportunity it provides parents to stay in touch with their children.

Healthy families are built around traditions and rituals. It's useful to approach the concept of family traditions with a mix of firmness to insist that children adhere to family rituals but also flexibility to accommodate growing independence as children move into the next stage of development.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Regards,

Grace Scalora

Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing

gscalora@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au

RE News....

Feast of the Sacred Heart - Vinnies Fundraiser

The Kennington Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society would like to thank the St Francis school community for their recent generous donation. We are very appreciative of the great support you consistently give to our organisation in helping families in our parish who struggle at various times

Wishing you all the best in these challenging times. Thank you.



Sandpiper Publication

Sandpiper e-News from the Diocese of Sandhurst. Here is the new format for our Sandpiper paper and is now available to view on our website. Click [here](#).



SANDPIPER

Uniform Shop – Term 3

Buxwear have advised us that due to the stage 3 lockdown, the school uniform shop will close and remain closed for at least 6 weeks or until the government changes the restrictions. If your child is attending school onsite during this time and requires uniform items please complete an order form, email it to the school office and one of our staff will fill your order. Take care, Sarah, Stacy and Jade.

YMCA ASC

The YMCA operates an After School Care Program at St Francis of the Fields Primary School. The program operates every school day for children aged 5-12 years. The YMCA also provides care on days of school closure. Families can contact the service on 0459 988 313 or visit 'My Family Lounge' where you can register your child in advance for any bookings. any questions please contact Hazel stfrancis@ymca.org.au.



Catholic Education Sandhurst Board

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd has been established under the auspices of Bishop Shane Mackinlay to oversee the strategic direction of the Diocesan system of Catholic schools in compliance with Australian law and Victorian regulatory authorities as well as in accordance with CECV policy and the Diocesan Charter for Catholic Education.

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified and experienced women and men throughout the Diocese of Sandhurst to join the newly formed Catholic Education Sandhurst Board. Expertise in the areas of education, law, finance, risk management, communications, media and wider pastoral and ecclesial ministry as well as those with an appreciation of the cultural and socio-economic features of a rural diocesan environment are desirable.

This is an exciting opportunity to make a "once in a generation" contribution to Catholic Education within the Diocese of Sandhurst.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

accompanied by a brief covering letter, Curriculum Vitae and the names of two referees are invited to be addressed to

Bishop Shane Mackinlay
via email c/- jtaylor@ceosand.catholic.edu.au

By COB Tuesday 8 September, 2020

*Further information may be addressed to
Jo Taylor at the same email address.*

Maths Learning with Leonie Anstey

Maths Parent Night

We had an incredible parent response to the invitation to learn more about how our students learn maths! Thanks to all of our parents who joined the Zoom meeting last week with Maths consultant, Leonie Anstey. We learnt some engaging games, new maths vocabulary and a gained an insight into ways we can encourage our children to become creative and flexible thinkers when working with numbers. Parent session comments...

**Great workshop and presenter
*Fantastic session...thanks!
Very grateful for this opportunity

**Interesting and a great opportunity for parent community
*Thanks for the opportunity to learn in these trying times!
A fantastic overview...look forward to learning more!



Teachers enjoyed a wonderful day of learning last Friday. We rugged up in the shed, kept our distance and participated in an engaging and interactive professional development day! Staff were keen to take back new knowledge to their students this week!

Leonie's enthusiasm for everything Maths was a great motivator! It was fantastic to learn new games and ideas to use in the classroom! -Mrs McGregor

It was wonderful to be able to play with maths resources and be challenged as a learner. I look forward to sharing my learning with the kids! -Mrs Hudson

Great opportunity to learn new things, exposure to exciting new ideas and confirmation that we are doing a good job! -Mrs Gundry



Leonie was wonderful - a mind that we wish we could have in our classroom each day! A clear and interactive learning experience -Miss Parker

Leonie has a wealth of knowledge and has so much to offer all year levels across the school. I have come away with more confidence in effective and meaningful ways to teach maths in the classroom. -Miss Maud

So many different ways to use fractions, it was fractastic! -Mr Morrissey

Leonie...what a legend! Love the vocab, love the games, love your work! -Miss Barbetti

