



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 22 October 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,

I am writing this newsletter after enjoying yard duty with our children who are dressed up in their Book Week costumes. The energy and excitement of our children is contagious! Thank you to all parents who made the effort (yes, it is an effort) to assist with a costume - I wish you were here to feel the joy. Special thanks to our Librarian extraordinaire - Margaret Hand who ensures each Book week is memorable.

I share with you a simple prayer that may help you focus on the joy of each day...

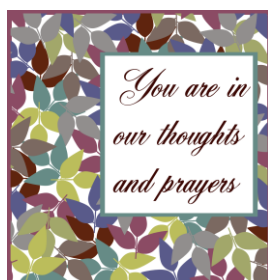
*Lord,
May all that we do this day,
from morning until night,
begin with your inspiration,
and continue with your powerful help.
May our work this day
be rooted in love and mercy,
that we might love you,
and love our neighbors,
as perfectly as you love us.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ. Amen*



Sad staff news

Our staff present in a professional and vibrant manner though we know life deals challenging times for all. Please pray for:

- Maree O'Connor - her mother passed away several weeks ago.
- Nat Shearer - her father passed away one week ago.
- Those staff who are quietly dealing with challenges in their life.



School Advisory Council Elections (School Board)

I am so thankful to Sarah Cody, Kelly McDermott and Anthony O'Brien who have served on our School Board for the past 6, 6 and 3 years, respectively. Sarah has been involved with the Strategic Planning Team in developing the strategic direction of the school - this direction will be lived out over the coming three years. Kelly has been a member of our Finance Team who has helped give life to financing our building infrastructure, including the soccer field and playgrounds. Anthony has been a constant support of wisdom throughout his time with the board.



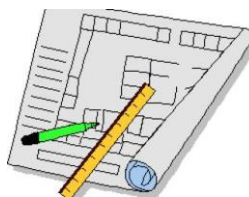
Subsequently, we will be seeking Elections for three new Board members. This position is for a 3-year tenure and we normally meet twice a term at 7.30pm. I would love to be able to work with new faces in the coming years to ensure our school is providing excellent learning & teaching facilities for our children. Nominations must be received by Friday 27 November.

We will be sending all parents a link to an online nomination form later today.

State Government Capital Funding Grant Success

I am so pleased to be able to share Minister James Merlino's words with our community:

"I am delighted to confirm that your application for 'Construction of new learning spaces, administration and staff areas to support enrolment demand' has been approved for the amount of \$4,980,000.00 (excluding GST)."



This grant will be used to build 8 new classrooms, intervention spaces, storage and a sensory room.

Our building subcommittee of Grace Scalora, Julie Langdon, Kelly McDermott, Adam Place and Tim

Moloney will continue to meet to finalise the following steps:

- Contracts with Catholic Capital Grants must be signed (hopefully before Christmas)
- Design and Documentation are finalised - the Building Subcommittee will work towards finalising plans with Y2 Architects.
- Move portables
 - I would prefer to move portables during Christmas holidays to minimise the impact on teachers and children. However, it is unlikely that we will have the contracts ready to do this.
 - If we wanted to move them during the Christmas break we would have to pay the cost of moving ourselves.
- Tender
- Tender negotiation

- Builders onsite - the contract states that we have 12 months to complete all building
- Possible finish date - June 2022

Cyber Safety Revision - Grade 4, 5 & 6



As a result of not being at school for many weeks, and being so reliant on technology in 2020 we thought it wise to take a proactive approach to Cyber safety with our Grade 4, 5 & 6 students. We feel that our job is to prevent any unsafe behaviour and to

help keep our students safe online.

Subsequently, we have asked Grant Fitzgerald from the Catholic Education Office to run an online revision session with our students on Cyber Safety. This will be a follow up session continuing on from the initial session in Term 1. Grant has covered areas such as:

- photos remaining online
- use of age appropriate apps and sites
- What does risky behaviour look like and what is it?
- Why we shouldn't share personal information with strangers
- How do you say no and what to do when asked to share a photo
- What do you need to do if asked to share something inappropriate.

We ask that parents are diligent in supervising their children online as well as checking the age appropriateness of different apps that children are currently using. If you have any concerns with any of the above, please feel free to contact me via email or a phone call.

Term 4 Holidays or Pupil Free Days

During Term 4 our school will be closed on the following days:

- Friday 23 Oct AFL Grand Final "Thank you Day" Holiday
- Wednesday 28 Oct Bendigo Cup Holiday
- Monday 23 Nov Report Writing Day - After School Care available
- Tuesday 24 Nov 2021 Planning Day - After School Care available
- Friday 18 Dec Pupil Free Day

School Uniform

Please note that all children will need to be in the correct Summer uniform now. Thank you.



Term 4 Trial: Newsletter change - Repeat

In Term 4 our newsletter will be distributed electronically each fortnight.

Covid - 19 update

The "normal" start to Term 4 still means a number of precautions must be taken by our community:

- If students are feeling unwell, please keep all children home.
- If symptoms of COVID-19 exist please have your child/ren tested.
- Students are able to return to school once they have tested negative to COVID-19. Please notify the office on 54393191 or office@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au.

Practice good hygiene

- Students and staff members are asked to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds minimum.
- Hand sanitiser is provided in all classrooms and office areas for students and staff. Regular use is encouraged.

Do not drink from drink taps

- All students **must** bring drink bottles from home that are filled with water only.
- Students will be able to refill bottles from the designated taps only.

Parents, volunteers and visitors entering the school

- Parents must enter the school grounds only when essential. If they do have to be onsite, they must report to the office, practise physical distancing and minimise their time onsite.
- Parent-teacher information sessions and interviews must continue to be replaced with online and video alternatives.
- Tours - schools must not conduct on-site school tours for prospective students and their families at this time.

Drop off in the morning

- Please either park in the gravel park or around the oval and have the children walk into class on their own, or with a friend; or
- Drop children off in the drop off area - please have your children ready to move out of the car quickly.

Pick up at 3.20pm

- Parents **must not** queue in the school driveway before the 3.20pm bell due to traffic congestion at the roundabout.
- Parents may park in the gravel and oval carparks and walk to the grass area at the front of the school to collect their child.
- Please ensure your child knows exactly where you will pick them up from.
- Remain in your car, whilst parking or in the pick up zone.
- Have your name on the windscreen so staff can call your child up to the car quickly. This will assist in the flow of cars.
- Remain patient - it will be busy!

Christ has no hands but yours.

Tim Moloney – Principal



LOADING...

LONG WEEKEND





Pastoral Wellbeing

This month on SchoolTV – School Refusal



School refusal, sometimes called school avoidance or school phobia, is not uncommon. It is different to 'wagging' or truancy and is often related to worry or anxiety-related issues about going to school. School refusal may start gradually or happen suddenly. Although it is normal for a child to occasionally miss a day of school, parents should only be concerned if a child regularly complains about feeling sick or often asks to stay home due to minor physical complaints.

School refusal is a complex issue as there is rarely a single cause. It affects children of all ages across primary and secondary levels. It can often occur during times of transition at school. More recently, the Coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the educational experience of all students, affecting some more than others. Dealing with a school refusal child can affect the whole family, adding pressure to an already challenging time. School refusal is not considered a formal psychiatric diagnosis. It's a name given to an emotional and/or behavioural problem.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers will learn how best to approach this issue and work towards a solution. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

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.

Here is the link to this month's edition

<https://sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/school-refusal>

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....

Catholic Mission

October is Catholic Mission Month. You can make a difference this World Mission Month by supporting Catholic Missions work in Cambodia. Help empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia, which provides vital care for those who would otherwise have limited opportunities or support to lead a fulfilling life.

This year we will combine a fundraiser for Catholic Mission and our local St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal with - 'Sockember'. This will be held on Friday, 4 December. Students can wear their favourite socks, and if able please bring along a gold coin donation for these two very worthy causes. If you would like to make a donation to Catholic Mission please visit: <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/ways-to-donate>



Repeat - St Francis Feast Day Celebrations

The new date for our St Francis Feast Day celebrations will be **Friday, 30 October**. We will celebrate St Francis's Feast Day, beginning at 12:00pm, with a liturgy, blessing of the animals and the presentation of the St Francis Awards. The celebration will be streamed live on the school's Facebook page. We invite all of our community to join us online to celebrate St Francis!

Repeat - Memorial Ceremony

November is the month of Remembrance.

At this time each year, we gather in the Memorial Garden and celebrate and remember those who have died and have left a special place in our hearts - especially those who are honoured with a plaque on our Memorial Wall.

This year is a little different as we are unable to mark this occasion with a whole school liturgy.

This year, we will hold a peaceful prayer reflection with our classmates and teachers in our classrooms.

We will talk and reminisce and remember with love those who have died – our friends, family members and pets. And we look forward to a time in the future, when we are once again able to come together as a school community with the families of those honoured on the memorial wall.



NAIDOC Week & FIRE Carriers

NAIDOC Week, which is normally in July, due to COVID will now held on **8-15 November**. During this week, we will celebrate Aboriginal & islander histories and cultures, as well as learn more about the local Dja Dja Wurrung history and culture. The theme for NAIDOC Week is, *Always Was, Always Will Be*. This theme recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

During NAIDOC Week we will also commission new FIRE Carriers on Thursday, 12 November. The Year 5 students have been invited to apply to become a FIRE Carrier at St Francis of the Fields. The FIRE Carrier Project seeks to keep the Reconciliation flame alight in schools, educating the wider community about Reconciliation, our shared history and cultures.



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

Tuckshop in Term 4 - Repeat



The school canteen will continue to operate each Thursday and Friday during Term 4 with several small modifications. Unfortunately, we are still unable to have parent helpers volunteer their time and expertise due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Subsequently, the specials will be removed from the Canteen Menu to ensure Donna and Fiona have the time to prepare and serve the meals for our children.

Please note, previous specials items, School Pies, Sausage Rolls and Chicken Balls, will be available to order individually from the menu. Please check the Term 4 Menu List on PAM.

Uniform Shop – new email address

The Uniform Shop now has its own email address – stf@buxwear.com.au

All orders and queries need to be directed to this address for the Uniform Shop staff to help you.

The uniform order form has also had a make-over and can now be filled in online and then emailed directly. The new form can be found on the school website or via PAM.

Take care, Sarah, Stacy and Jade.



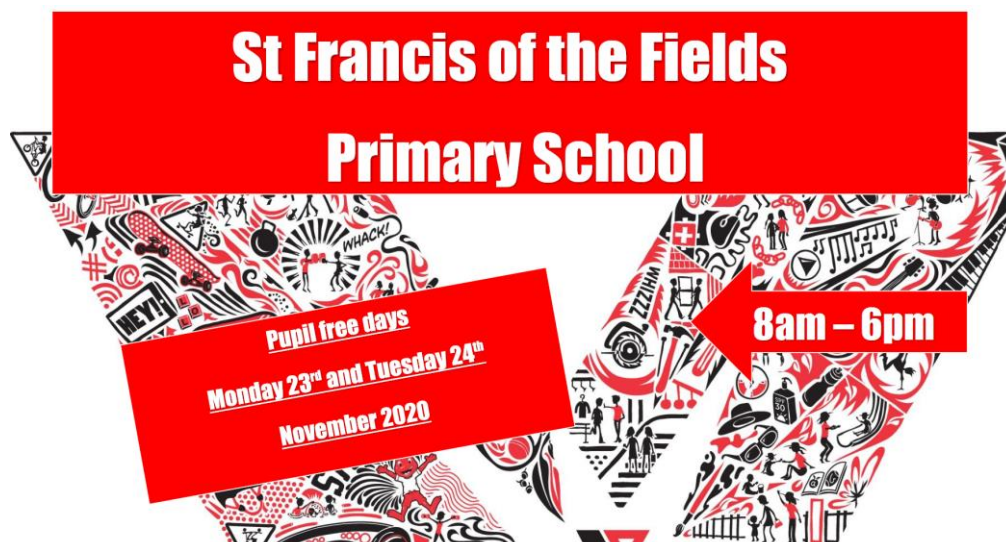
Weekend Maintenance

3	24-10-20	25-10-20	Colville (5K), McDermott (4Z), Sawyer (2S), Dewhurst (5W), Norman (5T)
4	31-10-20	1-11-20	Pollock (2S), Nielsen (2S), Djuric (2S), Higginbottom (1SS), Fitzpatrick (6FD)
5	7-11-20	08-11-20	Hird (Fdn A), Carr (2M), Rodda (2S), Johnson (3H), Giffard (6G)
6	14-11-20	15-11-20	Anderson (Fdn A), Hogan (5W), Jacques (2M), Skipper (6W), McLean (2M)

YMCA ASC

Bookings are now open for the pupil free days in November – see flyer below. We need parents support to run the program for these two days. We need at least six children booked in for us to operate this service on these days.
Thank you, Hazel.

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.



The YMCA will be operating full day care on this day.



To secure your place log into My Family Lounge and place a casual booking or contact us on **0459 988 313**

School Bus bookings – Mandurang service only

If you have a NEW or EXISTING student/s who requires travel on a rural country bus in 2021, you MUST ensure that their travel is approved.

2021 NEW APPLICATIONS and RENEWAL APPLICATIONS open in Term 4, 2020 online via School Bus Management System (SBMS).

This is what you need to do:

EXISTING TRAVELLERS

If your child/ren are existing travellers in 2020, you will need to **RENEW** their travel for 2021. Existing families will already have a family account in SBMS. If you do not know your login details, please contact **PTV's Customer Help Line on 1800 800 007**.

1. Log into your family SBMS account and check that all the contact information is correct and current – this is important during an emergency

2. **RENEW APPLICATION:** Click on the RENEW APPLICATION tab beside the student's name

3. Follow the prompts – be sure to select Term 1, 2021, making sure that the school and year level is correct.

NB. If your student is changing schools/school campus or residential address, please click on NEW APPLICATION, update address (if necessary) and follow the prompts.

NEW TRAVELLERS

Do you already have an SBMS account? If yes, proceed to Step 2. If you do not know your login details, please contact **PTV's Customer Help Line on 1800 800 007**.

If you are new to country bus travel, proceed to Step 1:

1. **CREATE A NEW FAMILY ACCOUNT:** New families will need to CREATE a new family account in SBMS

2. **ADD TRAVELLER/CHILD:** Click on ADD TRAVELLER/CHILD and follow the prompts. Repeat this step if you have more than one new child requiring travel in 2021

3. **APPLY FOR TRAVEL:** Click the NEW APPLICATION tab and follow the prompts making sure that you select Term 1, 2021. Repeat this step if you have more than one new child requiring travel in 2021.

4. Once you have submitted the renewal/new application request, you will need to wait for SBMS to conduct its main churn in December where your request will be processed. New applications will be assessed against the Department of Education and Training's School Bus Program policy's eligibility criteria and if approved, allocate a bus stop and route to the application.

NB. To be eligible for free travel on a country bus, you must reside more than 4.8km from your nearest attending school of the same denomination (government or non-government). If you have access to public transport within 1.6km of your residential address and it meets your school start/finish times, you are required to use it (if you reside more than 4.8km from your nearest attending school of the same denomination, you may be eligible for Conveyance Allowance – please refer to your school for more information).

5. Check your account at the end of December for your travel offer.

6. **ACCEPT TRAVEL OFFER:** Select MANAGE OFFER, and then ACCEPT the travel offer. If you no longer require travel, please DECLINE the offer.

IMPORTANT: A SEAT ON A COUNTRY BUS IS ONLY SECURED ONCE THE TRAVEL OFFER IS ACCEPTED.

If your student/s no longer requires travel, please decline the offer, or advise your school immediately so the seat can be allocated to another student.

UNAUTHORISED TRAVEL IS NOT PERMITTED ON A COUNTRY BUS

It is the family's responsibility to ensure that their child/ren are approved for travel on a country bus. Unauthorised student travellers will be referred to their school in the afternoon, and the family will be contacted to collect him/her.

If you require any assistance with your student's travel renewal or new application, please check with your school or contact PTV ON 1800 800 007.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL, SCHOOL CAMPUS OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS – EXISTING TRAVELLERS

The following year level students will **automatically be removed** from their 2020 bus roll at the end of the year, on the basis that they have finished their education OR will be expected to move to a new school/campus:

- **Grade 6 students who completed their education at a primary school and are transitioning to Year 7 at another school**

In accordance with the Department's School Bus Program policy, when a student moves schools/school campus or residence, and who still requires country bus travel, a **NEW APPLICATION** for travel must be submitted (due to the change of circumstances) and be assessed against the policy's eligibility criteria. This will also ensure that the student is allocated to the most appropriate route and shuttle (if application).

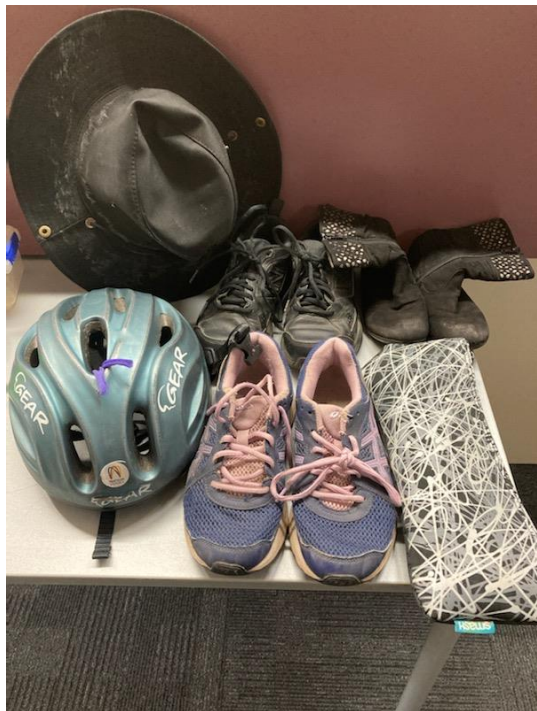
Lost Property....

We have so many items of unnamed lost property waiting to be collected from the office.

If you recognise something in any of these photos, please ask your child to come to the office to collect it next week.

We strongly encourage families to name **EVERYTHING** their child brings to school. It is very sad to see so many things without a home.

If these items have not been claimed by Friday 29 October, they will be repurposed.



Community News.....

"LET'S HIT COVID FOR SIX" CRICKET IS BACK FOR THE SUMMER – SPOTS AVAILABLE

Register On-line via the following link:

<http://www.playcricket.com.au/club-finder/club-details?Id=2728&postcode=3551>

Whilst having a successful registration, we are in a strong position to field numerous teams but we have some spots available in particular for those in U12.

After a successful year with the introduction of our U16 junior girls we welcome & encourage our younger girls along to who may wish to follow in the footsteps of our current girls currently playing. Try something new with a game of a Wednesday evening.

Our **Master Blaster Team's** (8-9 years of age – Friday's 6pm-7:30pm) & **Jenny's ELC Junior Blasters Program** (5-7 years of age Sunday 10am-11am) are now open for registration. Both commencing mid-November.

Requiring further details, please contact the Jets Junior Co-ordinator Brent Yates via email at strathfieldsayejets@gmail.com or by phone on 0434 730 711.

Let's bring back some fun for our youth this summer, they deserve it.

"Live local, Play local"

Brent Yates – Jets Junior Co-Ordinator



BASEBALL IS BACK!!

STRATHFIELDSAYE
JUNIOR BASEBALL

BOYS & GIRLS AGES 7-13

**NEW PLAYERS
WELCOME!**

SEASON STARTS SOON!

Training: **THURSDAYS 4:00pm-5:15pm**
Venue: **CLUB CRT, STRATHFIELDSAYE**

For more information call: **Anthony 0477158444**