

# ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

Newsletter No. 2 – Feb 15, 2024

(Term 1 – Week 3)

The Jaara people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and learn. We pay our respects to the elders and commit to working for reconciliation and justice.

“To Live, Learn and Grow in God’s Love”

## Reminders

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

- ☐ Assembly @2:45pm

### Saturday 17 February

- ☐ Marong Cup

### Monday 19 February

- ☐ Engagement of Volunteer Interview@8.30am
- ☐ Learning Conversations

### Tuesday 20 February

- ☐ Catholic Swimming sports @Bendigo East Pool
- ☐ Learning Conversations

### Wednesday 21 February

- ☐ Foundation Rest Day
- ☐ Learning Conversations
- ☐ School Advisory Council @ 5:30pm

### Friday 23 February

- ☐ Pupil Free Day – Staff First Aid

### Wednesday 28 February

- ☐ Foundation Rest Day
- ☐ Engagement of Volunteer Interview@8.30am

### Friday 1 March

- ☐ Pupil Free Day – Wellbeing

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

- ☐ Division Swimming Sports

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

- ☐ Engagement of Volunteer Interview@3.45pm

### Wednesday 6 March

- ☐ Foundation Rest Day

### Friday 8 March

- ☐ Assembly @2:45pm

### Monday 11 March

- ☐ Labour Day Public Holiday

### Tuesday 12 March

- ☐ Foundation start full time
- ☐ Regional Swimming Sports

### Wednesday 13 March

- ☐ NAPLAN

### Thursday 14 March

- ☐ SCHOOL PHOTOS

### Friday 15 March

- ☐ SCHOOL PHOTOS
- ☐ NAPLAN



## Tuckshop 2024 – Term 1

### Week 3

#### Friday 16 Feb

12.30 – 3pm

Jess McKinley  
Casey Simpson  
Renee Jett  
Nicole Emmerson

### Week 4

#### Thurs 22 Feb

12.30 – 3pm

Nicole Villani  
Chantelle Bennallack

#### Friday 22 Feb

12.30-3pm

PUPIL FREE DAY

## Weekend Maintenance

17-18 Feb Willis (1S) Connolly (6R)  
Fraser (4R)

24-25 Feb Coad (Fdn W) Lennon (5FT)

2-3 March Karvonen (Fdn W)  
Barker(2HL)

*“True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice.”*



*St Francis of Assisi*

Dear Families,

As we begin the season of Lent I still remember a priest I worked with saying that Lent is not a time for “giving up” things, but rather a time for “doing” for others. As mature Christians we should be able to look outside our personal square and look for opportunities to be bearers of kindness, respect, dignity, comfort, love – true reflections of who we are.

I share with you this beautiful Reflection:

### *If I Could*

*If I could, I would teach each child to be positive, to smile, to love and be loved.*

*I would teach each child to take time to observe some miracle of nature – the song of a bird, the beauty of a snowflake, the orange glow of a winter sunset.*

*I would teach each child to feel warmly about those for whom the task of learning does not come easily.*

*I would teach each one to be kind to all living creatures, and to crowd out of their lives feelings of guilt, misunderstanding and lack of compassion.*

*I would teach each child that it is alright to show their feelings by laughing, crying, or touching someone they care about.*

*Everyday I would have a child feel special and through my actions, each one would know how much I really care.*



## Marong Cup

The Marong Cup will be held on Saturday 17 February from 11.00am.

I hope our families are able to take advantage of the many children's rides as well as the delicious food and drinks provided on the day.

Please come along and enjoy a great afternoon. This is the first fundraiser of the school year – we normally receive approximately \$5,000 donation from the Marong Cup Committee in return for our parents working for a short period of time on a stall.

Thank you to the following people for assisting with serving the food:

Time	Volunteer	Volunteer
1.00 - 2.00pm	Brad MacKenzie	Matt Butcher
2.00 - 3.00pm	Brian Cowan	Bronwyn Rodda
3.00 - 4.00pm	Zoe Hctor	Donna Bowe
4.00 - 5.00pm	Sally Jennings	
5.00 - 6.00pm	Ryan Straub	

## School Nurse

With the commencement of our School Nurses, we will be documenting and sending notifications of presentations to the Sick Bay on PAM. If your child presents and is remaining at school, the notification will be sent at 3pm. If your child is required to be collected, a phone call will be made and the notification sent immediately.

***For the safety of our children we require all medical details to be correctly documented. If your child has a known medical condition can you please ensure all details have been added to PAM, including current management plans for asthma, diabetes, and anaphylaxis. Additionally any other relevant medical documents can now be uploaded to PAM under your child's Medical Profile.***

## Advisory Council Meeting

All Advisory Council members are invited to attend our first meeting for the year on Wednesday 21 February at 5.30pm in the Meeting Room.

I look forward to working with each of you to support our community.

## Pupil Free Days

All Catholic Schools are allocated nine Pupil Free Days each year. These days are generally used to focus on the professional development that staff members require to achieve the Strategic and Operational Goals set each year. In order for this to happen the school is closed for the day, though Day Care will be provided through YMCA if enough student interest is registered.

Our Pupil Free Days for the year are as follows:

- Monday 29 January Staff planning day
- Friday 23 February First Aid Training
- Friday 1 March Staff Wellbeing day
- Friday 26 April Staff Spirituality Day
- Friday 19 July Wellbeing & NCCD day
- Friday 29 November Maths Curriculum Planning
- Monday 2 December 2025 Planning day
- Friday 20 December 2025 Planning Day

Please note that we are seeking dates for our Writing PD day. We will notify our school community as soon as it is finalised.

## Swimming Sports

Thank you to our teachers and the CMC students for helping at our Swimming Sports last week. Also a big thank you to our students who participated extremely well and had a great day. Special thanks to Danielle Coates for her organisation and preparation leading up to and on the day. Thanks also to Kate Zealley for supporting Danielle in the preparation. Thank you, ladies.

## How can you help our school?

### 1. Parents & Friends Committee

#### Why do we have a Parents & Friends Committee?

Catholic schools receive approximately 81% of the funding of a similar sized state school from State and Federal sources. This is why Catholic schools are required to introduce school fees. Even with school fees we still require extra funding to match the funds of a state school.

This is where our Parents & Friends committee helps by raising funds that can be used for the benefit of our students.

#### What does the Parents & Friends Committee do?

We meet twice a term in the staff room - normally weeks 2 and 7 of each term - on a Thursday night from 7.30pm.

Our Parents & Friends president, Nathan Baker, provides a wonderfully relaxed and enjoyable environment where we can decide how we can best raise funds for our school students. We have a Treasurer, Andrew Wright, who works closely with Deb McDermott and Tim Moloney in ensuring all accounting meets auditing procedures. Our secretary, Clinton McSwain, ensures well formulated minutes are presented for our community, whilst providing a few laughs.

We have recently had Megan Merrett and Georgina Stevens oversee the fundraising with the support of any parents who are able to help. Megan and Georgina have now stepped down from these roles and we are hoping that we can have 10-12 people to help coordinate one fundraising event for the year.

Initial 2024 Fundraising ideas from last weeks P & F meeting are as follows:

#### Term 1

- Marong Cup

#### Term 2

- Trivia Night - May 3 (TBC)
- Mother's Day Stall
- Debutante Balls

#### Term 3

- School disco - July 18
- Father's Day Stall

#### Term 4

- Colour/Rainbow Run

#### How can you help?

- Please come along to our next P & F meeting on Thursday 14 March at 7.30pm in the staff room
- Please bring a friend or two.
- Offer fundraising ideas.
- Offer to help coordinate one of these fundraising events for the year, if possible.

## 1. School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council includes the 5 leadership team members of our school and between 5-8 parents who ensure that our strategic goals are achieved. Parents and staff work hand-in-hand to review our practices using data from students, staff and parents (surveys, academic, wellbeing and Catholic Identity data).

This year we will bring our School Engagement Survey results to our Advisory Council. We will also be holding a School Improvement review in Term 2. The survey and school improvement results will be shared with the council so that we can prepare our new 4 year Strategic Plan.

Our School Advisory Council meets once per term on a Wednesday evening. We have been experimenting with start times and can be flexible depending on the needs of our community. At this stage our starting times are 5.30pm though we had been commencing at 7.30pm previously.

We are in need of another four parents who are interested in supporting our school for the next three years.

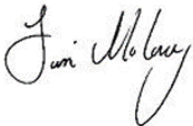
I hope that you can assist our school by being part of one of these committees or the different volunteer opportunities that serve our community so well.

If you are able to help please place your name and contact details on the [attached link](#).

### Assembly

6H (Josh Hann) will lead our first school assembly on Friday 16 February from 2.45pm in the Shed. All parents, grandparents and guardians are most welcome to attend.

Christ has no hands but yours.



Tim Moloney  
Principal



The Wellbeing Barometer survey has proven to be an invaluable tool for schools, providing insights into the state of youth mental health and wellbeing. Whilst last year's results focussed the spotlight on areas of concern, there were also many highlights that demonstrated the resilience and adaptability of students and emphasised the necessity of prevention strategies.



Participating in this year's survey, will assist in identifying areas of strength and concern, as well as pinpointing opportunities for early intervention. Previously gathered information has helped support families as they navigate difficult conversations that enable understanding and foster connections to build relationships.

This survey is part of an ongoing, longitudinal study, with the results being instrumental in tailoring support for students and their families. Participation is strongly encouraged, as it provides a comprehensive view of students' experiences, challenges, and achievements over the past year. Its aim is to capture a comprehensive picture of young people's lives, allowing for a tailored approach to enhance mental and emotional wellbeing.

We encourage you to take a few moments to complete a survey for each of your children. This will help us determine the nature and extent of your concerns and how best to support families in the months ahead. Responses remain anonymous and will only be reported on an aggregated basis. You are asked to base your responses on observations made in the last 12 months.

Acquiring the skills for future independence, taking healthy risks, and giving young people the opportunity to emancipate from parents, are key developmental tasks that are essential if we are to stave off the impact of mental illness in the future. Please reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you or your child, please reach out to the school or seek professional medical advice.

**Here is the link to your special report**

[https://sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-wellbeing-barometer-2024-au](https://sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-wellbeing-barometer-2024-au)

Regards,

Grace Scalora  
Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing.





## RE News...

### WELCOME MASS

On Friday 9 February, we celebrated our new school year and welcomed our new and returning students, staff and families to 2024. Fr Jake Mudge our new Parish Priest celebrated our Mass and it was a wonderful welcome for him with so many of our community present for the liturgy.

Thank you to Fr Jake, our families, students and staff for making this such a beautiful celebration for our faith community.



### SHROVE TUESDAY...THURSDAY

We had a great pancake day today. Thank you to all our family helpers who were able to make it today instead of Tuesday and did an amazing job making, cooking and delivering pancakes. The children loved making and eating the pancakes.





## BURNING OF THE PALMS

On Tuesday 13 February, we celebrated the Burning of the Palms. Due to the weather, we were not able to burn the palms or the students' Lenten Promises. However, Fr Jake celebrated our liturgy with the Year 6 Social Justice Leaders leading a prayerful and reflective ceremony to mark the day before Lent.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and lasts for 40 days until Holy Week. During Lent we are asked to try to change, to become better versions of ourselves. We can do this by trying to be more like Jesus – taking time to pray, to share what we have with others and to give or take something up to help others and ourselves.

On Wednesday 14 February, an Ash Wednesday liturgy was held for our students and families. We were fortunate to have Fr Jake celebrate our liturgy and he was once again assisted by our Year 6 Social Justice Leaders. The Social Justice Leaders launched Project Compassion for our school and shared some of what they had learned at the 2023 Just Leadership Day from Kerry Stone the Sandhurst Diocese Caritas Coordinator. These passionate students shared that we are in the top 20% of the richest people of the world because we have a refrigerator to store our food, a cupboard to put our clothes in, a bed and a roof over our head. We have much we can share with others in vulnerable communities.

They shared about the Catholic Aid Organisation - Caritas and how they help vulnerable communities around the world to support themselves through education, business and community projects to provide clean water, toilets, job opportunities and income through communities and individuals setting up businesses. The students were able to learn how the money they have raised for Caritas Ks has supported people around the world to have clean water, get jobs, start businesses, access education and to live a better life.

**Congratulations to these leaders for a meaningful and strong start to Project Compassion we need to now take them on through learning about the challenges that Project Compassion support people with and raising money to help Caritas with their work.**



## A MESSAGE FROM CARTIAS AUSTRALIA ABOUT PROJECT COMPASSION -

Dear Parents,

At Caritas Australia, we believe that Parent participation is instrumental in fostering a spirit of compassion and unity within our school community, and so we invite you to get actively involved this year with Project Compassion! Let's team-up, not only to support your amazing kids in their efforts, but also to lend your strengths to a cause that's making waves of positive change around the world. It's the perfect chance to *be a part of something bigger*, spreading compassion, joy and unity globally.

Wondering how you can get involved as a parent? Why not show your support by *Giving it up for Lent*?

### Don't know what *Give it up for Lent* is?

It's a simple yet impactful initiative where we invite you to voluntarily 'go without' a daily habit or indulgence this Lenten season. Whether it's forgoing your daily coffee, temporarily bidding farewell to sweet treats, or choosing to spend less time on electronic devices, ***Give it up for Lent*** is a personal commitment that aligns with the spirit of reflection and sacrifice during this sacred season.

By participating, you not only contribute to your own spiritual journey, but also join a collective effort to make a positive impact on the lives of others through our Project Compassion fundraising activities. Your small sacrifice can lead to significant change and create a ripple effect of compassion within our community.

So, *what will you give up for Lent?* Your choice, no matter how big or small, becomes a powerful symbol of solidarity and empathy. Join us in this meaningful challenge and let's make a difference together.

***Scan the QR code to find out more about how you as a parent can get involved and set up a fundraising page to join the school team!***

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features a QR code for fundraising, with the school's logo above it and the text 'St Francis of the Fields Primary School 2024 Caritas Ks Fundraising Page' below. The right section has a green background with the Caritas Australia logo at the top. Below the logo, it says 'PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS' in large white letters, followed by '2024' in a large brown font. At the bottom of this section is the URL 'caritas.org.au/project-compassion'. On the far right, there are three small photos: a girl holding a book, a girl in a Caritas uniform, and a boy in a blue shirt working on a project.

This is our first-ever call to parents to jump on board, and we're eager to make it a resounding success. Together, let's unlock the potential of kindness and compassion in 2024! **Let's show our kids that when parents team up, *incredible things can happen!***



## ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY

On Tuesday 13 February, we marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Apology. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, on behalf of the Federal Government, publicly apologised to the Stolen Generations. The Stolen Generations are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families and communities by successive colonial and Australian governments.

It was a significant milestone for the healing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who suffered as a result of past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation. It is important that, as a nation, we commemorate and acknowledge the wrongs of the past, while reflecting on the work that still needs to be done to bring about justice, reconciliation and harmony for our nation.



*Creator Spirit of all,*

*Empower us to honour the history of this Great South Land, to remember  
the story of those who have gone before us.*

*May you comfort all those whose history on this land  
is a story of hurt and pain.*

*May your wisdom and guidance be with all who work towards a future of  
unity, reconciliation and peace within this Great South Land of the Holy  
Spirit.*

*We ask this prayer in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.*

### RCIC & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For children who are in Grade 2 or older who would like to be baptized in the Catholic Church, our Parish will be running a program called The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) in Term One of 2024. Enrolments are being taken now.

Please email Sally at [kpsacraments@outlook.com](mailto:kpsacraments@outlook.com) or at the Parish office on 5443 3337 for more information. The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will then take place in Terms 2 and 3.



For those children who missed out on the Reconciliation program last term, and who would still like to complete the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist in Grade 3, we will be running a catch-up Reconciliation program in Term One. Please make contact with Sally or the Parish office as soon as possible.

Lisa Hitchcock  
**Catholic Identity Leader**

## Performing Arts news...

### Project Compassion Launch

On Tuesday, the grade 5 and 6 choir students attended and performed at the Project Compassion Launch in Hargreaves Mall. Alongside other local primary schools and CMC students, the choir performed for the community to commemorate the launch of project compassion and Caritas Ks in our schools. Students were treated to some pancakes while watching the other schools perform. Congratulations to the choir on a wonderful performance, but also for the way they represented our school at the event.



### Choir performances 2024

Below are currently confirmed choir performances for 2024. Students will also perform at numerous school events and visits to Assisi Kinder.

- Bendigo Choir Competition Ulumburra Theatre Wednesday 22 May
- Healing Mass TBD – Term 2
- Arts on Show St Francis of the Fields Tuesday 10 September
- Carols St John of God Hospital TBD – Term 4

### Rock Bands

Congratulations to all the students who have joined our school rock bands this year! We cannot wait to hear you rock out at all your upcoming performances. Thanks to Sam and Min for all their efforts in organising this great opportunity and experience for our students.

### Lunchtime Concerts

Our lunch time concerts have started again on Mondays. We had some fantastic performers get up, showing lots of confidence and courage. Some of our new prep students also had a turn performing, cheered on by their Grade 6 buddies and friends.



### Performing Arts News

If you know of any events or student achievements we can share in the newsletter, please share with Mrs C by emailing [kcameron@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kcameron@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au)

**Kiara Cameron**  
**Music Teacher**

## PE News...

### Upcoming Sporting Dates:

- Catholic Swim Sports- Tuesday 20th Feb
- Divisional Swim Sports- **Monday 4th March- New Date**
- Regional Swim Sports- Tuesday 12th March

### St Francis School Swimming Sports:

A big thank you to the teachers, support staff and parents that assisted with the running and overall success of the school sports. And! A big thank you to the students for their wonderful participation and sportsmanship!

### House Point Results- 2024:

**(Bacchus) Blue house** was our 2024 swim sports winning house!! Here are the final numbers.

**4th- Yellow (Clare): 432**

**3rd- Green (Francis): 463**

**2nd- Red (MacKillop): 470**

**1st- Blue (Bacchus): 579**

### Best contributor medals:

12/13 year boys: **Alex Kelly**

12/13 year girls: **Jade Hayward**

11 year boys: **Darcy Kanzamar**

11 year girls: **Milanke Haasbroek**

**10 year boys:** Josh Rodda

**10 year girls:** Matisse Wardell & Eloise Rodda

8/9 year boys: **Will Campbell**

8/9 year girls: **Harper Lockhart**

### New Records:

**Congratulations to the following students that broke school records during our sports!!**

#### 12 Year Boys:

Andeon Haasbroek

- **Butterfly**

#### 12 Year Girls:

Jade Hayward

- **Freestyle**
- **Backstroke**
- **Butterfly**

Willow Wardell

- **Breaststroke**

#### 11 Year Boys:

Jude Place

- **Freestyle**
- **Backstroke**

Darcy Kanzamar

Hayden Ramm

### New Records:

#### 11 Year Girls:

Milanke Haasbroek

- **Backstroke**

#### 10 Year Boys:

Josh Rodda

- **Freestyle**
- **Backstroke**
- **Breaststroke**
- **Butterfly**

#### 10 Year Girls:

Matisse Wardell

- **Breaststroke**
- **Butterfly**

Elke Cowan

- **Breaststroke**

Each Monday and Wednesday at recess, we offer the students an opportunity to improve their running capacity and technique. We alternate having a session in the sports shed, where the focus is on running drills and technique and the other session where students can improve their aerobic capacity. We aim for these to be short, but effective. We hope to see more students join over the coming weeks! Students are encouraged to check the PE notice board outside the shed for any changes.

### Regional Little Athletics Championships

Last weekend we had 2 children compete in the Regional Little Athletics Championship in Shepparton. Congratulations to both of our children on their wonderful performances and personal bests. All the very best to them as they head to the upcoming State Championships!!

### Results:



- Lilah Maddern- 2nd 80mh & 4th high jump
- Adelaide Ciano- 1st 70m, 3rd 100m & 200m 3rd



### North Melbourne Footballers

On the 12th of February the AFL North Melbourne footy team came to our school. We had Riley Hardeman, Cooper Harvey, Cam Zurhaar and Jayden Stephenson. The grade five and sixes asked many questions and learnt lots of new things. We learnt the positions they played. There are 44 people in a team but 22 play in the AFL and 22 play in the VFL. Thank you Mrs Coates for organizing this for the grade sixes and grade fives and Mr Hann for all his assistance and for helping ask our questions. We really appreciate it.

Written by Xave Tyrell & Greta Pollock



**PE Awards:** Each assembly week, we present a tuckshop award.

The criteria for receiving these awards is very straightforward. Students demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, effort and attitude will be the prime candidates for these awards.

Congratulations: **Nash Dickson & Maddie Singh**



**Sporting News:** Parents, if you news that should be shared in the newsletter, please let me know by emailing [dcoates@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dcoates@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au) or sending it directly through to [newsletter@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au)



*Danielle Coates & Shannon Baird- PE coordinators*



The team from GoodWe will be visiting the school on the 19<sup>th</sup> March in their fantastic roadshow vehicle!

After the workshops, all participating children will be able to enter an amazing competition to win prize packs, with the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners from each grade, going on to the EcoSmart Kids Championship Awards event at the Melbourne Home Show this August, to win trophies and even more amazing prizes! For more information, please visit [www.ecosmartkids.com.au](http://www.ecosmartkids.com.au)

## SCIENCE NEWS...

**International day of Women and Girls in Science**  
11th February 2024

This is a day to celebrate the work of female scientists and encourage girls to think about a career in science and unlock the potential of half the population!

**CELEBRATING WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE AT ST FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS**

**GRADE 5 & 6**

Last Friday the Year 5 and 6 students were invited to participate in a Science Team Challenge, "Science Barbie has gone on holiday." Students were set three challenges: Barbie Bungee, Barbie's Cargo Aeroplane and Barbie's Fast Car. Everyone who participated should be very proud of their resilience, determination, critical thinking and problem solving skills that they demonstrated!

Scientific Flip-L-Flips (Daniel Gleeson, Tom Darlow and Isla Hogan) were the winning team, placing on the leaderboard for two out of the three challenges. Congratulations! A very honorable mention to Flora Strachan who joined their team voluntarily to replace Isla whilst she went to another extra-curricular activity for a short period so they could continue to perform as a team. Flora, you are a great leader and a role model to others. You showed initiative and kindness so others could succeed.  
Mrs Jensen

**GRADE 3**

On Wednesday an excited group of Grade 3s participated in the Barbie Bungee challenge. Using rubber bands, wool and masking tape they constructed and tested their Barbie bungee. The winning teams were able to give Barbie an exciting drop and get close to the ground without hitting it. It was fantastic to see the teams working well together and having a go at something new whilst showcasing their problem solving skills.  
Mrs Widdicombe

Three photographs are included: the first shows a group of students in green shirts standing in a line; the second shows three students (Daniel, Tom, and Isla) holding a trophy; the third shows a student testing a Barbie bungee on a wooden structure.



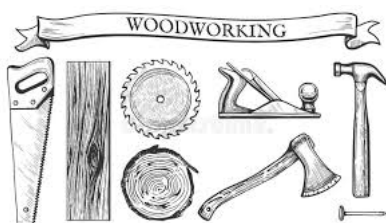
## Calling all Woodworkers & Needlepointers!!

For those new to the school, we have two social groups for our parents – 'Woodwork' is for the men and 'Needlepoint' is for the ladies.

We get together each term to catch up, meet new parents, unwind and enjoy each other's company. Over the years we enjoyed progressive dinners, winery tours, pub nights, footy nights and bike ride along the O'Keefe Trail, just to name a few.

You can find out info of our upcoming events in the Newsletter or by joining our Facebook pages. Search up 'Frankie's Woodworkers' and 'Needlepoint Group'. Tag other Parents and join in the fun!

Otherwise, you can contact Leigh Stevens 0407 865 875 for Woodworking or Bek Stevens 0418 103 199 for Needlepoint.



## Year Level - Unit Newsletters

- ❑ Foundation - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 1 - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 2 - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 3 - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 4 - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 5 - Term 1, 2024
- ❑ Year 6 - Term 1, 2024



### **UPDATE FROM YEAR 2s**

The Year 2 Dr Seuss dress up day date has been changed and will now be held on Week 8 Thursday 21st March.

### **CANTEEN**

Our canteen is always very grateful for the support of our parent volunteers. If you would like to help out in the canteen please contact Fiona Thompson at the school on Thursday or Friday.



# Courage & Crowns

IS COMING TO ST FRANCIS!

TO SUPPORT OUR GIRLS IN GRADES 4-6



**SESSION 1:** Thursday 7th March

**SESSION 2:** Thursday 21st March

On both dates, Megan will work with students during the day & then present a special hour for Mums & Daughters from 7 pm.

**ALL WOMEN WILL DEVELOP A GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF:**

♡ SELF-LOVE AS THE FOUNDATION FOR GREAT CHOICES

♡ HOW TO WORK WITH STRONG EMOTIONS

♡ HOW TO CREATE A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF & OTHERS



*"If you have a daughter who has forgotten how to love themselves, send them along to Megan. The genre of music will change in your house in no time!"*

**SELF LOVE • SELF WORTH • HIGH STANDARDS**

Please follow the link below to register for this event

[Register for Courage & Crowns](#)

## Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) 2024



Dear Parents,

The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance from the Victorian State Government to assist families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school.

The allowance is available to parents who are required to –

- drive their child more than 4.8 kilometres to school (if there is no school bus)
- or drive their child more than 4.8 kilometres to meet the nearest school bus to the school
- the child must attend their closest government or non-government school (Catholic)
- the allowance is based on kilometres travelled and not based on any financial eligibility

Distance is calculated by the shortest practical route from home to the school or from home to meet the nearest school bus to the school. Distance can be calculated by using Bing Maps.

Forms required to be completed by a parent are available to download from our website

<http://www.sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au/downloads/forms> or can be picked up at the office.

1. Conveyance Allowance Application 2024 (one per family which includes all children at St Francis of the Fields)
  2. Conveyance Allowance Authority to Pay Form 2024 (one per parent claiming)
- **Parents who received the Conveyance Allowance in 2023 do not need to complete a new form in 2024 unless their children enrolled at St Francis of the Fields in 2023 have changed (ie Yr 6 student left at the end of 2023 or a Prep child commenced in 2024).**
  - **If your family circumstances have changed a new form needs to be completed in 2024.**
  - **If you have recently changed address, please advise the office if you are no longer eligible.**

If you are unsure of the bus stops of the free country buses to St Francis of the Fields, this information is also available on our website <http://www.sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au/downloads/bus>

Further information can be found at

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

If you are unsure if you may be eligible, or require help in completing your Application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or email me at [swade@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au](mailto:swade@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au)

With thanks,

Stephanie Wade (Administration)

December 2023



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- ☐ **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- ☐ **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



# 2024 NETBALL REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

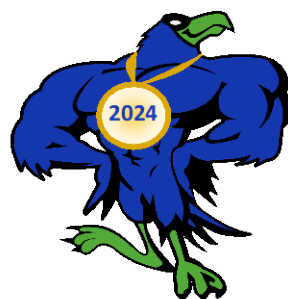
## Year 6 Tryouts

Monday 12 Feb, Friday 16th Feb &  
Monday 19th Feb  
1:30pm in The Shed

Follow the link attached  
Email: [stfrancisnetballclub@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisnetballclub@gmail.com)

## St Francis Falcons Junior Football Club

*The 2024 Bendigo Junior  
Football League season  
starts in late April and we  
welcome registrations for  
returning and new players  
to join the Falcons.*



To play in the age groups below, players year of birth must fall within the following:

**Under 9 Mixed—Born in 2015, 2016 or prior to 30/4/2017**

**Under 10 Mixed— Born in 2014 or 2015**

**Under 12 Girls or Mixed— Born in 2012, 2013 or 2014**

Fees for the 2024 season will remain the same a previous seasons and includes all registration fees, insurance, jumpers, awards etc.

**U9 Mixed, U10 Mixed, U12 Girls—\$135**

**U12 Mixed (Grades 4, 5 & 6)—\$150**

To register, please follow the prompts at the online link:



<https://www.playhq.com/aff/egister/619077>

For more info contact Adam on 0419 518 980 or Rhys on 0427 967 138

**SIGN UP & INFO  
SESSION  
15<sup>th</sup> FEB 3:30PM  
St Francis Oval**



# PLAY FOR KICKS

Superkick is next level fun for  
7 to 12 year olds who are new  
to footy, or want to continue to  
grow their skill levels.

**BENDIGO ALL GIRLS**  
**SUPERKICK CENTRE**  
MONDAYS STARTING 26TH FEB  
4 WEEKS  
4:30PM- 5:30PM  
SHADFORTH PARK, NORTH BENDIGO





# HUNTLY FAMILY FUN DAY



Proudly sponsored by Agnico Eagle Fosterville

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**SUNDAY  
FEB 25, 2024**

**10AM  
TO 1PM**

#### FREE ACTIVITIES:

THE ZONE JUMPING CASTLE AND INFLATABLE WATER SLIDE  
WATER FUN WITH HUNTLY CFA • ART AND CRAFT  
SPORTING ACTIVITIES • FACE PAINTING • FREE GIVEAWAYS!  
RENEGADES FAN VAN - INFLATABLE CATCH MAT

*Don't forget  
a towel!*

#### FOOD/DRINKS:

BBQ (MEAT AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS) AND DRINKS  
- ALL \$2 EACH • FREE FRESH FRUIT • COLIBAN WATER  
REFILL UNIT (BYO DRINK BOTTLE)

*Limited shade - bring  
along your hat and chair.*



**STRAUCH RESERVE  
14 GUNGURRU ROAD, HUNTLY**



# MARONG CUP DAY 2024

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY




SUPPORTING BENDIGO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## KIDS RIDES AND ACTIVITIES

Packages available • Umbrella Packages \$320 • Mini Marquees \$110pp  
General Admission \$15 • Kids 16 & Under Free minimum 10 people



 Marong Racing Club

**BENDIGO JOCKEY CLUB**

Phone 03 5448 4209 [country.racing.com/bendigo](http://country.racing.com/bendigo)



## MARONG CUP DAY 24

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY

### CONTACTS

#### President

Tom Maher 0408 910 497

#### Marong Racing Club Inc.

PO Box 2705

Bendigo DC 3554

Email [tom@maherrealestate.com.au](mailto:tom@maherrealestate.com.au)

## KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

Kids Ride passes only \$15

if purchased on the day

If prebooked at school \$10



## BOOK YOUR 2024 PACKAGES NOW!

### ADMISSION PRICES

<b>Adults</b>	\$15
<b>Concession</b> (aged Pension and TP only)	\$10
<b>Cross over to Members Reserve</b>	\$10
<b>Children</b> (16 years and under)	FREE

### TRACKSIDE UMBRELLAS

Fenced off enclosures on the lawns are set aside for package patrons.

• Market umbrella	<b>\$320</b> (10 people)
• Table	<small>*Price does not include alcohol</small>
• Chairs	<small>*Price does not include admission</small>

### 'SILKS' DINING PACKAGES

Silks dining room is located within the Members Reserve.

Set high above the track, this is a spectacular location to view the course in air-conditioned comfort.

• Admission to 'Members Reserve'	<b>\$99</b> per person
• Reserved seat for the day	<b>\$89</b> per person members
• Free drink on arrival	
• Two course hot luncheon	
• Air-conditioned comfort	
• Racebook	
• Private TAB facilities	
• Cash bar	

### ULTIMATE MARQUEES

• Mini Marquee	<b>\$110</b> per person
• Large table	<small>*Minimum 10 people</small>
• 10 chairs	
• Anti pasto platter and sandwiches	
• Admission to the course	

### TERRACE AND DECK PACKAGES

The ultimate area to enjoy the races at the Bendigo Track!

• Marquee	<b>\$700</b> (20 people)
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- Large market umbrella
- 2 garden tables
- 20 chairs
- 1 large wine barrel
- 6 toilet bar stools
- Racebook for each guest

*Beverage packages can be pre-ordered or drinks purchased at the cash bar.*

For all Package Bookings contact the office at the Bendigo Jockey Club

**03 5448 4209**

visit our website [www.bendigojockeyclub.com.au](http://www.bendigojockeyclub.com.au)

or email us on [info@bendigojockeyclub.com.au](mailto:info@bendigojockeyclub.com.au)



VICTORIA POLICE



# PREVENTING THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

## KEY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- *Lock all doors and close all windows*
- *Secure your keys*
- *Park in a well-lit and secure area*

## THEFT PREVENTION CHECKLIST

### Lock all doors and close all windows:

- Lock your car, even when parking at home, in your garage, or leaving your car for a moment
- Never leave your car running when unattended
- Close all windows, including the sunroof
- Keep your car locked while driving
- Install a car alarm
- Install anti-theft devices such as an alarm, engine immobiliser, steering wheel brake lock, a wheel lock or a GPS tracker
- Installing a bonnet lock

### Secure your keys:

- Never leave your keys in your car
- Do not put your name and address on any keys
  - use a mobile phone number
- Keep spare car keys in a secure place at home or at work

### Park in a well lit and secure area:

- Park off the street. A locked garage is best or a driveway if you don't have a garage
- If parked in a driveway, consider the installation of a sensor light and CCTV
- If you need to park on the street, park in a well-lit area

## MY CAR HAS BEEN STOLEN, WHAT NEXT?

- Do not confront the thief. Your safety is more important than your possessions
- Call your insurance company

### Report it:

- For emergencies, to report a crime in progress, or for immediate police attendance, call Triple Zero (000)
- For non-emergencies, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or report online at [www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-andonline-reporting](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-andonline-reporting)
- You will need the following information:
  - registration number and state registered
  - vehicle make, model, year, body type and transmission (automatic or manual)
  - colour of body and upholstery
  - engine and VIN number
  - accessories fitted (for example, radio/speakers, anti-theft devices, LPG tank)

**For more information,  
visit [police.vic.gov.au/your-safety](http://police.vic.gov.au/your-safety)**



**Triple Zero (000)**

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



**Police Assistance Line (131 444)**

For non emergencies.



**Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)**

To provide crime information. It can be in confidence.



# Residential SAFETY HABITS



## LOCK ALL VEHICLES

Whether inside a locked garage/shed or out in the driveway, ensure your vehicles including caravans/motorbikes etc are always locked

## LOCK ALL GATES & WINDOWS TO PROPERTY

Use padlocks to secure all gates to your property and install window locks if able



## INSTALL CCTV IF ABLE

There is a huge range of cctv available these days from \$100 a unit to \$6000 for a complete set up. Some cctv have inbuilt alarms and sensor lights

## LOCK ALL DOORS TO HOUSE

Always lock the garage-to-house door as well as back yard/laundry doors to your home



## LEAVE LIGHTS ON AT NIGHT

Leave your front lights on and/or outdoor lights on during the night if able

## SECURE YOUR VALUABLES

Always secure your valuables outside your vehicle. Begin storing your car keys in a secure location in your home Eg a safe, a drawer, a cupboard and not in the garage or near the front door



## EXTRA SECURITY

Check out the range of products available such as window/door sensor alarms, auto sensor lights, garage roller door locks, siding door locks and more

## DON'T BE A HERO

Never approach thieves or intruders



## DON'T SHARE

Avoid sharing that you're away from your home on social media or to the public but do let your neighbors know to help keep an eye on things if able

## REPORT

Report all suspicious activity to Police and neighbours and always call 000 in an emergency



## **SAFETY TIPS – continued...**

- \*If you see suspicious activity happening call 000
- \*If you wake up and review your CCTV for example and see suspicious activity then call crime stoppers
- \*Begin a "night time routine" of security in your home E.g. lock everything up at 9pm before going to bed
- \*Do a boundary walk of your home RIGHT NOW and see if there are any dark areas that need lighting, trees that need cutting back for hidey holes, bins that need to be moved (to stop them being used as a ladder for climbing over fences) and anything that is not secure
- \*Turn your outdoor lights on during the night