



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 27 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,

I share with you a poignant reminder from Joan Chittister...

"Every year in celebrating our birthdays and the birthdays of those we love we are called to remember the gift of life itself. We take time to ask ourselves what we have done with our lives, what we have done for others with our lives. We see the potential of every single life in the world."

Loving God, give me the grace to find joy where I am and to celebrate it always.



Term 3, Week 10 and Term 4

As soon as I am informed about the return to school procedures from our State Government I will inform our school community with an email.

School Board

Our School Board will meet via Google Meet on Wednesday 9 September from 7pm. I look forward to working with all Board members once again.

Planning Day

All staff members will be holding a Planning Day on **Friday 11 September**. This will mean that school work will be provided for all students, though google meets and corrections will not take place during the day, as staff members will be planning with their units. This may be seen as a good opportunity for your children to take a breather, if you wish. Onsite supervision will still be provided for those children whose parents are not working from home.

2021 Foundation Interviews

We will begin our Foundation interviews online beginning next week. An email has been sent to all enrolled families explaining how each family can book an appointment time with Grace Scalora or Tim Moloney.

Recent Advice from Victorian Department of Education and Training

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know:

1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home. If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.
2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:
 - a. fever
 - a. chills or sweats
 - b. cough
 - c. sore throat
 - d. shortness of breath
 - e. runny nose
 - f. loss of sense of smell or taste.
 - g. In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.



For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
 - call a general practitioner
 - use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) online self-assessment tool.
3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative. If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they must isolate until they receive clearance from the Department of Health and Human Services.
 4. If a person is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) the Department of Health and Human Services will get in contact to tell them they are a close contact of a person who is confirmed to have coronavirus (COVID-19). A close contact must quarantine at home.

Notifying school of students attending school through PAM

I ask that all parents complete questions via PAM confirming student attendance for Week 9 & 10 (7 September to 18 September). **PAM will open on Friday 28 August from 9.00am and close on Tuesday 1 September at 9.00pm.** This will allow the school to finalise our skeleton staffing for Week 9 & 10.

Learning Conversations - Repeat

Our learning conversations in Term 3 will look a little different with them being held via video conference. Learning Conversations will be held in Week 8 (Monday, 31 August - Thursday, 3 September)

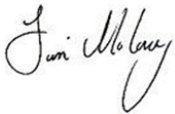
We will be using **'Whereby' video chat room to facilitate our learning conversations online.** We invite you to book your online time via School Interviews as per usual. See instructions on the next page. Once you book in you will receive the booking confirmation and this will include the teacher's individual link for their 'Whereby' Chat Room.

You are not required to download or install anything for you to access 'Whereby'. We invite both parents and the student to be part of the learning conversation where the students' learning will be reviewed and new goals will be set for Term 4. This is a lovely time for the student, parents and teacher to celebrate your child's learning. **Bookings will close on Friday, 28 August @ 4pm.**



Please Note: If you have had a PSG with your classroom teacher you will not be required to have a learning conversation unless you feel it necessary. We are also aware that some families may choose to have a learning conversation instead of a PSG.

Christ has no hands but yours.



Tim Moloney – Principal



Dear Parents,

Our Term 3 Learning Conversations will look a little different with them being held via video conferencing. We will be using **'Whereby'** video chat rooms. Parents are not required to download any apps to accommodate this. A link will be sent to you in your booking confirmation.

Learning Conversations will be held on the week of Monday 31 Aug to Thursday 4 Sept, 2020

Interviews are strictly 15 minutes and spaces are limited. If you require more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate meeting.

Bookings open **Monday, August 24 at 9.00am.** Please go to:-

- www.schoolinterviews.com.au or
- click on the quick link – SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - in the Simon Everywhere/PAM school app. and enter the code -

ptyct



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click FINISH your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately. If you do not receive your email, please check your junk mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if email address is incorrect.

DO NOT DELETE the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe. This email contains the link for your booking appointment.

REMEMBER TO ADD YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR - reminders will not be sent home.

Bookings must be finalised by **Friday, August 28 at 4.00pm.**

If you need to view, cancel, change or print your bookings:

- Click on the link in the confirmation email you received after you made your bookings
- OR return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code and the email address you used when making your bookings.

Pastoral Wellbeing

Strategies for Successfully Raising Boys

By Michael Grose



One of the keys to parenting success is the ability to adapt strategies and principles to suit the gender of the children in your family. That's easy if you share the same gender or were surrounded by siblings of that gender in your family origin.

It's not so easy if your experience of children of a particular gender is pretty thin, or you just can't fathom what makes a gender tick. Here are some essential strategies to help you successfully parent the boy in your life.

Understand their psychology

Many boys feel uncomfortable standing out from the crowd and will go to extraordinary lengths to blend in - wearing the same clothes, dumbing down rather than standing above the pack, and enjoying the same interests as their peers. The need to fit in impacts so much of their behaviour and attitudes.

Work with their physiology

Boys are constantly fighting their physiology. Differing maturity rates affect boys' school readiness, their transition to secondary school and their transition into adulthood. There's no doubt - it takes longer to grow a boy!

Crack their communication code

Boys will respond if the communication method suits them. Time and space are important factors to use in your favour. The use of banter, shoulder-to-shoulder communication and movement are some other ways to get young male conversational clams to open up.

Match their relational style

Some boys like to talk, others like to share an activity, some like you as the adult to do something for them. Others are very kinaesthetic and love to be cuddled and hugged, while some just love gifts and mementos. Work out the relational preferences of the males in your life and you'll discover a wonderful way to build or deepen your relationship.

Build a management repertoire on respect and fairness

Respectful, fair treatment are essentials if you want to gain a boy's cooperation. Many learn from experience rather than the fine words of parents so be prepared to allow them to learn some of life's lessons the hard way. They also respond favourably to visual measures such as gestures, charts and lists as they play to their strengths and take the authority away from you.

Know that confidence is key

Helping boys feel confident can be tricky. It's part environmental - that is, allowing them to spend time in places and activities where they experience success. Part personal - that is, they respond to encouragement and private, descriptive praise (often rejecting public praise) and part patience, as it takes longer for many boys to find their feet.

Play to their learning strengths

Knowing a boy's learning strengths can be the way to unlock his learning potential. My own son was not a great reader but his visual acuity and oracy skills were exceptional. By allowing him to play to these strengths, while at the same time working on his literacy, he was able to leave school seeing himself with an abundance of confidence as a learner.

Build their emotional smarts

Boys education expert Ian Lillico believes that much of boys' aggression that plays out at home and at school stems from a denial of their feelings. It's essential to help boys recognise and give voice to their emotions safely and in healthy ways so they don't act out angrily, aggressively and violently.

Defuse their digital focus

The current crop of digital devices and online games that have many boys glued to screens with zombie-like expressions on their faces play right into the hands of boys. The need for balance between real world activities and the digital world has never been greater than it is for our boys right now.

Build an attitude of respect

Create conversations with boys about respectful treatment - what it looks like and feels like. Pick them up on disrespectful attitudes and behaviour they may show toward others, including siblings. Respectful relationships need to be a high priority when raising boys. Our daughters depend on it.

Coach boys in interpersonal skills

Girls are primed for interpersonal skill development while boys often need to be taught the intricacies and nuances of working with and relating to others. Give young boys scripts for making friends, asking a teacher for help or how to solve a problem with a mate. Coach teenage boys in the finer points of talking with adults, speaking in different situations and give them ideas about how they should speak to and treat girls.

In closing

Research tells us that parenting boys can be more problematic than parenting girls, particularly in the early and primary school years. With a solid understanding of what makes a boy tick, a toolkit at your disposal of boy-friendly communication, management and confidence-building techniques, the confidence to support your boy as a continuous learner and a willingness to coach him personal and respectful relationship skills you will be well-prepared to give your son the support and parenting he needs to become a fine and successful young man.

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....

St Vincent de Paul Thank You!

The Kennington Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the St Francis of the Fields School Community for their recent generous donation.

We are extremely 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 and thank you, The Kennington Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society



CARITAS: Project Compassion

Kerry Stone the Diocesan Coordinator for Caritas Australia has forwarded a thank you for our Project Compassion fundraising and awareness raising. Thank you to everyone in our community who once again participated and donated so generously.

Season of Creation

The **Season of Creation** is an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home taking place from 1 September – the World Day of Prayer for Creation – to 4 October – the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year's event takes place within the context of the special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, which Pope Francis opened on Sunday, 24 May the 5th anniversary of his encyclical.

The context for this year is "the precarious state of 'Our Common Home'", with Pope Francis asking, "What kind of world do we want to leave those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

Creation Day, also called the World Day of Prayer for Creation, opens the season each year. Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, the World Council of Churches, and many other leaders have called the faithful to celebrate this day. Globally, we as Christians are invited to join the online prayer service to come together in a joyful celebration of our common cause.



World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Tuesday, September 1 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Register online to attend - <https://gccm.controlshift.app/events/season-of-creation-global-ecumenical-online-prayer-service>

Confirmation and First Eucharist (Communion)

St Therese Parish is inviting children, with their parents' permission, of grade 2 students and students in the upper classes who have not made their Confirmation and First Eucharist to consider joining them on a Spiritual Sacramental Journey.

The Spiritual Journey will commence with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during the fourth term 2020 and the celebration of **Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist** during the second term 2021.

If the child/ren have not been baptised or have not been received into the Catholic Church, and they would like to receive the Sacraments, with your permission, they may undertake the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)**, a four-week program, to be held during first term 2021 so they may be baptised.

If you would like more information regarding this Sacramental Journey and or the RCIC Program, please do not hesitate to contact either

Joe Van Dillen, Parish Sacramental Coordinator, on 0400 314 040 or by email pa.kennington@gmail.com,

Lisa Hitchcock, Catholic Identity Co Ordinator, at St. Francis of the Fields PS,

Donna McNamara, Catholic Identity Co Ordinator at St. Therese's PS,

or **Fr Andrew Fewings**, Parish Priest, St Therese Parish.



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

Repeat - 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

Dear parents.

If you have not notified the After School Care team that your child will not be attending during the school closure, could you please let them know or mark your child as absent on the 'My Family Lounge' app on your phone. By marking them as absent will not affect your payments or bookings. 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.



COVID-19 Assistance from the City of Greater Bendigo

The City of Greater Bendigo has a number of services and supports available through a helpline to assist families impacted by COVID-19, including general information and advice, food relief, financial relief information, etc.

The City of Greater Bendigo Helpline information is available 7 days a week on phone 5434 6237 or via email covid19relief@bendigo.voc.gov.au

Information is also available on <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/>

ASSISI SPOONVILLE:

At Assisi Kindergarten last week we started making an Spoonville with the children.

This is a mental health initiative that has taken off around the world as a way of connecting communities.

All the Spoonvilles around the world have been created as something fun, interactive and safe to do during Covid-19.

"With communities locked down and unable to get together themselves, there are no physical distancing rules for Spoony people and so Spoonville populations everywhere are growing and growing."

Making a Spoony person is fun for all the family and a great activity to keep children and grown-ups busy and it's lovely to see the smiles on the little ones faces when they visit a Spoonville near them!"



We would like to invite the families at St Francis of the Fields to decorate your own Spoony person to add to our community. We have prepared a space on the verge near the Assisi kindergarten car park for you to add your Spoony people to should you like to. There is a sign that marks the space.

A loving reminder that we are unable to gather in groups during Stage 3 restrictions, but a walkthrough during your daily exercise is encouraged. If you would like to, take a photo of your Spoony person and tag us using the hashtag below.

#assisisspoonville2020

<https://spoonvilleinternational.com/>

Lightning Reef Program

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM SPRING 2020

WEEK ONE 21 SEPT - 25 SEPT

CREATE WITH PAPER Mon 21 Sept

Get creative making and decorating your own papier mache sculpture and have fun with paper themed games and activities.

LEGO MASTERS Tue 22 Sept

You've seen the show, now test yourself in our Lego Masters day. Use your Lego skills with your team to complete the Lego Challenges. Lots of brick building fun!

SPACE DAY Wed 23 Sept

Join us as we travel to outer space for some fun, out-of-this-world activities! From rockets to moon sand we explore all things space!

BOOK MANIA Thur 24 Sept

Come dressed as your favourite book character and enjoy games, activities and art all about books.

AROUND THE WORLD Fri 25 Sept

Pack your bags and travel with us as we explore art, craft and food from different countries around the world.

WEEK TWO 28 SEPT - 2 OCT

CAMPING FUN Mon 28 Sept

We bring the camping fun to us. Enjoy toasted marshmallows by the fire plus fun games and activities throughout the day.

CRAZY CARTOONS Tue 29 Sept

Learn the art of cartoon drawing with our virtual class then make your own picture frame to display your art. Relax in the afternoon with one of your favourite cartoon movies.

LIFE IS LIKE A DREAM Wed 30 Sept

Have a dreamy day making dream catchers, friendship bracelets and other dreamy activities. Oh so relaxing!

ART ATTACK Thur 1 Oct

We explore many ways to make art using clay, paint and even recycled materials. What masterpiece will you create?

PARTY DAY* Fri 2 Oct

It's party time! Come along and celebrate the last day of the holidays with heaps of fun games, activities and yummy food!

*Please speak to service about any dietary requirements

Kangaroo Flat Program

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM SPRING 2020

WEEK ONE 21 SEPT - 25 SEPT

WOOL WORKSHOP Mon 21 Sept

How many woolly creations can you make as we spend the day in the wonderful world of wool.

EXPLORING THE SENSES Tue 22 Sept

Dive in and try activities that stimulate all your senses. We'll be exploring sight, sound, smell, taste and touch with a variety of interactive experiences.

READY, STEADY, COOK!* Wed 23 Sept

Today the food journey is in your hands. You get to make a variety of delicious foods to enjoy throughout the day. Yummy!

*Please speak to service about any dietary requirements

ART ATTACK Thur 24 Sept

We explore many ways to make art using clay, paint and even recycled materials. What masterpiece will you create?

BOOK MANIA Fri 25 Sept

Come dressed as your favourite book character and enjoy games, activities and art all about books.

WEEK TWO 28 SEPT - 2 OCT

PJ'S AND PANCAKES* Mon 28 Sept

Roll out of bed and head over to the holiday program in your PJ's. Cook and decorate some yummy pancakes on our PJ Day!

*Please speak to service about any dietary requirements

AUSSIE OUTBACK Tue 29 Sept

Discover the beauty and wonder of Australia as we delve into our own backyard to learn a thing or two about our own native plants and animals.

CARTOONS AND TECH Wed 30 Sept

Learn the art of cartoon drawing with our virtual class and chill with your own tech devices.

BYO Tech. No internet. Games to be G or PG only. Don't forget to pre-charge your device as you will not be able to charge at the program.

INVENTIONS AND CREATIONS Thur 1 Oct

Create your own invention from recycled materials and showcase it to your friends. We will have heaps of other creative activities on hand too.

PARTY DAY* Fri 2 Oct

It's party time! Come along and celebrate the last day of the holidays with heaps of fun games, activities and yummy food!

*Please speak to service about any dietary requirements

\$84 per day - bookings can be made through your My Family Lounge account
What to bring: Don't forget your broad brimmed, bucket or legionaries hat, sunscreen, snacks, lunch and drink bottle.

BENDIGO SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Lightning Reef Primary School | 74 Holmes Rd, North Bendigo VIC 3552
p: 0428 516 192 | e: bendigo@ymca.org.au | w: childrensprogram.ymca.org.au



\$84 per day - bookings can be made through your My Family Lounge account
What to bring: Don't forget your broad brimmed, bucket or legionaries hat, sunscreen, snacks, lunch and drink bottle.

KANGAROO FLAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

St Monicas Primary School | 97 High St Kangaroo Flat VIC 3555
p: 0400 160 933 | e: stmonicas@kangarooflat@ymca.org.au | w: childrensprogram.ymca.org.au



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