



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 26 March 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,

In this unsettling time we are being forced to think differently for the benefit of our students, parents and community. Whilst this can be challenging I take solace from Albert Einstein's words...

"A mind that opens to a new idea never returns to its original size."

THANK YOU

I am very grateful to be part of our school community. Our parents have been generous with their patience when waiting for the direction from our governments and education departments. I have had a number of people express their appreciation for the simple acts of kindness initiated by our parents and staff - simple things like dropping around food to those who are in need; or staff members who have dropped around school books and pencils to the homes who could not pick up their materials. Let's keep passing on those small acts of kindness.

Term 2 - What could it look like?

Unfortunately, I cannot predict what is likely to happen. However, I will let you know once confirmed by our Department of Education. At times there has been a disconnect between our politicians, education department, and the Catholic and Independent school sectors, causing delays in updating our community accurately. This has proven frustrating.

Our school has planned for 3 scenarios:

Possible scenario	Action taken by school
School remains open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School classes will operate as normal. Hygiene practices will continue to be taught and modelled; deep school cleaning will continue; we will strive for social distancing wherever possible.
School remains open for essential services families and home learning provided for the rest of our children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our school will likely operate a reduced number of classes dependent on the number of students who need to be taught. Class teachers will be required to offer home learning opportunities. Teachers have already planned two weeks worth of open ended tasks that will be emailed to all families. Readers, library books, work books, pencil cases, and i-pads have been sent home in preparation.

School closes and home learning is provided.

- Teachers will call families and children once a week to check in.
- Teachers in Yr. 4-6 will use Google Classrooms to provide home learning opportunities.
- Teachers in F-3 will provide ongoing work in a variety of formats.
- A google site is being developed where all learning can be accessed by our students and families.
- A number of online platforms have been reviewed and will be accessible to all students.
- Our school has purchased an online reading platform that provides levelled readers for F-4 students.
- School has provided an i-pad for each student in Year 4 (end of Term 1).
- An email has been sent to all Foundation to Year 3 students to audit devices in homes. The purpose of the audit is to assess how many of our families can access online learning.
- Your teacher will provide clear routines using Google Meet from Week 3.

Term 2 dates

- Wednesday 15 April School starts for students
- Friday 17 April Pupil Free Day - Level 2 CPR training (in the shed for social distancing)
- Monday 8 June Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Tuesday 9 June Pupil Free Day: Maths PD - Leonie Anstey

Joint Parents and Friends and School Board AGM - Postponed.

To ensure the safety of our community we have postponed the AGM meeting that was to be held on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm.

Parents & Friends Community Meetings

Our Parents and Friends leaders have decided to postpone all P & F meetings during Term 2 to ensure the safety of all members.

School Board meeting

Our School Board meetings will continue to meet on 29 April and 3 June via an online platform (to be decided).



School Holiday Maintenance

Over the holidays we will be completing the following works at our school:

- The garden out the front of the school will be completed.
- The school oval will be sprayed, aerated, seeded, top dressed and fertilised. We will need to keep off the oval for 3 weeks.
- A deep clean of all classrooms will occur.

2021 Enrolments

If you are considering enrolling a child at St. Francis of the Fields in 2021 please log onto our website as we have the required information to make an informed decision, as well as access to enrolment applications. Our student and principal-led tours may not be undertaken in our Open Week if our school is closed. Subsequently, we intend to provide a shortened Facebook Live tour on Tuesday 19th May from 9.30am, if closed.

If we are unable to hold our School Information Night we will hold a Q & A session with our Leadership Team via Facebook Live on Thursday 21 May at 7.30pm.

Christ has no hands but yours.
Tim Moloney – Principal



Pastoral Wellbeing

SPECIAL REPORT:

Preparing for Home schooling

Home schooling could soon be a reality for many adult carers as nations act to implement strategies in the prevention of COVID-19. The daunting task of establishing new routines and schedules, whilst juggling work responsibilities, could prove to be disruptive and challenging for families and schools.

Some young people will transition seamlessly, whilst others may struggle. Therefore it will be vitally important for parents to be vigilant in looking for signs of anxiety and depression. Parents will need to continue to be reassuring and supportive in this time of uncertainty and acknowledge that this may be a stressful time for students of all ages.

Schools will be working hard behind the scenes to ensure a child's academic needs are met, but parents will need to play a key role in providing them with the structure and groundwork for success. Young people will be looking towards their parents to keep things in context and help ease the transition to a different learning environment.

In this Special Report, parents and caregivers will be provided with some guidelines on how best to navigate this time of transition with minimal disruption. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we 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 your special report

https://sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-preparing-homeschooling



SPECIAL REPORT

Preparing for Homeschooling



In summary - Preparing for Home schooling

1. Create a daily schedule.
 - Replicate the school timetable.
 - Study time, learning time, leisure time and household chores
2. Set up a learning space.
 - Discreet learning space NOT in the bedroom
 - Turn off all distractions eg. mobile devices.
3. Encourage other interests.
 - Supplement interests with other tools.
4. Reassure your kids
 - Acknowledge it is a stressful time
 - Some days will be easier than others
 - Offer reassurance to just do their best
 - Allow for the fact that students will be holding a lot of tension around changes.
 - They will need time to adjust.
5. Prepare nutritional meals.
 - Snacks for school day should be per usual
 - Avoid grazing all day
 - Foods should have a nutritional punch.
6. Schedule outdoor activities.
 - Walking, bike riding, running
 - Spend quality time as a family.

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.

Grace Scalora

Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing

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Fete Raffle Results

Congratulations to the following winners of our 2020 Fete raffle:

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| 1 st Prize – (Rycor Plumbing voucher) | Charlotte Daniel |
| 2 nd Prize – (Bendigo Floor & Home Ctr) | Anna Grieve |
| 3 rd Prize – (Bendigo Cycles voucher) | Mick & Bill |
| 4 th Prize – (Bendigo Mazda) | Julie O'Keefe |
| 5 th Prize – (Vantage Fuels voucher) | Brendan Hand |
| 6 th Prize – (Edwards Providore) | Brendan Parker |
| 7 th Prize – (Refresh Day Spa) | Max |
| 8 th Prize – (Palmer's Gym) | Katrina Van Dillen |

