



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 20 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 beautiful reflection by Pope Francis that could refer to these very times.

*“Through the darkness of today’s
conflicts,
each and everyone of us
can become a bright candle,
a reminder that light will overcome
darkness
and never the other way round.”*



Be gentle on yourselves

Our parents are being faced with many worries that may include financial difficulties, employment security, home learning and the inability for their children to play sports and be with their peers.

I ask our parents that if you have any of these concerns, please consider:

- Seeking fee relief from Tim Moloney by contacting the school on 5439 3191.
- Reducing the demands of home learning by talking with your child's teacher and suggesting that you will focus only on:
 - The literacy and numeracy, or
 - Take a family rest day once a week or fortnight.
- If seeking support with mental health, feel free to consider:
 - Emailing our School Counselor, Maree O'Connor on moconnor@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au
 - Call Access EAP or other qualified practitioners.

Fr. Andrew - 40 years a priest!

Fr. Andrew was delighted and thankful that many of our students, staff and parishioners took the time to celebrate his 40th anniversary of his ordination on Saturday 15 August by being part of his “drive by”. I am glad our parish could show Andrew the high regard he is held in.



Learning Conversations

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 open on Monday, 24 August @ 9am and 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.



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.

Parents & Friends - Thank you!

The Parents & Friends executive has approved of the following purchases on behalf of our school families:

- Indoor basketball rings have finally been installed at a cost of \$25,000.
- School TV has been well used by our families over the past year. The P & F executive approved \$4,200 to be spent on another 12 month subscription.

Please note that the Parents & Friends have been able to support our school families during these challenging times due to their prudent spending and significant fundraising over the past years. I pray that our community will continue to help with this essential fundraising next year when deemed safe to do so.



For Sale - Basketball rings

If you would like to purchase our existing basketball rings please contact the office and make an offer. The buyer will also need to remove.

Onsite schooling

Please remember onsite supervision will only be available to:

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

If children are unwell, please keep them home.

Christ has no hands but yours.

Tim Moloney – Principal

RE News....

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.



Pastoral Wellbeing

Encourage kids to occupy themselves

By Michael Grose



A child's ability to fill in their own time and cope with moments of boredom are important independence skills to develop. Children have less practise at keeping themselves occupied than those of past generations. You have many jobs as a parent, but constantly entertaining your child, should not be one of them. These ideas will help:

Invite them to keep themselves busy

When your child tells you that he or she is bored they are bringing you a problem to solve. Boredom is your child's problem, not yours. If this happens, encourage your child to keep themselves busy by asking questions such as "How can you keep yourself amused?"

Make a list

If your child is stuck for ideas, make a list of activities that they can refer to when they're bored. Include a variety of activities such as creative tasks, performance tasks, crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor games, music activities, reading and helping. Place the list in a convenient place with easy access and visibility.

Make a boredom buster jar

Cut up a list of boredom busting activities and place them in a jar. When your child is stuck for an idea to keep him or herself amused, invite them to select an activity from the boredom buster jar. Ask your child to add enjoyable activities to the jar over time.

Encourage plenty of green-time

Today's children spend more time in front of screens, and less time outdoors than those of previous generations. Not only is time spent in natural environments refreshing, relaxing and rejuvenating, but It's also a wonderful way for kids to relieve boredom. Encourage your child to spend some of their free time outside in natural environments to promote good mental health and develop their confidence.

Help find their interests

If your child struggles to keep him or herself occupied, consider helping them identify a hobby or interest that they enjoy. Often finding that one activity a child loves or excels in makes a huge difference to their self-esteem and wellbeing, and can become the driver for future career choice.

Build in downtime

A trait common among healthy families is the propensity for everyone to enjoy spending downtime or unstructured time together. It's during downtime that parents and children share activities together, which promotes better relationships and helps children's informal learning.

Most children when given unstructured time will rise to the occasion (even after some complaining) and will find interesting things to do. By encouraging them to find something "to do", other than filling their time with screen-based activities, you are promoting a fabulous life-skill in your kids.

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



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/>

SPOONVILLE:

We have created an Assisi Spoonville. 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!"

Keep an eye out at kindergarten as our Spoonville community grows.

<https://spoonvilleinternational.com/>

