



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

Newsletter No. 1 – Jan 30, 2025

(Term 1 – Week 1)

The Jaara people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. They have lived here for thousands of years. We commit to working for Reconciliation and justice for all Aboriginal people and to learning more about the Jaara

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

Reminders

Friday 31 January 2025

- ☐ Foundation attend 9am - 12.30pm

- ☐ Yr 3-6 Swimming

Monday 3 Feb 2025

- ☐ School Uniform Shop open 8:30-9:30am

Tuesday 4 Feb 2025

- ☐ Yr 3-6 Swimming

Wednesday 5 Feb 2025

- ☐ Yr 3-6 Swimming

Thursday 6 Feb 2025

- ☐ Yr 3-6 Swimming

- ☐ P&F Meeting @ 7.30pm

Tuesday 11 Feb 2025

- ☐ Yr 3-6 Swimming

Sports @ Bendigo
East Pool: 9.30am-1.30pm

Friday 14 Feb 2025

- ☐ Welcome Mass 9:15am



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

St Francis of Assisi



Dear Families,

Fr. Jake Mudge and our staff warmly welcome all new and existing families to St. Francis of the Field’s School family.

We pray that you will find St. Francis a place where “You Live, Learn and Grow in God’s love”.

Prayer

Lord God,

As we approach the beginning of a new school year,

may we do so with a sense of wonder,

anticipation, exhilaration

and an overt love of the work each of us is called to do.

May our days be both challenging and rewarding.

May we be the role models that our young both need and deserve.

In all we do, may we be people of faith,

commitment, spirit, energy and hope.

Amen

Tuckshop 2024 – Term 4

Week 1

Fri 31 Jan
12.30 – 3pm

Kim Kelly
Bec Foster

Week 2

Thurs 6 Feb
12.30 – 3pm
Fri 31 Jan
12.30 – 3pm

Anna Mudoti

Sally Arundell
Helen Harrington
Lotte Dubyna

Week 3

Thurs 13 Feb
12.30 – 3pm
Fri 14 Feb
12.30 – 3pm

Weekend Maintenance

1-2 Feb Fraser (5FT)
Karvonen (1W)

8-9 Feb Willis (2E)
Coultas (2HL)
O’Neill (4C)

15-16 Feb Burns (5W)
Quinlan (2E)
O’Sullivan (6Z)



Welcome

We warmly welcome our new members to our school that include:

- Alicia Mansfield (Inclusion Education Co-Leader with Linda Cartwright)
- Hannah Russell (Year 3)
- Rachelle Mangan (Year 6)
- Lucy Wade (Year 1)
- Luke Freeman (Behaviour, Wellbeing & Safeguarding)
- Joe Hartney (Year 4 Learning Leader)
- Hamish Morcom (Year 3)
- Tom Schofield (Year 4)
- Will Edwards (Year 2)
- Abbi O'Connor (Learning Support Officer)

We also welcome our returning staff:

- Anna Sier (Year 5 – Thursday & Friday)

Beautiful Baby News

Over the holidays several of our staff celebrated the beautiful gift of new life. They include:

- Lauren Nankervis with Rowan welcomed Willow into their family.
- Darby Walsh with Katie welcomed Zephyr into their family.
- Brylie Parker with Jarrod welcomed Freddy into their family.



School Nurse & Medical updates

St. Francis of the Fields are fortunate to have Bronwyn Karvonen and Chelsea Mazzarino as school nurses from Monday to Friday. Both will be supporting all students in administering medication, ensuring children with diabetes, asthma and anaphylaxis are well supported as well as catering for other major medical conditions.



I ask that all parents update their children's medical profiles on PAM, especially their asthma and anaphylaxis safety plans so that we can adhere to each plan as required.

In addition, I ask that parents update their child's epipen, if required.

Opening School Mass

All families are invited to celebrate the beginning of the school year on Friday 14 February at 9.15am. We will come together as a community in the "shed". Please be aware that this is our sacred space so I ask that parents refrain from bringing coffee cups into the mass setting.



PAM - Forms to be returned to school via PAM (Parent Access Module)



- Excursion/Swimming Permission Form
- Update Medical profiles
- Updated Asthma Plan (for those students who need one)
- Anaphylaxis plan (for those students who need a plan)
- Use of Student Photographs consent

Uniform

The 2 year uniform transition has finished and it is expected that all children are wearing the complete new school uniform. Thank you to all families for ensuring their child/ren are wearing the correct uniform. I have reminded the children that they need to:

- Wear the correct school socks (not Globe, Nike, etc). White with sport uniform and navy with general uniform
- Tie their hair back if it is over collar length (avoid nits)
- Wear ALL black shoes – either runners or leather shoes (except on sport days)

2025 St. Francis of the Fields staff

Parish Priest

Principal -
Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing -

Foundation M -
Foundation B -
Foundation D -
Foundation W -
1 R -
1 SF -
1 M -
1 W -
2 M -
2 E -
2 HL -
2 S -
3 D -
3 M -
3 GB -
3 R -
4 H -
4 W -
4 C -
4 S -
5 W -
5 ZS -
5 FT -
5 M -
6 C -
6 M -
6 R -
6 Z -

Administration / Finance -
Administration -
Music -
Art & Craft -
Librarian -
Technology -
Indonesian -
OASIS -
Science -
Inclusion Education Leaders -
Catholic Identity -
Curriculum Leader: Numeracy -
Numeracy Intervention -
Curriculum Leader: Literacy -
Literacy Intervention -
Behaviour, Wellbeing & Safeguarding -
Phys Ed Teacher/Coordinator -
O.H & S -
Teacher Aides -
 Foundation -
 Year 1 -
 Year 2 -
 Year 3 -
 Year 4 -
 Year 5 -
 Year 6 -
School Counsellor -
School Nurse -
Tuckshop -
Gardens & Maintenance -

Fr Jake Mudge

Tim Moloney
Grace Scalora

Morgan Maud

Naomi Burns & Ash Barbetti
Donna McNamara
Kate Williams

Craig Ryan

Ange Simpson & Laura Flood
Mia Shanahan
Lucy Wade

Milly Hughes

Will Edwards
Gab Hudson & Cherise Le Brocq-Joppich
Natalie Shearer

Felicity Davis

Hamish Morcom
Kate Gundry & Kim Boulton
Hannah Russell

Joe Hartney

Renae Westley
Graeme Coleman
Tom Schofield

Dave Waters & Clare Warfe

Jo Zimmer & Anna Sier
Donna Freeman & Cam Taylor
Jacob Morrissey

Luke Cramer

Rachelle Mangan
Holly Ryan
Rhys Zera

Deb McDermott
Michelle Janssen | Stephanie Wade | Jeanette Grenfell
Stacie Mason & Luke Freeman
Carmel Fitzgerald & Cherise LeBrocq-Joppich
Sue Johns & Hayley Wright
Cam Taylor
Jacqueline Pethybridge
Matt Butcher
Jess Widdicombe & Emma Jensen
Linda Cartwright & Alicia Mansfield
Dave Waters
Kate Ellis
Nicole McDermott
Marg Brohm
Bernadette Sporn
Luke Freeman
Danielle Coates, Laura Flood & Ash Barbetti
Trevor Wright

Simone Rodgers, Montanna Maud & Katrina Evans
Belinda Marsh & Hayley Wright
Ange Oldham & Jordan Sharp & Abbi O'Connor
Sue Johns & LSO
Kerry Bone
Annette Exell & LSO
Kate Zealley
Maree O'Connor
Bronwyn Karvonen & Chelsea Mazzarino
Fiona Thompson, Bec Stratton & Deb Schintler
Shane Owins, Trevor Wright & Gerard Keogh

Learning Conversations: Term 1 - Week 4



These conversations will take place in Week 4 this term, between **Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th February**. This is a great opportunity for you to meet and greet your child's classroom teacher and inform them of their strengths, challenges, social capabilities and any other important information that you think may have an impact on their learning this year, as you embark on this journey together. Our teachers are looking forward to meeting you all and starting a learning relationship to support the learning of your child in 2025.

Students attend the learning conversations with their parents for part or all of the conversation.

It is important to note that teachers will not be providing information regarding learning goals, assessment results or academic progress at this time.

There will be more information sent home in next week's news bulletin regarding the booking of these appointments.

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 - 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.

Some of the fundraising we have done in the past have included:

- Mango drive
- Father's Day Stall
- Mother's Day Stall
- School disco
- Trivia nights
- Colour Run

Please note that the Debutante Balls are coordinated by a separate committee.

How can you help?

- Please come along to our next P & F meeting on **Thursday 6 February at 7.30pm**.
- Please bring a friend or two.
- Offer fundraising ideas.
- Offer to help coordinate one of these fundraising events for the year, if possible.

2. School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council includes the 6 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).

The Advisory Council will help support the Leadership Team in implementing 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 time is 5.30pm though we had previously commenced at 7.30pm.

We are in need of another two 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 can help please place your name and contact details on the attached link.

School Calendar

Our electronic school calendar is now available on the school website. It will be constantly updated as dates for events are made known and will be a good source of information as events are added. Families are encouraged to keep checking the calendar in case changes or additions have been made.

Please click on this link to access the calendar - [Calendar](#)

Swimming Program



Thanks to the excellent organization of Danielle Coates, our PE coordinator, we will begin the swimming program for our Year 3-6 children. Our children will complete their swimming program with the St. Francis School Swimming Sports at Bendigo East Pool on Tuesday 11 February from 9.30am. All are most welcome to attend.

By commencing our program in such an organized manner we are able to give our children the benefit of competing at our school swimming championships prior to the Catholic (Feb 19), Division (Feb 28), and Regional (March 11) Swimming Sports Championships. Well done Danielle!!

Dates for our 2025 Foundation Students

Friday 31 January - first half day of school for Foundation students (9.00 - 12.30pm)

- I ask all parents to practice a hug and kiss goodbye before entering the classroom.
- We encourage all our families to continue the success of orientation day and enable their child to walk into their classroom independently. Please consider the necessity of your family remaining in the classroom on the first morning as we hope to create a calm and welcoming environment.
- We want our students to easily locate their friends, classroom teacher and find an activity to engage with. Please be considerate of the noise and quantity of adults in the classroom, to ensure our classrooms are not overwhelming for any of our students.
- I ask that all family members move to the Community Centre at 9.00am, or earlier, to enjoy a cuppa with Grace, Maree and Tim. School information will be shared at this time.

Wednesday 5 February and Wednesday 12 February– MAI Screening assessments for ALL Foundation students

- Foundation MAI (Mathematics) Screener will be held for all Foundation students.

Friday 14 February - Welcome Mass at 9.15am

- All children are invited to our school Welcome Mass. This is an important occasion for our Foundation and Year 6 children as our Year 6 students will bless our Foundation students (bring some tissues).

Monday 17 - Wednesday 19 February - Learning Conversations (Week 4)

- Parents will have the opportunity to book in for a Learning Conversation in Week 4. This will provide everyone the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and connect. It is a time when parents can help share information about what makes their child special.
- More information will be emailed to families soon.

Uniform Shop Information

- School uniforms can now be purchased in the following ways:

1. From our School Uniform Shop located in the main school building during opening hours

Opening Hours from Mon 3rd Feb

Monday morning (8:30-9:30am)

Wednesday afternoon (2.30pm to 3.30pm)

2. From Noone Bendigo 21 Queen Street Bendigo
3. Orders can be emailed to: stfrancisofthefieldsps@noone.com.au via the online shop at the St Francis/Noone Online Shop. Online orders will be packed instore at Noone Bendigo with the following options.
 - Click & Collect in Store in Bendigo – Free
 - Delivery to home \$9.95
 - Delivery to school-Free (Orders will be delivered on a WEDNESDAY afternoon in line with School Store opening hours.



School Maintenance Update

Over the summer period we have been busy maintaining our school with the following activities:

- All classrooms steam cleaned
- Windows cleaned
- Basketball stadium's floor sanded and re-varnished
- All decking cleaned and oiled
- Painting of road marking and parking allocations
- All gutters and drains cleaned out
- Servicing air conditioners, etc

New parking

As many would have noted we now have 4 disabled car parks in the closest bay to the playground. We have also included 4 parks for parents with pushers in the second bay.

I ask that all parents please avoid parking in these reserved locations unless you fill the criteria for parking in these locations.

Christ has no hands but yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Moloney'.

Tim Moloney
Principal



Resilience in Children - Going Back to School

Happy Families – Dr Justin Coulson



I'm sure there really are kids out there who are excited about heading back to school after the summer holidays. But I don't know any of them. If your kids are back at school, or about to be, these ideas can help ease the transition from holiday time to school time.

Build Relationships

One of the best predictors of children's wellbeing at school is the quality of their relationships. Put simply, kids typically like school when they've got good friends there. In the lead up to school starting and in the first few weeks of school make an effort to get your kids involved with other children in the holidays, on the weekend, and after school.

Last year all six of our children began new schools. We contacted the school and asked if they'd give our details to a few parents in our children's classes so that they could form relationships ahead of school starting. Playdates before school commenced eased nerves and calmed fears. The kids were excited to see their new friends on Day One.

(Side note: If they're starting a new school, arrange a tour before school starts so they're aware of where they'll be each day. This can also reduce anxiety and make the school seem more familiar.)

Get Routines Right

In my book, *21 Days to a Happier Family*, I highlight the way that routines make life easier because we free up cognitive space. When we have a routine (and a checklist!), we don't have to think. This means less anxiety and more efficiency. So focus on a morning, afternoon, and evening routine.

Mornings should be built around waking up at the right time (or even a bit early), eating good food, preparing good food for the day, and leaving on time.

Afternoons should be focused on rejuvenation and recovery from a long day. A bit of down time before extra-curricular activities, reading, or household chores (or homework for older kids) can go a long way to making the afternoon go well.

Evenings should emphasise relationships and nurture, reduced screen-time, and plenty of sleep. We also want to get things ready for the morning. Prepping uniforms, shoes, lunchboxes and so on can make mornings magic, rather than mayhem. Remember, your morning starts the night before.

Set Your Own Expectations Appropriately

One of the biggest issues for children in school is parent expectations. The increasing demands on students from well-meaning parents who want their kids to be A-students is often detrimental. Children are expected to do more "learning" and less playing at younger and younger ages. We submit them to all manner of tests, NAPLAN being the most famous, and apply pressure with ever-increasing expectations.

If your kids are in primary school, consider dropping homework from your schedule entirely. Research evidence indicates it doesn't help, and often hinders, learning. Instead, encourage reading, and read with your kids. Make it stuff they want to read.

Pull your kids out of NAPLAN. It's allowed. If you choose not to go that far, let them know you aren't bothered at all by what they score. Let them know it's really a thing for the government and their school. And make sure the school isn't putting any pressure on the kids (or practicing for the test, or restricting play time or art/drama/music/sport time because of the test).


Finally, consider the amount of extra-curricular activities they're involved in. Childhood is certainly about development, learning, and extending talents and abilities. But it's also about play, freedom, and being allowed to be little.

About 7% of Aussie kids aged 4-17 years experience anxiety disorders each year. School can be a major contributor. By building strong relationships with peers and school staff, establishing calm, clear, predictable routines at home, and emphasising fair expectations that suit your child and his or her temperament, anxiety can be reduced, and going back to school can be easier for everyone.


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






Scholastic Book Club



The Issue #1 catalogues will be sent home with children next week. Orders are due by **Wednesday 12 Feb**. Please complete orders using the LOOP ordering system. We will not be accepting any cash payments at school.


Did you know that every purchase you make on Book Club earns our school 15% of the order value in Scholastic Rewards? We use these to purchase more books and educational resources for the school! All orders are completed online & then books sent home with students when they arrive at school.

Sue Johns




Book Club rewards your School!


Every purchase you make earns your child's school 15% of your order value in Scholastic Rewards that can be used to purchase valuable educational resources that benefit your child.




Families order from Book Club.




The school earns Scholastic Rewards.





The school redeems Scholastic Rewards for additional resources.



Issue 1 Out Now!





PE News

ST FRANCIS SPORT IN 2025

Swimming

The Year 3-6 children will begin their swimming lessons tomorrow, **Friday 31 Jan**. You will have received an email regarding this. PAM permissions must be completed for children to attend.

YEAR 3-6 SWIMMING LESSON DATES:



Friday January 31
Tuesday February 4
Wednesday February 5
Thursday February 6

The children will be invited to swim freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and invitational butterfly. They can choose between the distances of 25m kickboard, 25m and 50m. Events will be discussed and finalised during the swimming lessons in 2025.

YEAR 3-6 SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS: Tuesday 11th of February

The day begins at 9.30am and will conclude at approximately 1.30pm.

This will take place at Bendigo East Pool. Coffee Storm will be at the pool for your convenience.

Some other Important dates to be mindful of in 2025:

Swimming

- Catholic Swimming Sports (Year 3-6's): Wednesday 19 Feb

Progression to the Catholic Swimming Sports from our school sports:

First and second place overall in each stroke for the 10, 11 & 12/13 year age groups will progress to the Catholic sports, except in the case where we have a draw for first place. Please also note, only first place in the 9 year age group will progress to Catholics in the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. They may be used in relays, should they have a 50m freestyle time that is faster than an older student.

- Divisional Swimming Championships: Friday 28 Feb
- Regional Swimming Championships (Swan Hill): Tuesday 11 March
- State Swimming Championships (Melbourne): Tuesday 29 April

Cross Country

- Whole School Cross Country: Friday 4 April (last day of Term 1)
- Division Cross Country (Year 3-6's): TBC *Usually early May
- Regional Cross Country (St Arnaud): Tuesday 27 May
- State Cross Country (Melbourne): Thursday 24 July

Athletics

- School Athletics Sports (3-6's): Friday 1 Aug
- Catholic Athletics Championships (Year 3-6's): Friday 29 Aug

*Please note, year 3's are ONLY eligible for 4 events- Shot put, long jump, 100m & hurdles. They may be used in relays, should they have a 100m time that is faster than an older student.

- Divisional Athletics Championship: Monday 15 Sept
- Regional Athletics Championship: Monday 13 Oct
- School Athletic Sports (Foundation- Year 2) on the oval 9.15-11am: Friday 31 Oct
- State Athletics Championships (Melbourne): Wednesday 5 Nov

Year 6 school representative teams

- June 4 or 5 TBC (exact date will only be known a couple of weeks in advance) Division Soccer
- July 29 Division Girls Football



- July 30 Division Boys Football
- Aug 6 Division Netball
- Aug 14 Regional Football (Only those that progressed from Divisionals)
- Aug 19 Regional Netball & Soccer (Only those that progressed from Divisionals)
- Sept 5 Division Basketball
- Oct 24 Divisional Cricket Blast
- Oct 31 Regional Basketball (Only those that progressed from Divisionals)
- Nov 14 Regional Cricket Blast (Only those that progressed from Divisionals)

Danielle Coates-
PE coordinator



**JOIN WITH FRIENDS
PLAY TOGETHER**

CRICKET VICTORIA FREE- ALL GIRLS CRICKET BLAST
BENDIGO DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION
WEDNESDAY 12TH, 19TH, 26TH FEB AND 5TH MAR
TIME: 4.30PM-5.30PM
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



OFFICIAL KIDS PROGRAM



Q Play Cricket



**4-WEEK
POP UP
BLAST**

Sign up to our 4-week action packed program!

**LEARN TO SWIM
WITH THE
survival
specialists!**

We've been teaching children and adults to swim and survive in deep water since 1972!




ZERO DROWN
TOLL IS OUR GOAL!

PAUL SADLER SWIMLAND
THE SURVIVAL SPECIALISTS™ · SINCE 1972



ST. FRANCIS NETBALL CLUB

Season 2025
registration now open

Grade 3 - 6
Join
"St Francis Netball Club"
Facebook page to register

Registrations Close: Monday 3 February

Canteen

CDF pay - New Ordering App

CDFpay has now moved to a more user-friendly app format. Please follow the instructions below to download and set up your account.

A reminder that tuckshop orders need to be completed by 9am on the day of ordering.



The advertisement features a blue background with the CDFpay logo in the top left and the CDF Catholic Development Fund logo in the top right. The main headline reads "Good News: The new CDFpay app is now available". Below this, a "Get started today" section lists three steps: 1. Download the CDFpay app, 2. Create an account and add your student(s), and 3. Order and pay in seconds!. A QR code is provided for app download, along with buttons for the App Store and Google Play. A smartphone mockup displays the app's interface, showing an "Order food" button, an "Events" section with a "School Disco" listing, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for Home, Notifications, Orders, Wallet, and Profile. At the bottom, it states "CDFpay™ powered by flexischools" and includes a small disclaimer.

Canteen Helpers

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's or Friday's.



Weekend Maintenance Forms



Families have been emailed information regarding our Weekend Maintenance program. If you have not yet had a chance to complete the online form, please click on this link and complete it by Monday 5 Feb. Families can opt to pay the \$85 fee or participate in the program.

[Weekend Maintenance Program 2025](#)

A roster will be made available on the school website. Each week the roster of families for the coming weeks will be published in the school newsletter and bulletin.

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.



Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) 2025



Education
and Training

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 2025 (one per family which includes all children at St Francis of the Fields)
 2. Conveyance Allowance Authority to Pay Form 2025 (one per parent claiming)
- **Parents who received the Conveyance Allowance in 2024 do not need to complete a new form in 2025 unless their children enrolled at St Francis of the Fields in 2024 have changed (ie Yr 6 student left at the end of 2024 or a Prep child commenced in 2025).**
 - **If your family circumstances have changed a new form needs to be completed in 2025.**
 - **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 Education.vic.gov.au/conveyance-allowance

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

With thanks,

Stephanie Wade (Administration)

December 2024

Year Level - Unit Newsletters

Shortly, classroom teachers will be emailing their first unit newsletter for Term 1. These will contain information about the learning that will be taking place this term.



We know that you will find them all to be very informative and we thank the teachers for the time that has been spent collating this information. From our next school newsletter, we will include direct links to these unit newsletters for your ongoing reference. This will be a great way to keep our parent community informed with what is going on in each unit.

YMCA – After School Care



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.

If you have any questions, please speak to our friendly team:
Phone: 0459 988 313
Email: stfrancis@ymca.org.au
Central Customer Service Team: (03) 8371 0500



Enrol today!

Community News....



LOOKING FOR A SPORT THAT INCLUDES...

**DANCING,
PERFORMING,
GYMNASTICS &
TEAMWORK?**

FEBRUARY IS COME AND TRY MONTH
AGES 3+

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM,
VISIT BENDIGOCALISTHENICS.COM
OR CONTACT
BENDIGOCALISTHENICS@HOTMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Bendigo Gem Expo

15 - 16 Feb 2025

Shop from National traders with high quality stock

- GEMSTONES
- CRYSTALS
- MINERALS
- FOSSILS
- GEM SIFTING
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- DEMO'S & DISPLAYS
- HANDCRAFTED JEWELLERY



Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 3pm
Entry \$10, U12's Free
EFT Available

Bendigo Showgrounds Exhibition Building, Holmes Rd, Bendigo