



Important Dates

R-3 Swimming Week

Monday 25 November 2024

Year 4 Water Day

Friday 29 November 2024

Year 5 Students Surf Aquatics Day

Wednesday 4 December 2024

End of Year Concert

Friday 6 December 2024

Year 6 Graduation

Tuesday 10 December 2024

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Last Day Term 4

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Pupil Free Day

Thursday 12 December 2024

Pupil Free Day

Friday 13 December 2024

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear families,

With only 3 weeks left of the school year, I have been reflecting lately on what we have achieved together over the course of 2024. It has indeed been a momentous year. We have delivered a wonderful new learning facility, and returned the outdoor space into a practical

and usable area, along with some new play equipment. Our outdoor spaces are the envy of most primary schools! We are about to renovate some existing classrooms to make them fully flexible into the new year, such that our teaching and learning spaces can meet the needs of all learners. Over the year we have held some memorable community events, including our Arts Exhibition, Mothers and Father's day celebrations, Colour run and sports day. Our P&F have raised significant funds, to be spent further improving outdoor spaces at St Francis.

From a wellbeing perspective, we have introduced Grow your Mind, provided ongoing parent workshops on supporting families and begun to embed 'PBIS' which stands for positive behaviour intervention and support. Families will see and hear further evidence of this fantastic initiative into the new year. Our connections with Christ the King parish continued to strengthen and grow, with very successful Sacramental programs, and wonderful support from parishioners in events such as Shrove Tuesday and Sports day. In the Arts and Sporting arenas, our students have shone in so many different ways, including Wakakirri, Band and CSMF, SAPSASA and SACPSSA representation and state representation.

Over the past two weeks, our children have been completing the termly "classroom Pulse check survey." This survey is completed by students in all catholic schools every term and focuses on questions related to their learning and wellbeing. Schools use the data to make more informed decisions around each child's learning and wellbeing. Our students reported 98% satisfaction all (80%) or most (18%) of the time, which is a testament to the high quality learning and wellbeing support provided at St Francis School! Where students report concerns, teacher follow these up directly and confidentially with children to find out what is concerning them and to put strategies in place to support them.

I am often asked by prospective families, what sets us apart from other schools? Well, here is a 'top 6' that could easily be a 'top 20':

1. A **welcoming, caring and inclusive** Catholic community....for everyone! At St Francis, children are cared for and formed as a flourishing young people, ready to make their way in the world!
2. **Brand new** comfortable and spacious classroom facilities fit for contemporary learning and wellbeing for all, AND substantial and beautiful outdoor areas where young people have room to move, to play and to enjoy being outdoors.
3. **Evidenced informed teaching and learning** in Literacy and Numeracy that is 'Gold Standard.' Other schools are visiting us to see how it's done! Additionally, our tiered response to intervention means your child's learning needs are known and very well catered for right across the learning spectrum.
4. An **outstanding wellbeing program** that focuses on ensuring all young people flourish in a culture of restorative justice.
5. **Class sizes that are significantly lower** than the agreed benchmarks, in many year levels, meaning your child will have the best possible start to school life at St. Francis.
6. **Genuine pathways** to local Catholic Secondary schools, as well as multiple other options!

The 'glue' that holds these things together are our teachers and support staff. I'm pleased to inform the community of our 2025 teaching profile:

Reception-Leonie Fitzgerald, Tania Palmato and Renee Cross

Year 1-Gia Perin/Karen Brandwood and Nikki Dytman

Year 2-Cheryl Milde, Marisa Brown and Beck Dametto/Juliette Passerini

Year 3-Chantal Driver/Angela DeNadai, Maddie Day and Chloe Auger

Year 4-Maria Silvesteri, Marissa Fernandez and Siobhan Frost/Karen Brandwood

Year 5-Corinne McKenzie/Christie Lee Hansberry, Libby Thomas and Elysse Marino

Year 6-Mary Louise Stoddart, Mark Bowman/James Goldy and Emma Gill.

Over the next 3 weeks, teachers will be busily preparing for both the end of this school year and the beginning of 2025. Their focus will be on ensuring the children stay focussed right up until the end of the school year, and making sure their wellbeing and learning are prioritised. As with any imminent change, children will probably begin to feel a little nervous about finishing this year and looking ahead to the next. This is normal and to be expected, and happens to all children in all schools every year! We will be mindful of this, and work to make sure the children are supported and nurtured through this period, and set up for a successful transition. Families can assist us in this endeavour by maintaining positive talk with children about the transition to the new year.

This week, our R-3 children will have their annual swimming lessons. My thanks to James Daley, Nives Kresevic and all teaching staff for their coordination of the week, and to all families who have put up their hands to support the safe and effective implementation of the program. Learning to swim is such an important part of living in the island nation of Australia. If young people have the basic skills needed to survive in water, we won't see the tragic statistics of drownings, so prominently. Additionally, water based activities are a

healthy and positive part of living in Australia!

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming 3 weeks, and especially at our Annual end of year concert on the 6th December.

God bless,

Phil

FROM THE DEPUTY AND YEAR 6

Year 6 Technology

'SkySTEM Drone workshop'

The Year 6 cohort is currently coming to the end of a 4 week workshop working with Matt Richards and drones. Through their sessions, the students had been honing their computational thinking and problem solving abilities through learning how to program drones to execute complex manoeuvres, automated tasks and creating their own flight patterns.

Charlotte F and Jed B spoke with me to share their impressions so far:

'We've been working with Matt for the last 3 weeks and we've really enjoyed the sessions so far.

Our aim has been to learn to write and use code to successfully manage a drone through a number of different sequences. Some of the actions we've coded are to fly it across the room to specific people and groups at specific heights, to do a dance and to do the wave, all with precision and control.

We've improved through each session because we've built on our knowledge and skill in manoeuvring the drone. We now feel confident that we could actually code our drones to do different activities without an instructors help. The hardest thing about working with drones is figuring out the distances you want it to fly and making sure you've typed your code in correctly so it doesn't fail.

In thinking about applications for drones, they could be used at events like music festivals or sporting events to get a different aerial perspective. If you had a heavy duty drone, one day it could even be used to make deliveries. Because drones are battery powered and rechargeable, they are not loud, not bad for the environment and sustainable.

We have really enjoyed being drone learners, and even making mistakes has been fun as well as being a learning experience!

God Bless

Nives Kresevic



CATHOLIC IDENTITY



Celebrating Francis' Favourite Feast

We celebrate Christmas in many splendid ways. One of the first items to appear in our homes, churches, schools and workplaces as Christmas approaches is a Christmas nativity scene, often in the form of a crib or crèche..

But where did this popular practice come from?

The Nativity scene now recreated in city squares and churches worldwide was originally conceived by St. Francis of Assisi. However, nativity scenes have been found in early Christian catacombs in Rome and can be traced to A.D. 380. It is more accurate to say that Francis **popularised** the first LIVE Christmas crèche, for Francis loved Christmas. Thomas of Celano, the earliest biographer of St Francis of Assisi wrote: 'the birthday of the Child Jesus Francis observed with inexpressible eagerness over all other feasts, saying that it was the feast of feasts, on which God, having become a tiny infant, clung to human breasts' (2 Celano, 199). In 1223 Francis wanted to celebrate Christmas in a special way.

Feast of Christ the King November 24th

The Feast of Christ the King is celebrated on the last Sunday in Ordinary Time and marks the last Sunday of the Church's Liturgical year. When we have celebrated the Feast of Christ the King, we know that the Season of Advent is just around the corner.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI was worried that people were not putting all their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ, so he decided to make this special feast to remind us to love and honour Christ more than anything else.

Sunday 1st December will be the First **Sunday of Advent**. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ and the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church.

"Each year, Advent inspires us to continually welcome Jesus into our lives, so that the Gospel, through the witness of our words and actions, reaches into our world with the Light of Life.

Christmas Hampers

This year we will be coordinating Christmas hampers to Vinnies.

Information has been sent home via szapp and Seesaw regarding donations for our annual Christmas Hampers.

Outlined in the letter, were examples of donations for **non-perishable food items, gifts for adult females, adult males, kids, 10-16 year old girls and 10-16 year old boys etc.** Please give the donation to your child's class teacher. Social Justice Captains will be visiting all classes to promote the Christmas Hampers.

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

The End of Year Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 10th December. As church seating is limited, only invited guests will be able to attend. We thank you for your understanding.

Sacramental Enrolment 2025

Enrolment forms for the **Sacramental program 2025** will be distributed to Year 3 families soon. If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion in 2025, please complete the registration form and return by **December 9th**.

God Bless,
Angela De Nadai
Assistant Principal: Religious Identity and Mission

SEQTA - STUDENT REPORTS

SEQTA Engage is our school's online platform for student's academic reports. At the end of this Term, student reports will once again be released on the SEQTA Engage platform.

If you are new to our school, and haven't already, you will need to sign up for a SEQTA Engage account. If you are an existing family who has not yet signed up for SEQTA Engage, or if you have an additional parent/guardian who would like access, this information is for you as well.

SEQTA Engage uses email addresses you have provided to the front office. If these details need to be updated, please do so via the front office. If you already have a SEQTA Engage account and were able to access mid-year reports this year, and are still able to access SEQTA Engage, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not have access or are having any issues in accessing your already setup account, please contact me at seqta@sflockleys.catholic.edu.au and I will be able to send you a sign up link or reset your account if required.

Best regards,
Corinne McKenzie
Leader of Learning

Del Sante Gardens Calisthenics College

We're looking for future stars aged 11-13 to
join our Junior team!



Come & try calisthenics at DSG and receive
2 lessons **FREE!**

When? Wednesdays 5:15pm-7:00pm

Where? Flinders Park Primary School



0419 268 322



delsantesecretary@gmail.com



Del Sante Gardens 2024-25 Juniors

"The Services and events contained in this bulletin are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their need and those of their children"

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