

Newsletter



From the Principal....

Dear Parents & Carers

As Term One draws to a close I reflect on the many programs and activities St Francis' School provides for the young people entrusted to our care. The excursions and activities are aimed at providing our students with opportunities to develop the skills and qualities to be positive contributors to society. This term there has been the Coogee Beach and RAC Bstreetsmart excursions along with the Harmony Day Activities to name just a few. Some photographs of these activities have been included in this newsletter.

On St Patricks Day, Friday 17 March, the school held a Memorial Reflection to mark the one year anniversary of the passing of Foundation Principal, Mr Rory McNally. We gathered around the Memorial Tree where students shared some of their favourite memories of Mr McNally and concluded the Reflection with the following Irish Prayer.

As I face the days ahead,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today and always.
Amen

Strong Hearts – Strong Minds

The road to adulthood is an exciting and, yet sometimes, extremely difficult period in a young person's life. At St Francis' School we have introduced a new program for the Year 10 students who have joined our School community. As part of their introduction, they are embarking on a program entitled "Strong Hearts - Strong Minds". The program recognises that many young people have gaps in their development particularly around self and social awareness, self-management and responsible decision making. The aim of this program is to give the students an understanding of the mechanics of the brain and provide strategies to manage at this vital time of brain development. The lessons in the program are a variety of informative talks and workshops with the focus being on practical application resulting in a sound understanding of the self. This is achieved through creativity and fun, and occurs in an environment where learning can take place with attachment relationships.

As a part of the program the Year 10's have been exploring the *The Circle of Courage* (<https://www.starr.org/training/youth/response-ability-pathway>) and applying this model to their own life experiences. The *Circle of Courage* links perfectly to St Francis' School Principles of Respect, Responsibility, Belonging, Belief and, the students' aim to develop their understanding of the Principles as they continue to grow as members of the School community. The program also explores the physical make-up and process of maturation of the human brain. An introduction to mindfulness and other positive psychology strategies such as gratitude, reframing and forming connections, provide the students with practical skills to perform and master as they navigate this exhilarating and demanding time in both their educational and life journey

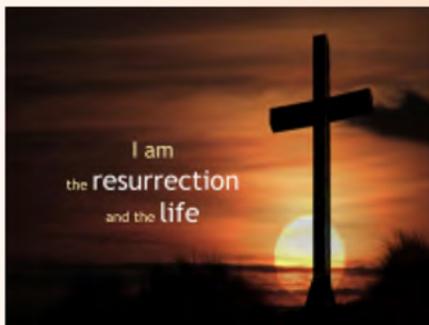
Staffing

Our School Counsellor Mrs Una Flynn is taking Long-Service-Love for Term Two. We wish her all the best and hope that she has a relaxing and restful break. The school has been fortunate to secure the services of Catherine Duce for the Counselling role for Term Two.

Easter & School Holidays

As Easter falls on the middle weekend of the holidays, we will conclude Term One with a short Easter Reflection on Friday 7 April. I Wish all members of the St Francis' School community a very safe, Holy and blessed Easter. We look forward to seeing everyone back for the start of Term Two on Wednesday 26 April.

God Bless
Ian Hagen



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If your son or daughter is absent, please contact the school on 9262 4421 before 9:30am.

A medical certificate is required for absences of 2 or more consecutive days, or when requested by the school.

If you are picking up your son/daughter during school hours, please notify the school prior to your arrival.

You must come to Reception to sign them out.

Our Address:

10 Alloa Road
Maddington WA 6109

Phone: 08 9262 4421
Fax: 08 9262 4411

Email:
admin@stfs.wa.edu.au

Website:
www.stfs.wa.edu.au

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of Term 1.....April 7
(Staff and Students)

Good FridayApril 14
Easter Sunday.....April 16

First day of Term 2.....April 24
(Staff PD)

Anzac Day.....April 25
(Public Holiday)

First day of Term 2..... April 26
(Students)

Student Free Day.....June 2
(Staff PD)

WA Day.....June 5
(Public Holiday)

Last day of Term 2.....June 30

First day of Term 3.....July 17
(Staff and Students)

Our School Prayer

St Francis,

Help me to jump in-
to this day, full of
joy and hope.

Help me to see
every
problem as a learn-

New Beginnings by Mrs Heather Mead

It can be tough when you are the new person in any place, whether it be a job, a school or new community. In early February, four new students and three new staff joined St. Francis' School and the apprehensions and nervousness for all of us was something to tackle and overcome. Looking back on the Term and reflecting on the journey, it is obvious that we now all belong to this place and see the school as somewhere we can work, learn and have fun together.

The Year 10 students, were asked to sum up their STFS experiences so far:

Jordan - "The teachers are very nice and welcoming. They really help me out. I have got a pre-apprenticeship at the MTA through the school. The atmosphere here is relaxed and it's a great place. I think it's interesting the way all the year groups hang out together. That is a cool thing. I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given here at St. Francis' School and that I have been able to have a fresh start."



JJ - "The teachers here help us. They are creative in their lessons. I like Fridays, when the staff cook for us. I have been given opportunities to meet you new people. I also think the chickens are great."

Jacinta - "I love the family environment at St. Francis' School. I am enjoying the opportunities to get out and about, either with All-In Sports, or day trips to interesting places. The flexibility of the school suits me and I am happy to be here."

Karleigha - "St. Francis' School is my kind of school because I don't have to wear uniform. I like the time we spend on the yarning mat at recess and lunch. I get to know more people. The teachers are encouraging. I thing I like most about this school is all the people, staff and students, as they are caring, nice and fun."



Students have worked hard learning different skills to design an optical illusion piece of work using abstract forms, vibrating patterns, and warping techniques to fool the eye of the viewer.



This year All-In sport has been expanded to two days per week. This has been a well received addition by all students and staff. Not only does this afford us the time to play many sports in the Wednesday and Friday afternoon time slot, but we have also been lucky enough to go to Coogee beach, where we swam, jumped off the jetty, and had a go on the Stand-Up Paddleboard.



Most recently we went to the Perth Arena and for the RAC BStreetSmart presentation.

Over the term we have played many different sports at various venues in the Maddington area. The level of skill and intensity has been something to be proud of over all the sport and activities. The overwhelming enthusiasm for soccer, floor-ball, and capture the flag has spilt over to the other sports and quick warm up activities such as volleyball, fastball, kick ball and ultimate frisbee.



I look forward to the coming terms where we can experience even more sports and activities. Well done to those students and staff who participate every week with enthusiasm, and stay active and engaged for the whole session.

Respect Responsibility Belief Belonging

- The principles of St Francis' School -

Harmony Day 2017

On the 21st of March we came together as a school to celebrate *Harmony Day*. It was a time to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity and embrace shared values and cultural traditions. The key message for our Harmony Day celebration in 2017 was "everyone belongs".

We welcomed a local artist called "Ozi and The Pride" who played many songs and spoke messages of love, peace and unity.

We filled our day with lots of laughter, a multi-cultural lunch, Henna Art, Friendship bracelets and the colour orange.

Australia is one of the most multicultural countries in the world. It is important that we celebrate our differences and recognise what unites us as Australians.



Chill Out Zone



This term we have created some great new ways our young people can "Chill out" and connect with their peers and staff. We have introduced a "Chill Out Zone" to our recess and lunch breaks which is proving to be a great success. This has given our students the opportunity to share their knowledge, create or make something new as well as feeling comfortable in connecting with others. Our Chill out Zone moves around the school and each week has a new activity. Our Theme this term has been "Healthy Habits". We have explored self care, hygiene, health and fitness, connecting with others through Mandala Placemat making, Dream Catcher designs, hair wraps and beading, Bubble Breaks, Origami and Henna Art. Each day we are engaging not only the students but the staff as well.

School Fees

At St Francis's School, our fees are kept as low as possible and include excursions, some uniform, books and stationery.

Fees for 2017 were posted out in March and it is greatly appreciated that parents pay the full amount of fees

either in one lump sum or in instalments as per the Payment Option Form. Thank you to those parents who have already made payments.

Should you have any difficulty in paying your fees or you'd like to set up a weekly/fortnightly payment arrangement, please contact Jodi on 9262 4421.

All discussions regarding fees are strictly confidential.

Progress Reports

Teachers have been working on the students' Progress Reports for Term One 2017. Progress Reports will be ready for posting out in the first week of the school holidays.

It's important that parents are up to date regarding the current progress of their son/daughter, and it's even more important that the students are fully aware of the expectations of their teachers and the work involved with each subject. We trust that the information in the students' reports are helpful to parents and also to students.

The opportunity is always there if you'd like to speak to your son/daughter's teacher. Please contact Jodi on 9262 4421 to arrange a meeting.

Photo Gallery: Term One

