27 November 2015

Leadership Team News

The last two weeks have been particularly busy. I am constantly amazed by the ability of the staff to juggle so many activities, whilst completing end of semester exams and reporting commitments at the same time.

I am very grateful to those who ran our recent Year 6 Transition Day. Both our existing Year 6 students and the incoming Year 7 students for 2016 found the Transition Day to be very beneficial. Students enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. Some of our newcomers were quite overwhelmed by the sheer size of our college and commented on ‘the Franciscan hospitality’ that was shown. The Parent Information Evening that followed was well attended. As education is an important partnership between the school and the home, it was wonderful to see the interest shown in the next stage of the students’ learning journey.

Despite the heat, both teachers and students have enjoyed participating in teacher-student netball matches in recent weeks. Our students are definitely in fine form and our teachers certainly managed to give the students ‘a run for their money’. Both our staff and students managed to score a win. The new netball uniforms for our students preparing for the Mission Cup look amazing.

Yet another proud moment was presented when our QCS results were released. We found that our results were the best we have achieved in many years! This year, in comparison to last, we had 25% more students achieving a passing grade. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of both our staff and students, and to a comprehensive preparation program that involved specialty lessons each week, specific advice from experts, and regular practice testing and feedback. Congratulations to all involved.

Leading a P-12 College gives me great joy. The growth seen in our students as they enter our gates with some trepidation at 5-years-old until the time that they leave at 17-18-years of age is enormous. For me, the Prep Orientation Days held last week highlighted the reality that the journey through school is a long and winding road. The students experience ups and downs, triumphs and struggles, laughter and tears. And through it all, character and faith has been built. It is such a privilege to play a part in the story of their lives. I pray that all our children appreciate the gift that each new day brings.

Final report cards for 2015 will be posted to families on Friday 11th December. Please take the opportunity to discuss the progress your child has made in their learning throughout the year. My staff and I strongly recommend having ‘a growth mindset’ where any disappointments can be addressed in a positive framework, where plans for future growth can be made. Of course, don’t forget to celebrate your children’s successes too. This is certainly well deserved and, as you know, a positive comment makes an enormous difference to a child’s social-emotional wellbeing.

We end the school year as Advent begins.

Advent is a time of PREPARATION, for each person within the family as a whole; PREPARATION within ourselves and as a family; PREPARATION through forgiveness and through generosity to those less fortunate, and for celebration of Christ’s coming anew into our lives.

Our Year 12 Reflection Day and Graduation Evening signalled the final days in our Year 12 students’ journey through school. As noted by Paige Emmett, who presented the Valedictory speech at the Graduation Evening, this journey lasted 4680 days and has been filled with many fond memories. As Principal, I have seen many instances where these students have demonstrated the Franciscan values that the College holds dear. My colleagues have often commented on the road that our students have travelled and the fine young adults that these students have become.
I wish you a very blessed Christmas and a New Year that brings you peace, joy and hope.

Tricia Kennedy
On behalf of Tricia, Les and Julian

Staff News

Staffing is a complex process, particularly in large schools and colleges. At St Francis College we seem to constantly say 'welcome' and bid farewell. Sometimes staff leave for a short period of time (e.g. maternity leave, sick leave, long service leave, an immersion program) while on other occasions the departure is permanent (e.g. a promotion to a senior position, a transfer to another school, a fixed-term contract ending, a restructuring of positions, retirement).

For those involved in interviewing and preparing contracts, the process is as challenging and exciting as it is for those engaged in applying for positions and attending interviews. One thing that we know for certain is that every staff member that has worked in our college has made a difference to the lives of our students and that each one has made many long-lasting friendships.

This year we farewell some of our treasured staff: Miss Jacinta Darcy, Mr Tavuvala Faleono, Ms Sharelle Simpson, Miss Brooke Litzow, Miss Elloysa Ruiz, Miss Laura Swart, Mrs Tarita Watson, Mrs Caroline Vakaci, Ms Veronica Espinoza, Mr Wong Kee Ilalio, Mrs Cheryl Abbott, Mrs Filomena Aoese, Mr John Aoese, Ms Jo Karger, Mr Gabby Trifan and Mrs Valentina Trifan.

Staffing is an evolving process. At the time of writing, our farewell list is correct though interviews for 2016 are still taking place. As there is no ‘crystal ball’ in life, changes may still occur between now and January next year.

Please take the time to thank all staff that you have come to know. Regardless of their official position, they give the gift of love in the giving of themselves each and every day.

For this we are very blessed.

Staff Profiles

This week Ashleigh Foumakis is Super Star No.1

• Ashleigh loves her dog. He’s a black Labrador and his name is Boof!
• The silliest thing she has ever done was to drop her phone in a bucket of paint . . . twice!

Religious Life of the School

The Importance of Ritual: the Leaving Ceremonies at St Francis College

Ritual is the way you carry the presence of the sacred. Ritual is the spark that must not go out!

Christina Baldwin

Rituals are very important to human beings as a way of bringing people together to strengthen their shared connection. Graduation and leaving ceremonies are full of ritual and at St Francis College, our end of year ceremonies reflect our deep and rich spirituality. The graduation of Year 12s and Year 6s are important rites of passage for students and mark for them very important milestones in their education and life journey.

On Tuesday last week, the Year 12s began their leaving ritual with a reflection day. The students took a journey through the school and relived memories, honouring one another and the College, with words of gratitude. They heard insightful words from Ms Kennedy and Ms Jansen. They affirmed one another and, under the old tree, they wished each other peace. On Thursday at graduation, the Year 12s were told in the Gospel of Matthew: “You are the light of the world….Let your light shine before others” before praying the St Francis prayer together; “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace”. The symbolic final roll call by Year 12 PC teachers and Year Coordinator and receiving of the “Tau”, reminded students of who they are and where they have belonged before being sent out with the blessing:

May you go into the night blessed, sheltered and protected… and realise the richness of the gifts you bring to the world.

It was a wonderful celebration and the students were outstanding in the dignified way in which they took the stage, proud of their achievements, and (almost) ready to say goodbye.

To find out more, click on the link below!

Miss Ashleigh Foumakis

Mrs Daria Zemlinova is Super Star No. 2

• The silliest thing Daria has ever done was to leave her passport at home, when she was travelling overseas.
• Her favourite place is Fraser Island, Queensland.

Mrs Daria Zemlinova

To find out more, click on the link below!
The final Farewell Assembly in the Pavilion included a handing over of leadership with the symbolic action of unfurling the school banner by the Year 12 leaders, to be unfurled in 2016 by the new leaders. It also included a beautiful blessing sung by Ms Connors’ Year One class. Then in spectacular St Francis College Prep to Year 12 style, the Year 12s were farewelled with a guard of honour that extended from the top of the College to the bottom.

Next Wednesday, it will be the Year 6’s turn as they mark the important transition from primary to secondary school. They have their annual Rite of Passage ritual marking the culmination of 7 years of formal schooling. Many of these students have attended St Francis College since Prep. During their reflection day they celebrated their leadership over the year and prepared themselves for the challenges ahead. 2015 truly was a year of epiphanies and possibilities.

Finally, Sunday 29th November marks the beginning of Advent in the Christian liturgical calendar. Advent is the four-week preparation and waiting time for Christmas. Many family rituals will take place including finding some time for the great Catholic ritual, the Mass, where we give thanks for and celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is hoped that at a time, when the consumerism of Christmas can dominate, that we all can take some time to reflect on 2015 and plan for a peaceful and blessed 2016.

Thank you for your support in 2015. Many blessings for a safe and peaceful holiday.

Ms Rob Canning (Assistant Principal Religious Education P-9)
Ms Cathy Barrett (Assistant Principal Religious Education 6-12)

Learning and Teaching News

Prep – Year 6

A Message from the Head of Campus

Reports and Booklists

Along with planning end of year activities, our teachers have also been busy working on Semester Two reports. These will be posted towards the end of the first week of the holidays. Included in this letter will be the booklists for 2016.

Sitting with your child and discussing their learning in 2015 provides a wonderful opportunity to engage in conversation and reflect on their growth and progress this year. It also provides a catalyst to discuss what a focus for next year could be. As a Catholic School, we have a holistic approach to education and, while there is no doubt we place focus on academic progress, we also want to encourage our students to be socially just citizens who are active participants in our society.

Last Week Arrangements

The final term of the school year is a busy time for St Francis College as we finalise teaching and learning programs and reporting; conduct Celebrations of Learning and Christmas Festivities, and finish with Rites of Passage as we move to new phases of learning in 2016.

Our Year 5 and 6 children will effectively finish on Thursday 3rd December after a week of activities. These are to prepare Year 5 for the Junior Phase of learning and to farewell Year 6 as they move to the Middle Phase of learning.

Friday 4th December is an optional day for P-4 students and our College will close for the children at 10.30am.

Class Placements 2016

In the New Year we will send a letter home giving you notice about the teacher your child will have in 2016. Our staff has been working on these lists since the end of last term and we have utilised input from parents, current teachers and other sources like our Learning Support staff to formulate them. Our main goal is to look at what environment we believe will work the best for each child. Sometimes this may mean that children may not be with their best friends, as often best friends don’t work well together.

We make the practice of changing our groups around each year so that the children will get to meet many children across their year levels over the years. It is our belief that this is an important life skill for our children and it is important that, as parents, we help the children work through these issues if they have them. Change is a major factor in our world and we need to skill the children on how to handle it. My thanks is extended to our staff for the marvellous efforts that they have put into the development of these lists.

Thanks for the Year

On behalf of the P-6 Staff of St Francis College I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. It has been a long and action-filled year again at St Francis College and I hope that the Christmas and New Year period is a fun-filled and family-centred time for you. We have been blessed again by your support in so many ways in 2015 and I look forward to continuing this great partnership next year.

I would also like to thank our staff for their magnificent efforts over the course of the year. We have a very committed staff at St Francis College who take pride in their work and their school. They often go above and beyond what is their basic role because they care about our children and their whole wellbeing – educationally as well as spiritually, physically and socially.

For those children and families who are leaving our school at the end of next week for the last time, we wish you every blessing and success in the coming years.

As a Catholic school we actively promote the mission of Jesus Christ and His invitation to us to join the Kingdom of God. The celebrations of the birth of Jesus at Christmas time are a high point in our liturgical year and crucial to the Christian message.
I would encourage you to please take time to share this special period with your family and your wider Christian family.

Again, my thanks for your support of our school this year. I hope that your Christmas break runs smoothly and that if you are travelling you arrive and return safely. Until next year...

Mr Julian Cotter (Head of Campus P-6)

PCCC Celebrate Diwali

Our Year 1 students are learning about special celebrations, such as Diwali, in the History curriculum. Recently, they had great fun making some mandalas - spiritual and ritual symbols in Indian religions. They engaged in a range of fun learning activities. The class is grateful to Chetan, a PCCC student, who had lots of interesting information to share with his classmates and to his mother who brought in a delicious Indian lunch to share. This was certainly a wonderful way of celebrating the multicultural nature of our College.

Year 7 – Year 12

Middle Years Matters

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2015! Thank you for all the support we have received in the Middle Years Phase of Learning in helping to move students forward in their learning. It is wonderful to note the growth in the students across all year levels, but in particular, the Year 7 students who are completing their first year in Secondary School. This growth is not only physical but also social and in terms of confidence and maturity.

Transition Day

Last week we had an action packed Transition Day where nearly 100 Year 6 students gathered together to get to know each other, the teachers and the St Francis College environment, in preparation for their first year of High School next year. It was good to see new students welcomed into the groups and shown some warm and friendly Franciscan hospitality. One of the final activities was to spend some time reflecting on the day’s experiences. The students’ responses indicated it was a very worthwhile event, providing a positive and confident approach to the New Year ahead.

Students’ Voice

Some of the things that I enjoyed most about today are..... What are you looking forward to in Year 7 at St Francis College in 2016?

- Meeting new people
- Making new friends
- Everything
- The walk, science and screen printing
- Eating food for free
- The activities
- Sport on the oval
- The uniform
- I’m looking forward to all the sports
- Going to the tuckshop
- Good teachers
- The new work
- Learning new things
- Changing classes
- Everything!

We look forward to starting the New Year and building on the enthusiasm, excitement and interest shown throughout this day by these wonderful young students.

This was followed up in the evening with a Parent Information Night that also reflected the interest, ‘excitement’ and enthusiasm parents have as their children begin their Secondary School journey. Thank you to all those who were able to attend this session. We will be holding another Information Night at the beginning of next year.

As this is our last newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and interest in the Middle Years Phase of Learning over the year. 2015 seems to have flown by but there has been an enormous amount of learning and development taking place over this time. I would also like to congratulate all our teachers for their dedication and hard work each day in enabling and encouraging our students to achieve their best and to make progress in their learning. It provides a strong starting point to build on next year. I also congratulate and affirm all our students, who have taken risks in their learning, accepted challenges, and used a growth mindset to achieve success and move forward with their learning.
Given all that is happening in our world at present, my Christmas wish for each one is that of deep peace and joy. May the presence of our ‘God-With-Us’ fill you with that special peace, joy and love as you celebrate time together over the holidays.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

_Sr Lee Veriga (Assistant Principal Curriculum: P-9)_

**Pastoral News**

**Parenting Ideas**

The final article for the year is ‘Reading Your Child’s Report’. Some children feel anxiety as reports are distributed. It’s always important to keep this in mind and approach the topic with sensitivity and a positive mindset. Michael Grose has a few tips to offer.

_Ms Michelle Kelly (Assistant Principal Pastoral: P-12)_

**Café Francesco**

**Tuckshop Closure**

The final day of Tuckshop will be Wednesday 2nd December. Please ensure you supply your children with their lunch on Thursday and Friday.

Thank you for your support throughout 2015.

_Mr Sam Webb (Chef)_

**Special Events**

**Thanks to our Special Guests**

We would like to acknowledge and say thanks to the special guests who attended last week’s Graduation Evening:

- Jim Chalmers, MP, Honourable Member for Rankin and Ms Teresa Lane
- Linus Power Member for Logan
- Mary Wallace Area Supervisor South Service Centre
- Jasmin Spinoso, Student Recruitment Officer, Griffith University
- Mr Mark Fogarty retired Head of Secondary St Francis College
- Cath Bartolo CEO of YFS.

**Thanks to all our Volunteers**

To all our volunteers, we’d like to extend our thanks for the support that you have shown throughout the year. Please know that your efforts have been much appreciated.

To our students who have gone the extra mile and have assisted or attended special events on behalf of the school – thank you!

_Mrs Kay Melloy (Student Registrar)_

**Money Matters**

We wish to inform our parents and caregivers that, following careful consideration, our fees and levies have been reviewed in light of the growing needs of our students. Some fees and levies for 2016 have increased in line with inflation. Some fees and levies have been frozen for a number of years now. For students in Year 7, Tuition Fees have increased a little more to reflect the moving to a ‘Middle Years’ grouping of students for Years 7 to 9, however there is a compensating effect with the Tuition Fees for Years 8 and 9 reducing. If our parents and caregivers find that our 2016 fees and levies are unaffordable, or struggle to pay for the costs of education, we ask that you contact the College to discuss the situation. Payment arrangements are available and a Concession Application can be submitted. You can view the new Fees on our website.

_Mr Frank Miotti (Business Manager)_

**Administration Matters**

**Office Hours**

Please note the School office will be closed from 3.30pm on Thursday 10th December and will reopen on Monday 11th January at 8am.

**Lost and Found Items**

Please check at the office if you have lost any items such as phones, keys, reading glasses, sunglasses, and jewellery at school this year. We have a LARGE collection of unclaimed items.

_Mrs Kay Melloy (Student Registrar)_
BCE Connect Mobile App

In the previous newsletter, information on using our Parent Portal was provided. This week, I am presenting some information on the BCE Connect Mobile App. Take the time to get connected. It’s a great tool!

The BCE Connect mobile app is a great way to participate in our community.

BCE Connect gives parents, staff, extended family, friends and the public easy access to school information, making it easier to keep track and stay in touch.

Our app works with Google maps for location and directions, and gives instant access to phone numbers, emails and school calendars.

BCE Connect has been designed to work on both Apple and Android devices.

You can download our app from:

![Available on the App Store](image-url)
![Available on Google Play](image-url)

To learn about more forms of electronic communication at St Francis College, click here.

Ms Karen McIntosh (Communications, Events and Facilities Manager)

General News

2016 Booklist

Ordering you 2016 Booklist is easy online @ Schoolstuff.com.au

All orders placed before 4th January are guaranteed delivery prior to the commencement of school.

SFC Community Hub

2015 Pre-Prep Program

St Francis Community Hub has just finished the delivery of the Pre Prep Program for 2015.

We had 30 young and keen families attend a six-week program that allowed children to gain a little insight into being at school in which they are enrolled in Prep next year. During this time we undertook a structured program that consisted of activities to help with fine and gross motor skills. Children also participated in story time and group time where we spoke about school rules. They learnt some of their new friend’s names and got to play with them and interact. The most favourite part was going on an adventure to visit a different Prep room each week where children got to know the Prep teachers and the rooms and the children.

A big thank you to Ms Kirkman, Ms Stroud, Ms Turnbull and Ms Crochrane for letting us join in their classes each week and making us feel very welcome.

Some of the comments the parents made about the program were…

- I enjoyed meeting other parents and children attending Prep with my child.
- I loved seeing my daughters confidence build and interacting with her future peers*
- It was good that the kids became more familiar with the school so they are not as overwhelmed next year.

Once again, this was a very successful program. I enjoyed delivering it and getting to know our new families that will be attending St Francis in 2016. This program has made a smoother transition for the carer and the child.

See you in 2016! Have a safe holiday!

Ms Tammie Usher (Coordinator)

Parish News

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Did you know that The Holy Year of Mercy begins on 8th December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter’s? Stay tuned for more news next year!
Date Claimers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 6th December</td>
<td>Altar Servers Training @ 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starlight Carols from 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 24th December</td>
<td>No 9am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6pm Children’s Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9pm Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midnight Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 25th December</td>
<td>9am Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 26th December</td>
<td>NO 8am Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>6pm Vigil Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 27th December</td>
<td>8am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.30am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 1st January</td>
<td>9am Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Community News

Logan Cardboard Classic

Into People Inc. would like to take this opportunity to invite your school to this event. The Logan Cardboard Classic will be a fun filled day for the whole community and all of the surrounding schools. It will be a chance to build cohesion across our diverse culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Saturday 28th November, 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>10am – 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Logan Gardens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Australia Day Awards

Logan City Council is looking for those extraordinary people in our community who have helped make Logan a thriving and diverse city.

Nominations for the 2016 awards close on Monday 30th November 2015 and the winners will be presented with their awards on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at a special function at the Logan Entertainment Centre.

Download a nomination form here.

Award Categories

Council is seeking nominations from the community in the following categories to acknowledge the achievements of fellow residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of the Year</td>
<td>Presented to a person for their endeavours, achievements, and community involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Citizen of the Year</td>
<td>Under 27 years at 26 January 2016. Presented to a young person who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Spirit of Logan Award</td>
<td>This award acknowledges those who have a big heart for people and the City of Logan. Their selfless deeds have touched and changed the lives of many.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please nominate a worthy person within the community for an award. For further information please phone the Events Team on 3412 5020.

Get Your Whole Family Active and Eating Well

The PEACH (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program is coming to Logan in 2016 with registrations now open for groups running in Terms 1, 2016.
The program is FREE for families with a primary-school aged child and is run in the local community within a school term and after school hours.

The program covers topics such as Nutrition, Physical activity, and Parenting.

**Crestmead Community Christmas Carols**

Come along to this free event presented by the Logan City Council. Santa will be present and drinks and a barbecue is on hand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>5pm-8.30pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Saturday 5th December, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Pinnington Park, Augusta Street, Crestmead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Free Holiday Dental Service**

The School Dental Service still provides free dental treatment to all school students up to Year 10, as well as those in Year 11&12 who are holders of Health Care Cards or recipients of the Child Dental Benefit Scheme.

There are clinics in the local area that are open and available to all eligible children over the school holidays. See the attached flyer for further details.

**The Night Bird Dreaming Holiday Performance**

The Night Bird Dreaming is an interactive theatrical experience presented in the new Yugambeh facility located at the Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum.

Enjoy a journey that delivers Aboriginal language, dreaming stories, craft activities, Indigenous technologies, practices, song and culture.

See the flyer for more details!

Wishing you a Happy Christmas.

Please drive carefully if travelling over the holiday period.

We look forward to seeing students back at school on Wednesday, 27th January, 2016