

St Francis College

CRESTMead

In Simplicity and Harmony



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1 September 2017

Leadership Team News

It is nearly summer! I can hardly believe how fast the year has gone and how much we have managed to cram into the first three terms. Our collaborative, co-operative and welcoming culture continues to thrive, as generous staff, students and parents work together to teach our young people about the endless possibilities for themselves. We remind them what can happen with application to learning, thoughtfulness towards others and gratitude for what we have.

At this pointy end of the term, when we all feel tired and many are recovering from the awful flu compliments of the season, there is still a sense of happiness and togetherness evident among we *Franciscans*. We are there for and with each other. On the last Thursday of term our P-12 College engages in *Cool Connections*. This is a term activity where we gather in family groups – Jagun, Kurrawa, Wimuli and Yaraay and take part in an activity together. This term we will be devising moves to a song and filming the whole school engaged in the endeavour. Thanks to Ms Kelly, Ms Barrett, Mr Bray, Mrs Philpott, Mr Last, Mr Roati, Ms Whitaker, Mr Fogarty, Ms Foumakis, Mrs Macaranas and Ms Masciantonio for their creativity in devising and organising this. It should be fun!

I wish to congratulate our young people on their application to their learning. I want to thank our passionate and dedicated teachers and staff for their work and I wish to thank parents and caregivers for the work you do in supporting your child's learning. We use a variety of measures to assess learning over a year – informal and formal tests, ACER tests, PISA tests and NAPLAN tests. Each type of assessment helps us form the picture of student progress and helps us focus on specific areas when planning our teaching program. Each assessment tells part of the story regarding student progress and **our story is looking pretty good.**

I am particularly proud to report that St Francis College NAPLAN results show that our *effect size* (how the teaching program adds value right from the child's starting point) is in

positive territory in 8 out of the 9 areas of reading, writing and numeracy compared to the national effect size. It is certainly worth celebrating.

This week our Year 12 OP students sat the QCS test. They too have worked hard in preparation for this state wide test and have been ably supported by Mrs Rizzo, Ms Barrett, Mr Gall, Mr Bray, Mr Murphy, Ms Beattie, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Readman and Ms Whitaker.

Worth celebrating too are the beautiful young people that we, parents and staff, are guiding to be the best they can be. Recently I had cause to speak to some young people about their lack of good manners and common sense in their classroom. Their behaviour reflected badly on themselves, but also was impacting on the learning of others. I took these young people aside to address their thoughtlessness and self-centeredness. Before I had even began to speak they owned what they had done. They acknowledged that they were inconsiderate and thoughtless, and offered to make amends. We all make mistakes, but I think we should be impressed by young people who can self-correct and show a willingness to make restitution.

St Francis believed in the good of all people and he would have been impressed (I think) with our young people and their ability to reflect. Thoughtfulness (thinking of others) needs to be taught and modelled. I think that generosity of spirit only happens when young people are taught and shown at home and school that it is to be valued. I see ample evidence every day of the thoughtfulness of our parents, for example through volunteering at the tuckshop or teaching cultural dances to our children and welcoming new people to our community. Of our students I see examples through volunteering at the hospitality centre or breakfast club, through their energy in fundraising endeavours and in our staff, their generosity in providing Co curricula Programs.

We have much to be *grateful* for at St Francis College. We are rich in diversity and defy the example of many parts of the world where diversity causes conflict and rancour. I get much joy from the playground when I see children from many cultures playing happily and harmoniously together. I would like to invite certain

world leaders to St Francis College and say “come and learn from our young people”.

In fact as I was travelling to work this morning and listening to the radio, Bernard Salt, a demographer, was discussing the changing shape, structure and population make up of Brisbane. He was predicting the diverse cultural and religious make up of Brisbane’s future population in 2030. We are ahead of the trend here at St Francis in Crestmead, Logan. It is great to be *in* the future and showing how it can be done according to two of our seven values – *Simplicity and Harmony*.

Happy Father’s Day to all the men in our community who ‘parent’ our children. It is a special and significant role and we celebrate you and give thanks for you this Sunday.

To recognise this our Year 2 children shared in a morning of fun activities to celebrate! It was wonderful to see so many fathers, grandfathers and male caregivers enjoying this precious time with their children. The smiles on their faces just showed how important you are in their eyes. Thank you to everyone who came!



A Prayer for Fathers

God our Father, We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfather and great grandfathers who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

Tricia Kennedy

What did you do at school today?

Nothing!

Sound familiar! Though parents frequently attribute such answers to their children being secretive, often the cause really rests with the questions of parents. The important point is that parents talk to their children. Talking with your son or daughter involves two relatively simple aspects: asking questions and active listening.

To encourage children to speak, parents should ask more open questions. Open-ended questions generally begin with “How,” “Why,” “Tell me about it” or “What.” Ask for explanations and elaborations rather than just one-word answers. Indirectly, your questions express your love for your child and interest in what is said.

“How did you get the idea to do a science project on snakes?”

“Why do you want to go to the Camp next month?”

“Tell me about the speech you gave today.”

“What was the best thing that happened in school today?”

Avoid questions that are too open-ended. “What’s new in school?” or “Tell me about your trip,” ask for too much information and often get the reply “Nothing” or “There’s nothing to tell.” Without active listening, the tendency is to down play the child’s feelings. It is essential to listen to the words and the feelings behind the words. Respond often to the feelings rather than the content of what is said. “You feel deeply about that,” “It made you angry,” “Tell me about how you felt when ...”

Believe in your own ability

As I walked around the examination room on Tuesday and Wednesday and watched our seniors facing the challenge of the QCS Test, I was impressed by their focus on the task at hand.

A range of questions requiring different sets of skills were encountered but with perseverance and importantly self-belief, our students rose to the challenge.

This same quality of self-belief serves us well in the sporting and cultural arenas, but how do we develop this positive outlook on life? The key in my opinion is to realise that it comes when we practise our skills each and every day and as we hone our skills to a high level, we achieve success more frequently. There is nothing glamorous about doing a sheet of maths problems for example, but in performing this task and getting many correct answers, we start to develop the ‘I can do it’ attitude and doubts about our capacity start to disappear. Occasionally along the way we face problems we cannot solve and we make mistakes, but if we ask for help we learn and ‘cash in on the experience’. If we have listened carefully, the next time around we are not daunted by such a question, because experience has taught us how to solve the problem.

In short, what I am saying students, is that success is sure to come if you believe in your own ability. The development of such confidence is in fact a work in progress and it grows little by little each and every day of our lives.

“They can because they think they can.” Virgil

John Marinucci
On behalf of Tricia, John and Julian

Religious Life of the School

From the APREs P-6

A visit from Ngutana-Lui

On Tuesday, 22nd August, our friends from the Ngutana-Lui (*to teach*) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre visited St Francis College for a day of interactive learning activities. All students from Prep to Year 6 participated. We welcomed the tutors as they shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with our students. Students were given the opportunity to learn how to throw a boomerang, learn about Torres Strait Islander culture, learn about food & fibre, hear cultural stories and learn an Aboriginal song and dance. During the farewell we had the great pleasure to listen to some didgeridoo playing from the Ngutana-Lui Tutors. On behalf of the whole school we thank the Ngutana-Lui tutors for sharing their valued knowledge and time with our school.



Mr Rob Canning (Assistant Principal Religious Education P-9)

The Value of Reconciliation

St Francis and St Clare recognised that the fullest expression of God's love is forgiveness and therefore it is essential that as Franciscans and as members of a Christian community we strive for reconciliation and to restore right relationships. Forgiveness/reconciliation does not forget or ignore pain, but allows for new possibilities, change, growth, and life.

"Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times'" (18:21-22).

At St Francis College, we understand that humans make mistakes and sometimes the mistakes cause a lot of pain. It is because we recognise the dignity of each person and the call to love and to forgive one another that we seek to heal relationships so that all can have life and live it to the full.

Ms Cathy Barrett (Assistant Principal Religious Education 6-12)

Learning and Teaching News

Years P-12

"...to be loved as to love"

Numeracy

This term I have been sharing ways to support your children develop their Numeracy capability. This week I will share some strategies **money**. Money is an everyday opportunity to engage students with numeracy. Some simple tips include:

- Calculating money amounts and different ways to use coins and notes to present particular amounts – e.g. "Show me \$2.50", "How much do I have in my hand?"
- Calculating which of the different size items is the better buy and discussing strategies
- Giving change, particularly change from \$1 and \$10
- Asking how much change they would expect to get.

Adolescent Success Conference

Last Friday a group of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 attended the Adolescent Success Conference with a group of Middle Years Teachers. The students engaged in a range of activities that explored STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). For all reports, the students had a fantastic time engaged in creative, hands-on and fun learning.



Mr David Gall (Assistant Principal Curriculum: P-9)

National Science Week

St Francis College is celebrating National Science Week in week 10 (11th-15th September). This year the Wednesday in particular will be a very exciting day, with a Street Science Show for students from Prep- 9. Street Science are a team of passionate science educators who use exciting and interactive stage demonstrations to bring science to life. This year they are bringing their huge "Rethink Refuel Recover – Sustainable Science Supercharged" show to our school.

The show promises to live up to its title with a range of dynamic science demonstrations exploring renewable fuels, conscientious chemistry and ingeniously upcycled materials. It's a truly exciting and educational whole school event which will inspire our students to rethink the way their own use of science can boost Earth's sustainability into the future.

Senior secondary students will also be visiting early and middle year's classrooms during the day to demonstrate simple science concepts using hands on activities. They will explore topics like wind power, solar energy, pollution, greenhouse gases and robotic technology. The day promises to be a fun and engaging learning experience for all.



Ms Stacey Readman (Maths & Science Curriculum Middle Leader)

Pastoral News

Lateness

The teaching staff has raised some concern that many students are arriving late for school on a fairly regular basis. Unfortunately this is a situation that can have a negative effect on the education of not only those students who are late, but also the other students in the class.

What impact does being late have on the student?

Students who are late may miss vital instructions and information about what is happening, not to mention important learning situations. This means that they have to catch up somehow. It's like being late for a movie and not being able to understand what's happening because you've missed the beginning of the storyline.

Students can feel unsettled, disorganised and unhappy for the rest of the day and it can take them some time to complete and understand the work that they have missed. Understanding that there are important expectations about arriving on time is vital preparation for readiness to deal with the real world in later life.

How does it affect the other students in the class?

Students who are late have an unsettling effect on the rest of the class. Often teachers will need to repeat instructions, go over information or stop teaching a concept in order to settle a student who has arrived late. These interruptions are disruptive to the whole class. Student who arrive late often have things that need to be done prior to them joining the class which caused even further disruption. Sometimes students have to wait to get the teacher's attention and important issues can be forgotten.

How does student lateness cause difficulties for the teacher?

The teacher has a certain amount of material and activities to cover each lesson. Also organisational issues are usually dealt with at the beginning of the day. Teachers can become increasingly frustrated when late students continually and repeatedly interrupt their planned routines, as they have to stop teaching to deal with the issues involved.

We are all human. A car can break down and unexpected situation can occur. We know the family morning routines are not always straightforward. If you are experiencing problems, please speak to us, as we may be able to offer suggestions to help.

We are happy to accept that students will be late on the odd occasion because of unforeseen circumstances. However, arriving late on a regular basis is not acceptable.

Remember

Being half an hour late to school each day from prep to Year 10 adds up to missing the equivalent of one year and one and half terms of school.

This weeks' article of interest

In acknowledgment of Father's Day here is a wonderful article offering advice to all fathers.

Ms Michelle Kelly (Assistant Principal Pastoral: P-12)

Sports Update

Years 7-12

News from the Sports Desk!

South Coast Athletics Trials

A massive congratulations to Sinalei Iosefa in Year 5 and Ivana Muavae in Year 11 who finished 2nd in their respective age groups for Shot Put. They will now be competing in the trials for the South Coast team next Wednesday. Best of luck girls!!!

Please let us know if you are an SFC Sporting Star!

If you have achieved sporting success outside of school make sure you let either Miss Litzow or Mr Grove know. We would love to hear about your sporting gifts and talents and highlight it on assembly and in the school newsletter.

Rugby Requirements at SFC

For those students who are wishing to be considered for any rugby teams at SFC this year, please read the below information carefully.

Urgent Reminder of Team Requirements

I will be at training **on time** and **follow the school rules**:

- Tuesday 7.00am – 8.00am
 - Thursday 3.15pm – 4.30pm
- *If you are unable to get to training you **MUST** email your coach OR phone the school to leave a message
- Respecting self (ensuring I am wearing the correct uniform & handing in permission forms on time)
 - Respecting learning (handing assignments and set tasks in & on time)
 - Respecting others (ensuring my behaviour is exemplary in the classroom & during breaks)
 - Respecting the environment (not littering the environment)

What's coming up?

- 10-19 Years Pacific District Athletics 5th and 6th September
- Coomera Rivers Cup Futsal U14 Girls and Open Girls 7th September
- Ormeau Woods Open Touch Competition 12th September
- CBSQ Championship 14th -17th September
- SECA Rugby 7s Carnival U12/13, U14/15, (BOYS), U16/17 Boys and Girls
- Samsung Cup Netball Competition 16th-17th September

Other news

There is always a lot happening in Sport so keep your eyes peeled on the newsletter, sport notice board and the daily announcements for updates. If you are interested in any of the activities listed come and see Miss Litzow or Mr Grove at the Sports Office (Rufino).

TERM 3 SPORT CALENDAR & TRAINING TIMETABLE

Term 3 is a busy term for sport at SFC! Please see attached the Term 3 sports calendar & training timetable so that you can keep up to date.

Miss Jordan Litzow & Mr Lachlan Grove (Sports Program Leaders)

Library Happenings

Book Week

The theme for Book Week this year was Escape to Everywhere, and we celebrated in numerous ways. The highlight was a two day visit by children's author, Krista Bell whose talks were sure

to inspire budding writers. Some of our College staff became guest readers and shared a story with several of our P-6 classes.



We also had competitions for each year level by running the annual Readers' Cup challenge. Teams from Years 5 and 6 vied for the winners' trophy. This year we congratulate 6B!



Celebrations are continuing this week with the Book Fair being set up in the library and students having the opportunity to browse through the books with the option of buying.



Mr John Roberts (Teacher Librarian)

Special Event

Friends of St Francis Coffee Morning!

We invite parents and caregivers of the St Francis community to come along on the 6th September from 8.00-8.45am, to our Coffee and Croissant morning.

Here you will have the opportunity to talk with our teachers and chat to other parents in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. It presents a chance to bring along any questions you may have for our teaching staff and share experiences with other families.

Make sure you put the date in your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date!

Friday 20th October from 3.30-6.00pm.



This year our Celebration of the Arts will be focusing on our young people and the wonderful contribution they make to our College artistically. It is our chance to show you, our families, their creativity. To this end we will be keeping it simple this year, with our usual concert in the Hall, Art work displayed in the Community Hub and a traditional Aussie BBQ!

We are all proud of what our students achieve artistically, it has a positive effect across all other subjects and enhances the students' lives outside of the College and we want this to be the focal point of the afternoon!

Administration Matters

Parent Portal Upgrade

We are excited to announce the upgrade of our Parent Portal.

Our Parent Portal is the main channel of communication with our parent community. Stay up to date with important school information!

New features

- New look and feel
- Better Report Absence feature makes it easier for parents to use
- Easier access to information about your child
- Give permission for excursions and other events online – no more paper forms!
- Image slide show on home page
- Translate feature lets you see information (excluding the content of documents) in your choice of language.

Of course, all our previous features are still there including calendar and announcements, school documents, staff contacts, enrolment and fee information as well as your child's timetable, teacher names, classes, attendance reports, NAPLAN and even report cards.

As always, you'll need your email address and password to login. Forgotten your password? You can reset it here

<https://pwdreset.bne.catholic.edu.au/CustomLanding/CustomLanding.html>

Watch this space!

SchoolTV

Remember to check out our New Digital Platform. A link can be found on our website homepage:

<http://www.sfcc.qld.edu.au/>



Mrs Claire McBean (Marketing, Communication and Events Coordinator)

Enrolment Info

Lay-by your book packs! Great!



Schoolstuff are offering the opportunity to lay-by your book packs ready for the New Year. Call on 07 3391 7000 or email enquiries@schoolstuff.com.au and they will set it up for you, no fees or charges and numerous ways to pay it off! You can choose to pay as little as \$10 per transaction...every bit counts!

<http://www.schoolstuff.com.au/>

Mrs Nicole Carter (Registrar)

Careers Corner

School based Traineeships/ Apprenticeships

Have you thought about a School Based Traineeship/ Apprenticeship? Earn while you learn.

Check out some of the vacancies that we have on offer. If you are interested, visit the Careers Office for more information.

Congratulations

Please help us congratulate Sarah Weis for gaining a School Based Traineeship at Goodstart Early Learning Centre – Crestmead

Open Days and Expos

2nd September, 10am-2pm University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Open Day for All things Healthy Expo Click here to view more information	21st October, 10am-2pm Mater Education – Open day (come and go as you please) Click here to view more information
8th September, 9.30am – 1.30pm Try a Trade – PCYC Nerang, Cayuga St, Nerang	7th December Southern Cross University (SCU) Gold Coast Info Day – online registration will open in October

[Click here to view more information](#)

[Click here to view more information](#)

SFC Community Hub

Term 3 Timetable

Please see the new timetable below!

Parish News

Date Claimers

1 Sep	First Friday Adoration at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm
5 Sep	Liturgy Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
8 Sep	Feast of Nativity of Virgin Mary
10 Sep	Catholic Campaign

Parish Fair

The annual Parish Fair will be held on Saturday 28 October 2017 from 8.30am to 3.00pm on the grounds of Maximilian Kolbe Church. Raffle tickets will be on sale soon at the end of all Masses; we encourage everyone to support the sale and get some tickets for your family & friends to come along and enjoy the day.

Community News

Free Dental Appointments

Dental appointments available now! Please see all the details on the leaflet below.

Bring French, Italian or Spanish Culture to Life!

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France, Italy or Spain next year? We have a small group of delightful students coming to Australia for 11 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All the international students are around 15 or 16 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term cultural immersion stay. It's fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you'd like know more, please email your interest to ICM on info@icm-education.com.au or call Georgie and Anja on 1800 500501 or visit our website

<http://www.icm-education.com/>

Southern Stars Baseball Club

The Southern Stars Baseball Club is a not for profit organisation promoting baseball in the Logan Area. Their field is located at Regency Drive Regents Park. They are recruiting for all junior teams for the upcoming season and their sign on day is this Sunday from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. They will even be having a tiny tots t-ball this year for the under 5's.

For more information please feel free to contact Karen Gallpen, Head Coach on southernstarsbaseballclub@gmail.com