

St Francis College

CRESTMead

In Simplicity and Harmony



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23 June 2017

Leadership Team News

Unbelievably we have reached the end of Semester 1. As a College, we feel a great sense of pride and warmth as we reflect on our students' achievements over the past 2 Terms. Each day we see them developing – they grow stronger in their knowledge and skills.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for their dedication, passion and commitment. It does not go unnoticed. In fact, we celebrated School Officer Day this week, in recognition of all the work school officers do to support the teaching and learning in our College.



This term has been a busy one on many fronts; with the last few weeks seeing students dedicated to exams and other forms of assessment, and teachers and admin staff working together to prepare report cards. To top it off, we have had Excursions, Camps, Reflection Day, Celebration of Learning, Jesus Day and Careers Day. This exciting range of educational opportunities, enhance our students' knowledge and understanding of what is learnt in class, and furthers our commitment to educating the whole person for a life well lived in the workplace and in the world.

In sport, all our teams, ranging from football, NRL, Netball to Cross Country have done exceptionally well, playing matches against strong opposition. The teams have grown in confidence and have developed a real desire to improve their skills. We are proud of the strong sense of cohesion within these various teams.



We are reaching the end of Refugee Week. This year's theme is *With Courage Let us all Combine*, taking inspiration from the second verse of *Advance Australia Fair*.

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas,
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.*

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. The Refugee website has many resources for us to refer to and also lists many events occurring around the country in celebration of the contribution made by refugees to our way of life.

We have many refugee students at St Francis College and families in our Franciscan and Logan communities. The Australian Catholics magazine features a story about refugee enrolment in the Sydney Archdiocese and is well worth reading. This Refugee Week, remember to celebrate the contribution of these people who enrich our society, our community and our College,

Last week, St Francis College hosted a Professional Learning Day presented by David Hornsby for teachers and other personnel from Brisbane Catholic Education. Our Prep teachers Ms Natalie Kirkman, Ms Brooke Siepen, Ms Sarah Smith and Ms Ellen Bean opened up their classrooms to other teachers. I am very proud that the staff of St Francis College are so highly regarded in the BCE system that we were approached to host this day and share our knowledge and skills around Prep Literacy.



We would urge all our families to use the holiday period to rest, spend time together and prepare for next term. It has been a busy year so far, but once again, an enjoyable one for all.

We wish you all a wonderful break together!

Tricia Kennedy

An enthusiasm for life

When you work with young people you inevitably get caught up in their enthusiasm for life. You see the excitement in their eyes for what the future holds and their incredible commitment to achieve personal excellence in so many areas of school life.

Never have I sensed this feeling so much as last week when I interviewed seven prospective new students to the College with their parents. These students who are currently in Year 6 were so confident and articulate, and they all seemed to have a wide range of co-curricular interests. As I talked to these students it was as though I was looking through a window into the future of our College. These students are sure to make their mark at St Francis and it is for this reason that I believe the future of our College is in good hands. As I farewelled each student and extended a formal welcome to St Francis, I could sense that they simply could not wait to get started here.

Quality Teachers, School Officers and Parents

After a period of 6 months I can inform parents that I perceive the staff of St. Francis to be extremely professional and dedicated. I am probably not telling parents anything they didn't already know. Many examples of dedication, expertise and effort are clearly evident at this great school.

Most importantly the teachers here are life-long learners and are forever looking to improve on their strategies to enhance learning for your children. The teachers and school officers here really care. I thank them on your behalf.

The other most important factor in our College community is the support from families. No school is perfect and there will be times when problems occur. At this point, school and home need to work together. It is important when a problem or concern arises that parents and the school come together in a positive and respectful manner.

When I hear of situations where a teacher's decision or action is questioned (such as in issuing a detention) in a confrontational manner, this disappoints me. At times we need to step back, ask questions to find out what happened before making aspersions towards anyone - this needs to be done in a respectful and positive way.

An appropriate saying I once heard goes something like this, 'All kids are good, but they sometimes make mistakes'.

I am sure that by all working together in an open, honest, supportive and Christian environment that the curriculum on offer at St Francis is one that prepares students for a successful future. I firmly believe St Francis is a wonderful community to be a part of.

Term Holidays

At the conclusion of another very busy term, I hope that all staff and students enjoy a well-deserved and revitalising break. I am aware that many families take the opportunity to travel during the school holidays and we wish each of them a safe and enjoyable time away from home.

Term 3 commences on Monday 10 July.

Warmest regards,

John Marinucci

On behalf of Tricia, John and Julian

Learning and Teaching News

Years P-12

"...to be loved as to love"

An article I read recently by Eduardo Briceño, was titled, 'Growth Mindset for a more empathetic and collaborative world'. While we have used the concept of a growth mindset to understand the way we can develop our abilities, this article extended this to include human qualities, such as being kind, joyful, smart, courageous or cooperative. It went on to say that 'research on this broader definition of growth mindset has led to new insights about its effects on human behavior and relationships. It has shown that viewing personal attributes as changeable, leads people to make less rigid social judgments and behave in more amicable and collaborative ways.....In a world with significant polarization, conflict and warfare, this research suggests that we need not only more empathy, but also the view that a person's ability to empathize can grow.'

Developing a growth mindset in terms of improving students' learning and achievements is one of our College Strategic Goals. Perhaps with this new research and the focus on having a growth mindset towards developing human qualities such as empathy, our students can also become active participants in bringing about a much needed change in our world through the way we meet those who are different to us. With such a growth mindset, research suggests we may 'become more open to considering where others are coming from, and with a greater understanding, they can more effectively negotiate, influence, and collaborate on problem-solving tasks.'

As the article concludes: 'Improving the world requires all of us to strengthen our understanding that all people and groups can change and to continuously take action to effect such change. We must shift from thinking that the world needs more kind people and fewer unkind people to thinking that we must

help all people cultivate more kindness, empathy, curiosity, competence and any other quality that will contribute to greater understanding, collaboration and positive relationships.'

<http://blog.mindsetworks.com/entry/growth-mindset-for-a-more-empathetic-and-collaborative-world>

(Eduardo Briceno cofounded Mindset Works with Carol Dweck, Lisa Blackwell and others to help people and organizations develop learning-oriented cultures and systems. As CEO of Mindset Works, Eduardo has spoken on the growth mindset at numerous conferences worldwide. Check out his recent TED talk: How to get better at the things we care about)

Middle Years FrancisCan Service Programme:



FrancisCan

Service Programme

'It is in giving, that we receive'

As we come to the end of Semester One and prepare to embark on a well-deserved time of rest and relaxation, we also need to consider our commitment to the FrancisCan Service Programme. This is just a reminder to ask your children in the Middle Years Phase of Learning, how many hours of service they have already attained and the type of service they are providing to those in our community. It would also be good to congratulate them on their efforts so far and encourage further commitment to this programme. These two weeks of holiday provide an excellent opportunity for students to use their gifts and talents in gaining more hours in service of those around them at home and in the community.

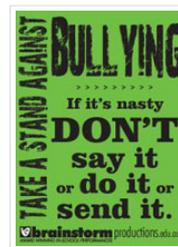
It is a good time to review with children, the purpose of the programme and why making a difference is important. Consider the following reasons:

Why make a difference?

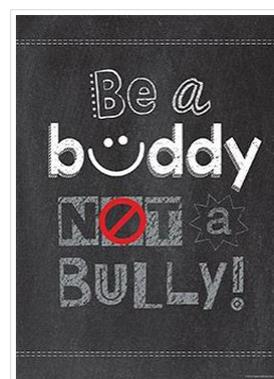
- To gain a sense of responsibility and social awareness which are key skills for students today
- By becoming active citizens, students can lead change within their own community
- By engaging students in issues of social justice, the environment, tolerance and cultural diversity, students can become empowered to make a difference
- Students can improve their organisational and leadership skills, motivation and behaviour with more self-confidence
- To provide opportunities for students to learn through helping others.

Learning and Teaching:

This week our Year 7 students attended the Brainstorm Production of Sticks and Stones. This is an educational theatre production that addresses the issue of bullying in schools in its many forms. Two energetic young performers explored the different forms of bullying in the playground, in the street and at home. Its strength is that through this drama students learn strategies for conflict resolution, anger management, assertiveness and breaking the cycle of violence.



Such performances provide another means of delivering the Australian Curriculum to our students; one that is engaging and compelling, inviting them to consider anew these significant issues as expressed within a real world context. Curriculum areas covered in this way include: The Arts, HPE, English, ICT, Personal & Social Capability and Ethical Understanding.



Some student feedback about the performance:



Other students commented on the convincing performance and how it highlighted 'real life problems we face today'. Students identified some strategies from the show to help deal with issues of bullying. These included, tell the teacher, walk away, calm down. Other advice taken was that 'violence is never the answer', 'there is always a way to fix things', 'talk to someone to get it out of your mind' and there is never 'no choice', (from Jerrymaih and Shamili – Year 7A).

It sounds like it was a very worthwhile presentation.

Thank You

As you may have read in our last Newsletter, this will be my last week at St Francis College for 2017. Over the next semester, I will be away for a period of Sabbatical Leave.



During this time I will visit the home of our Ursuline foundress, St Angela Merici, from northern Italy, the towns of Desenzano and Brescia. I will also spend a few days in Assisi from where I will leave for a Walking Pilgrimage to Rome. I am looking forward to this as a time of renewal, reflection and re-energising.

Thank you for all your support over time especially in our Middle Years Phase of Learning.

Please welcome Mr David Gall, who will be taking on my role as Assistant Principal – Curriculum P-9.

I look forward to returning to our St Francis College Community in 2018 and working with our wonderful students and all our families and friends once again!

Sr Lee Veriga (Assistant Principal Curriculum: P-9)

Pastoral News

School Uniform

At St Francis College our school rules are *Respect self, Respect others, Respect Learning and Respect the environment*. One of the ways we practise these rules is by taking pride in our school and ourselves by following our uniform code.

When we are dressed correctly we convey that we are proud to be a St Francis College student. We would like to remind you that the College rules state that students should wear:

- Black leather formal school shoes, clean and polished.
- The only acceptable jewellery is 2 small studs (1 in each ear) or small sleepers and a watch.
- White socks for girls and Grey College socks for boys (NO BLACK SOCKS).
- School or plain navy blue jumper.

We ask that parents continue to support St Francis College in maintaining our high standard of personal presentation, by ensuring that your child's uniform is in good order and complies with the College dress code. The school holidays are a good opportunity to check the uniform is in order.

We realise that sometimes circumstances hinder students from wearing the correct uniform. If this occurs, a note explaining the reason behind the problem should be sent with the student in their diary. The explanatory note should be signed by the students' PC Teacher or Pastoral Leader upon arrival at school and carried by the student at all times during the school day and presented if required.

It is expected that uniform non-compliance issues would be rectified over the holidays. Please contact Pastoral Leaders Ashleigh Fournakis Year 7 & 8, Megan Philpott Year 9 & 10, Dan Horn Year 11 & 12 or Michelle Kelly Assistant Principal Pastoral if you have any concerns regarding uniform.

We thank parents and caregivers for their attention to this matter and for partnering with us in the education of our young people.

This weeks' article of interest

Report time can be stressful for parents and student. The article below highlights 5 expert tips to guide parents through this process.

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

Positive Behaviour 4 Learning

Positive Behaviour 4 Learning: Years 7-12



St Francis College aims to produce the necessary academic and social skills within our students that will enhance their ability to succeed and develop for many years to come. To ensure this development takes place, we set expectations for our students which encourages them to strive for success and personal development. The last two 'Expectations of the Week' have been specifically designed to develop these essential skills and consist of; Respecting the learning of others and appropriate use of technology.

Respecting the learning of others: being able to identify how behavioural actions and choices can impact upon the learning of others. Students need to understand that their behaviour can have a large impact upon other members of the class. They need to develop the skills necessary to work appropriately within the classroom to maximise learning for all. Students should be able to engage, enhance and contribute to the lesson appropriately.

Appropriate use of technology: ensuring that students can use technology to enhance their learning. Technology can often be a distraction in the classroom. Therefore, students need to be taught the skills necessary to use technology as a learning tool. Students need to understand how to appropriately use devices in a way that builds on their knowledge and contributes to their education.

These are essential qualities that will no doubt improve your child's personal wellbeing and success. But we need your assistance at home in further developing these qualities. Ask your child what the 'Expectation of the Week' and teach them the skills and techniques that have worked well for you. Through this partnership of College and home, we can ensure that your child has the very best opportunity to succeed.

GOTCHA'S

Students are given GOTCHA'S from all class teachers for displaying appropriate behaviours and working well in class. In the year group assemblies one GOTCHA is drawn out for each year level and the winning student receives a tuckshop voucher. Ask your student how many GOTCHA'S they received this week.

This week's winners are:

Year 7	Raania Heckenberg	Year 8	Seh Reh
Year 9	Carlyle Busque	Year 10	Larni Ofa

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

SFC PB4L Team

Ask a Speechie

The school holiday is a perfect time to spend one-on-one time with your children – a perfect time to read together!

Top 5 reasons why parents should read books with their school-age children?

1. Reading books together increases the length of time a student can keep focussed on one task.
2. Reading books together has been shown to reduce negative behaviours.
3. Reading books together increases vocabulary.
4. Reading books together increases a child's understanding of book awareness.
5. Reading books together until the child is 10-11 has been shown to have positive effects on reading, intelligence and numeracy skills.

Top 5 tips to turn passive book-reading into an active conversation

1. Books aren't just for bedtime – look for other opportunities to read together for 5-10 mins.
2. Let your child choose the book – this will help maintain the child's interest.
3. You don't need to read the book in order or cover to cover – there's nothing wrong with stopping to talk about an interesting topic or picture, or skipping ahead to the next chapter.
4. Share the talking – talk about what's happening in the story and let your child provide their own response. If your child is independently reading, stop them every so often to discuss what's happening.
5. Alternate between asking questions and making comments – for example, instead of always asking 'What's that called?', you could mention something that happened in the story and give your opinion, 'I wouldn't like to go near that snake. It's too scary!' Then, wait for the child's response.

Remember: Reading together is meant to be an enjoyable experience, so don't force it and let yourself have fun!

With thanks to David Kinnane

Ms Jennai Beckett (Speech Pathologist)

Sports Update

Years P-12

News from the Sports Desk!

EMMAUS/SFC CONFRATERNITY TEAM

Good luck to Lemi Taulaga, Gareth Kepu, Jordyan Hussary, Trinity Lilomaiava, Nathaniel Tafola & Josiah Taofinu'u who will be competing in the Emmaus College Confraternity team from June 25th – 30th. The Confraternity Carnival is an annual Schoolboys' Rugby League competition conducted by the Queensland Independent Secondary Schools' Rugby League. The boys will be playing at the Padua College playing fields at Elliot Road & the ACU Campus at Banyo. Come and support the boys!!!

QLD SCHOOLBOYS RUGBY UNION

Good luck to Larry Lofipo & Josiah Taofinu'u who will be competing in the Combined Secondary Schools team at the QLD Schoolboys Rugby Union tournament from June 21st – 23rd at Ballymore. Please see below times of their upcoming games:

Wednesday June 21st Ballymore

CSS vs Chairman's XV 4.30pm

Thursday June 22nd Ballymore

GPS 2 vs CSS 5.45pm

Friday June 23rd Ballymore

CSS vs AIC 3:30pm

MASON WARREN OUR OWN SFC BASKETBALL CHAMPION!

Mason Warren is a Year 6 student at St Francis College. When Mason was 2 years old, he was involved in a car crash and I suffered a T-12 spinal injury. This means that he can't stand up however can still move his legs. Mason loves playing Basketball and Rugby but finds it difficult to play due to his injuries. He has some great support around him, his friend Sue told him about some other options that may suit him. Mason is too young at the moment to play Wheelchair Rugby, but is old enough to play Wheelchair Basketball.

"Every Wednesday night, I started doing some training drills and some fun games. After a few weeks, the Junior QLD coach came to my training and taught us a few things. He then told the manager of Sporting Wheelies that I was pretty good at Basketball, and the manager contacted my mum and said that he wanted me to play for the Brisbane Bandits in a Classics Tournament. In my most recent tournament I was selected as an All Star and also the MVP of my team. I love playing Wheelchair Basketball because it's great fun and I get to play with my friends. I get taught lots of cool skills like how to wheel my chair faster and steal the basketball from opponents. In the past it's been really hard not being able to participate in sports, but now that I have Wheelchair Basketball I know that anything is possible."

Congratulations Mason! You are truly an SFC sporting star!



TERM 2 SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Term 2 has seen some excellent displays of sportsmanship & courage in all of our students sporting endeavours. Please see below some photos of our SFC Sporting Stars!



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.

P-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The P-6 Athletics Carnival was held on THURSDAY of this week. There were lots of different events for the students to participate in including Long Jump, Foam Javelin and Novelty Relays for the P-2 and High Jump, Shot Put, Vortex Throw for the 3-6.

Age Champion results for Long Jump, High Jump, Shot and other events will be calculated and presented at assembly in Term 3. The 100m sprint will be held in Term 3, Week 1.

P-6 AFL DEVELOPMENT CLINICS

The first of our AFL clinics were held this week. These clinics are available to **ALL** students in P-6. In the sessions, students are taught some basic skills of kicking, passing, tackling in a fun and highly engaging environment. Please contact Mr Grove for a permission form or see your class teacher for more information. The last two sessions of the clinic will be held in Term 3 Week 1.

SECA

Round 5 of SECA games saw some great wins. Congratulations to all students who played to the best of their ability and represented the school with pride! Just a reminder that SECA days are normal school days and all students are to attend in their **full sports uniform** WITH proper sport shoes and white socks. Congratulations to the winning teams and Most Valuable Players for week five, we look forward to more successful results next term. SECA will commence again in Week 1 of Term 3.

WHAT'S COMING UP...

- SECA Round 6 – Thursday 13th July
- 7 – 12 Athletics Carnival – Friday 14th July
- SECA Round 7 – Thursday 20th July
- SECA Round 8 – Thursday 27th July
- SECA Athletics Carnival – Tuesday 1st August

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).

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

Special Events

Year 3 Excursion

Our Year 3 children were lucky enough to visit the Sir Thomas Planetarium and Botanical Gardens this term. They learnt all about day and night, in keeping with their learning in the classroom. As well as experiencing orienteering whilst exploring the Botanical Gardens! The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



Careers Corner

Year 11 Hospitality Work Experience: 20 July, 21 July and 3 August

Please find below the information letter detailing all you need to know about the Year 11 Hospitality Work Experience.

Administration Matters

School Reports

Please be aware that reports are now put on the Parent Portal, any changes to your Email or other contact details must be given to the office to ensure that you can access this.

Instructions on how to access the portal are attached below.

Student Photographs

Save the date!

Please be aware that the school Student Photo Day will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 18th July

7-12 School Photo Day

Wednesday 19th July

P-6 School Photo Day

The above dates are for the individual photos, family photos will be available to have done on both days during the morning tea and lunch breaks. **Please make sure your child/ren bring their envelope in on the day.**

Mrs Claire McBean (Marketing, Communication and Events Coordinator)

General News

NCCD Parent Information

If parents/carers would like their children not to be included in the NCCD process and would like to opt them out or have any

additional questions, please contact Katrina Howie on 07 3489 4800 or kmhowie@bne.catholic.edu.au by Friday 28th July.

Australian Girls' Choir – June Open Classes

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform. School aged girls are invited to try our fun and inclusive classes and learn more about being part of the AGC. Contact us if you would like to attend a free trial class in June.

Ph 1800 338 142 or email brisbane@aspagroup.com.au

Parish News

Children's Liturgy

This is held in the Maryfields Hall at 9.30am every Sunday (except during School Holidays). Parents with children aged 5 up to early teens are encouraged to send their children to attend these faith-forming, fun-filled learning sessions. For further enquiries contact:

Nimfa@0455819601 | Alpha@0422701965

Date Claimers

23 June Feast of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

24 June Feast of Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Community News

Sports Focus Groups Required

On behalf of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Young People, Ross Beaton Consultants are conducting focus groups for parents of children aged 0-13 years. They wish to hear your point of view on parent involvement in children's sport. They are aiming to recruit parents for focus groups in Brisbane, with a mix of parents whose children currently participate in sport and parents whose children do not currently participate in sport.

The focus groups will help the ASC understand how to better support families so that children find and enjoy the sporting activities that work for them. The groups will run for approximately 90 minutes, and will be guided by a facilitator to provide parents with a fair and respectful process to voice their thoughts and feelings on children's participation in sport. Each participating parent will **receive a \$50 voucher in recognition of their contribution to this important ASC project.**

They are looking for a range of parents who might include –

- Parents with children who currently participating in sport and some with children not currently participating in sport
- Parents of different age groups (0-3, 4-8, 9-12)
- Mothers and fathers
- Working and non-working parents
- Single and dual parents
- Low, mid and high income families
- Indigenous and CALD background parents

If you would like to participate please **contact the P & F Federation Office on 3336 9349 or by email to info@pandf.org.au by Friday 23 June** and let them know your children's age and if they play sport or if they don't play sport.