Dear Parents

At last Sunday’s 10am parish mass, the new staff at our school were commissioned into their role as teachers. They were joined by new staff from the other two primary schools within our parish. Sunday’s Gospel from Matthew, Salt and Light, reminds us of our need to be the ‘light to others’. Fr Warrick spoke to us about our need to be missionary disciples, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to let Jesus’ light shine through us. What a timely connection between the Gospel and our school Vision Statement. This year, let us all try to walk closely with Jesus and be a shining example to others.

Thank you to Fr Warrick for celebrating mass with us and for welcoming our new staff into the parish.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
It was terrific to see so many parents taking the opportunity to meet teachers and attend our Parent Information Night last Monday evening. 700 sausages were cooked and the turn-out was quite amazing. It is so important that a strong partnership is established as soon as possible between parents and teachers.

All class information is available on our website. Please visit www.stfa.act.edu.au and follow the ‘communication’ tab to ‘Parent Information Night’.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
Our Opening School Mass will be held on Wednesday 15th February at 9:30am. Parents are most welcome to celebrate the start of the 2017 school year with us. Year Six students will be commissioned at this Mass as our 2017 student leaders.

YEAR SIX STUDENT LEADERSHIP
On Tuesday, Year Six participated in a Leadership Retreat Day. This was a great day discussing what student leadership is and spending some time participating in leadership activities. The students were given an insight into some of their responsibilities that they will undertake throughout the year and showed an eagerness to be given extra responsibility within the school. I am looking forward to working closely with our leaders of 2017.

THANK YOU
A big thank you to Carmen Gee for volunteering for the role of School Services convenor and to Briony Kirby for taking on the school banking role, to Catherine Hemphill for taking over the coordinator’s role of School Banking and to Donna Cochrane for the enormous amount of time she has spent looking after the banking program here at St Francis for the last couple of years. Another thank you to Catherine Hemphill and Amy Burke for their tireless efforts with our clothing pool. It has been very busy with the start of the new school year and we appreciate the time spent getting our students outfitted with school uniforms.

We are still looking for someone to coordinate our 2 working bees throughout the year. If this sounds like something you can help us with, please contact the school office.

DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION VISIT
On Tuesday 21st February, Mr Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education will be visiting our school. He will spend the afternoon meeting with me, visiting classrooms and having lunch with staff. We are looking forward to showing our Director our great school and sharing with him the initiatives and plans for 2017.

Together we are peacemakers who grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus
PICKERS REMINDERS
Just some friendly reminders about ‘Pickers’ to ensure our students are always safe and that it runs smoothly and effectively:

1. Please do not get out of your car to assist your child. There is a staff member there to assist with this.
2. If your child is too young and needs assistance with seat belts, then I suggest going to ‘parkers’. The time spent with seatbelts can make this process slower.
3. If your child is not there, we will ask you to drive around again.
4. All cars that line up before 3pm will be asked to move on. Please consider coming between 3:15 and 3:30pm where congestion is at a minimum.

A reminder for morning drop off to ensure smooth traffic flow –
- please do not get out of the car.
- please have your child ready for the ‘kiss and drop’.
- if you need to get out of your car, take the bag out of the boot etc, please park your car in the carpark.

Thanks so much for your understanding with these procedures. We believe they are very simple and effective but need all parents to follow them to ensure the smooth operation and safety of all.

THE HOT WEATHER
Due to the hot weather, we are gently reminding parents to ensure that their child comes to school each day with a water bottle and a hat. It is important that each child is able to replenish their fluids throughout the day and can do this by refilling their bottle from the bubblers.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE YEAR 1/2 BLOCK
As mentioned at the Parent Information Evening, we will be undertaking a building project this year commencing in Term 3. Initial plans are up on our website. If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to send me an email. Alternatively, you could talk to someone on the Community Council. This will be the first item on the agenda at our AGM meeting in Week 4 this term.

Peace and best wishes
Kate Markcrow

READING WORKSHOP
On Monday 20th February we have the privilege of having Professor Kaye Lowe working with our staff during the day, and then presenting to our parent and family communities at 6pm.

This is such a treat for us to be able to share a valuable resource with you, so we have arranged for BASCA staff to care for children during the 6pm-7pm timeslot.

Please try to make this hour, even if your children are excellent readers, there is something for everyone in this session.

If you could please RSVP we will know how many chairs to set up, and how many staff members from BASCA we will need.

I encourage everyone who reads with your children to attend, so grandparents, family day care workers, neighbours and friends all welcome!

Please click on the link to RSVP to the Kaye Lowe Parent Information Night.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NGZXCW
The Gospel according to 6 Earth

The Gospel was about the first human who was crafted by God out of soil. God breathed into the nose and put in spirit and life. The first human was created. Father Warrick also talked about listening. We have only one mouth but two ears, so we should listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus said, ‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them listen!’ Grace Mengelkamp

Father Warrick told us about a Hebrew word which means wind, breath and spirit. We also learned that Corpus Christi means ‘Body of Christ’. Inigo Gariguez

The Gospel was about what God did and made. The church is 115 years old and used to face a different direction in the pines! I talked to a great-grandfather from our school about my time in England. Ryan Conroy

Ms Conroy asked us to do something better to be more like Jesus, such as say sorry or accept an apology. Larissa Keenan

After Mass, we walked over to the Corpus Christi Assisi Room, where we had some biscuits and a chance to talk to some elderly people about school, camp and Confirmation. Katie Williams

The Opening School Mass is next Wednesday morning at 9:30am, when we welcome our new staff and students as we commence the 2017 school year. The Year Six leadership ceremony will follow. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sacraments 2017
Notes will be sent home this week to explain how to enrol your Catholic child for Confirmation (June), Eucharist (August) or Reconciliation (November).

An information evening about registration for the sacraments in 2017 is available NEXT WEEK

if you need assistance or have questions, on either Wednesday February 15th or Thursday 16th between 5:30pm - 6:30pm at Holy Family Church, Castleton Cresent, Gowrie.

Change your school calendar!
Date change for Confirmation - now Mass on Wednesday June 14 at 6pm.
All Year 4 Students’ Retreat Day for Eucharist Wednesday July 26.
All Year 3 Students’ Retreat Day for Reconciliation Wednesday November 1.

With God’s blessings
Lisa Conroy
Religious Education Coordinator
Meet Our School Captains

Freia Huber
I am Freia Huber. I am 11 years old and I am the school captain for 2017, semester 1. In the six years that I have been at St Francis of Assisi I have always followed the rules and done my best. I think I will be a good school captain because I want to help everyone to be a Peace Maker and do their best by leading by example. My ability is to be creative and, just like St Francis of Assisi; I am passionate about the environment. I love animals and all nature and plants. This year I encourage everyone to do their best, follow the rules and be a Peace Maker. Just be yourself!

Toby Barber

Hi I am Toby Barber. It made me very happy and proud to have been chosen to be school captain for 2017, it means so much to me. It is a great opportunity to show leadership and encourage all students to do their best, be themselves and always try to do the right thing. I love the challenge and opportunity to be given extra responsibilities. I am a reliable and trustworthy person and someone everyone can talk to.

Isabella Antoniak
I wanted to be one of the St Francis of Assisi captains because I had talked to some students that had some really good ideas and I wanted to give those people a chance to share them.

Jeremy McGann

I am Jeremy and I am really excited to be a captain at our school this year. I think my personality suits the role. I am a calm, positive, respectful and kind person and leader. I love playing sport. My favourite is basketball. As a school captain I think it is important to be a positive role model to younger students and take the time to look out for them. I am a respectful and responsible person and can easily talk to teachers, students, parents and other community members. I hope this year I am able to organise some fundraisers to help support some important charities. I am looking forward to the year ahead.

Tilly Morrison

I wanted to become a House Captain because I like to encourage my friends and fellow students to achieve their best. I’m glad I got to be House Captain of Morrison because of my family roots to the Sacred Heart Church. And, being a Morrison it is a great honour to be the Morrison House Captain.

Keira Polmanteer

My name is Keira Polmanteer and I am one of Morrison’s 2017 House Captains. I am currently in Year 6 Water. I may have the title of captain but I believe leadership is about action not title. To be a captain I know that you should lead by example and encourage contributions by all. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make an even better school environment then our school, Saint Francis of Assisi, already is.
**Andrew Chiefly**

Hello my name is Andrew Chiefly and I am the Polding Captain. I wanted to be a captain so I could serve the St Francis community and I am able to do this as House Captain. I participate in all the events I can at carnivals. I try my best and encourage others to do the same. I am proud to be representing the school as a House Captain and will build school spirit by making carnivals fun and encouraging students to join in and have a go.

**Brodie McGuire**

I am the Polding House Captain for 2017. I wanted to become House Captain because I LOVE sport and I hope to encourage others through my journey to do the same someday.

LET’S GO POLDING!

**Lachlan Cunanan**

What it means to be House Captain? It means you have to step up and really show everybody what to do and how to do things. You have to be a leader, encouraging, nice, responsible and, most importantly, you need to have good sportsmanship. I love sport and I think everybody else should enjoy it no matter how good they are.

**Caitlin Koch**

Hi my name is Caitlin Koch and I am honoured to be the new House Captain for McCormack. The reason why I wanted to become House Captain was to share my love of sport with St Francis of Assisi students and teachers. Sport is great because you can have fun, make new friends and stay fit and healthy.

I look forward to helping team McCormack have fun with sport this year 😊.

**Joseph Lonergan**

My name is Joseph Lonergan. I am Cunningham’s House Captain and I wanted to be the House Captain because I am crazy about sport. I mainly enjoy team sports because there are more opportunities to encourage and show great sportsmanship.

**Ella Ybanez**

Hello, my name is Ella Ybanez. I like playing sports and my favourite school subject would be reading. I have chosen to be a House Captain because I’ve always wanted to be able to experience what it is like to be a school leader. I am happy to be the House Captain of Cunningham at St Francis of Assisi Primary School.
BASCA ACCOUNTS
The BASCA Accounts for Weeks 9 & 10 Term 4, 2016 were emailed to parents on 10 January and are now overdue. Please finalise your account as soon as possible to avoid “Late” fees. Take this opportunity to bring your account to a “Nil” balance before the accounts for Weeks 1 & 2, Term 1 are emailed next week.

VACATION CARE ACCOUNTS
The statements for the recent January program have been emailed this week. Due date for payment is Friday 17 February.

PAYMENTS
Payments may be made by Electronic Transfer (details are on your account), or by EFTPOS and Credit Card at the BASCA Office.

The school has launched the new Qkr! App to include BASCA and Vacation Care payments. Qkr! is a secure and easy way to make payments from your phone. Flyers on how to download the App and set up your account are available from the BASCA Office.

BOOKING SLIPS
Parents are reminded to complete a booking slip for your child/ren for 2017 to secure your place at BASCA. Booking slips are available from the BASCA Office.

If you have any concerns with your account, please don’t hesitate to call or email me. I can be contacted Wednesdays and Thursdays on 6292 8034, or email me at Ann.Ryan@cg.catholic.edu.au thank you Ann Ryan BASCA Accounts Manager.

FINANCE NEWS
Term 1 fee statements were sent via email yesterday. If you did not receive your fee statement, please let me know so I can re-send or update your billing details with the correct email address.

I have had a lot of queries about the Building Fund contribution – this is a voluntary, tax deductible donation of $163.00 per family per term. All Building Fund contributions received by St Francis are remitted to Catholic Education for the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund (CCSBF). If you do not wish to pay the building fund please notify me via email so that I can credit your account and update your details. I do need annual notification of the election not to pay building fund.

If you have any queries about your fee statement feel free to send an email to susan.rowell@cg.catholic.edu.au and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Otherwise give me a call on 6292 4500. Please note I am not in the office on Fridays.

Kind regards
Susan Rowell
The Canteen is closed for business on TUESDAYS again this year. I would encourage all parents/carers (grandparents welcome too!) to consider volunteering to help in the canteen... there are many options, depending on your time constraints and our Canteen Manager, Mrs Sue Lever & Jo Summerfield is very appreciative of any offers. Even if you could spare 15 minutes first up in the morning that would be a help.

All lunch orders must be submitted online by 9am. Have you signed up for FLEXISCHOOLS?

Bringing Up Great Kids

This course will give you insights and skills needed to:

- Promote positive and nurturing relationships between parents and children
- Explore the management of stress in your parenting role
- Encourage the development of your child’s positive self-identity
- Develop the ability to contain strong emotion and to think through the responses to your child, rather than give ‘knee-jerk’ reactions
- Overcome some of the obstacles that are getting in the way of being the kind of parent you would like to be
- Create opportunities for positive exchanges with your children

The course is offered 3 hours per week for a 3 week period.

DATES: Mondays 20th Feb, 27th Feb & 6th March 2017
TIME: 6pm—9pm
VENUE: 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill
Fee: $100 (concessions available)
Fee includes light supper & course materials