Dear Families

Yesterday we celebrated, as a school community, our Opening School Mass for 2017. Thank you to the many parents, grandparents and parishioners who attended - it was great you could join us. During our Mass we reflected on being like Jesus and allowing others to see Jesus in us. ‘Together we are peacemakers who grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus’ is our school focus for 2017. We pray that God will bless and guide us as we begin this new school year at St Francis of Assisi Primary School.

Many thanks to Father Warrick and Father Jiss who celebrated Mass with us. A big thank you to Ms Lisa Conroy, Religious Education Coordinator who coordinated our Mass and to the staff and students for their preparation. It was a wonderful celebration.

YEAR 6 INDUCTION CEREMONY
Yesterday we also inducted out Year 6 students into their role as school leaders. Each child received a leadership badge, and in return, they presented the school with their leadership promise for the year. Our four school captains impressed everyone with their speech on behalf of the Year 6 students and stressed the need to be responsible and kind. I am looking forward to working with Year 6 throughout the year as they care for the other members of our school community. A big thank you to the Year 6 teachers for ensuring the students were prepared in taking on this role.

KAYE LOWE
Thank you parents for such a great response to our Reading Workshop with Kaye Lowe on Monday the 20th February 6-7pm. We have 40 parents registered to attend the session. There are still spots remaining for parents to register via the online link below. A reminder that there is free child minding through BASCA for all parents to access. This workshop will be beneficial to any parent K-6 who is looking to help their children with reading at home. If you are a Kinder parent, please make an effort to attend the workshop. You will not be disappointed and you will be providing your child with the best foundation to help kick start their reading.

One of Kaye's most well-known phrases is “Parents are teachers' best allies, when it comes to teaching reading. The positive results for children's literacy learning are undeniable” – Kaye Lowe. The staff at St Francis agree whole heartedly with Kaye's words and would appreciate seeing as may parents as possible next week!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NGZXCW

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION NIGHT
Tonight will be the last of the Sacramental Information Nights. It will be held at Holy Family Church in Gowrie from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. If you have a child making a sacrament this year and have any questions about the program please attend during these times.

DIRECTOR VISIT
Next Tuesday, 21st March, from 12:30pm, the Director of Catholic Education, Mr Ross Fox will be visiting St Francis of Assisi School. All Catholic systemic schools have a visit by the Director each year. This visit is an opportunity for the Director to speak with me, have a tour of the school, meet with key personnel and spend time with the students. We are looking forward to Ross’ visit next Tuesday.

Together we are peacemakers who grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus
**PICKERS AND PARKERS**

A big thank you to all our users of the Pickers lane. We have seen a huge improvement this week and I appreciate you driving around until the Pickers Lane opens. I would like to clarify the time that ‘Pickers’ opens. We do say 3:00pm, however, we do need to wait until the bell goes and the children start coming out. This helps alleviate the congestion out on Casey Cres and allows the traffic to flow smoothly.

I will be out again next week moving traffic on.

Now for some timely reminders about Parkers.

Parents or carers need to pick up children from the hall. I know that pick-up time is a great way to catch up with friends and make connections with new families to our school and I encourage this but I do ask that once you have collected your child, you leave the hall and find an area either in the foyer or outside on the kinder lawns to catch up with your friends.

For safety reasons, we ask that students who have been collected by their parents are not allowed to play on the stage or run around the hall. It is extremely hard for teachers to supervise students and know who has and has not been picked up.

I thank you once again for your assistance with this matter.

Peace and best wishes

Kate Markcrow

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**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 opportunity 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](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NGZXCW)
Opening School Mass
Many thanks to Fathers Warrick and Jiss for their spiritual leadership. Also thanks to the many parents and friends who attended our first 2017 School Mass yesterday. Also, thanks to the musicians, choir, readers, altar server and all our teachers and students who assisted in many ways to enrich our celebration. We welcomed our new staff, presenting them with a Damiano cross, known as the Franciscan cross. Congratulations to our Year Six Leaders who were commissioned as our 2017 school leaders. I am confident you will be models of compassion and service to our community.

The Gospel According to St Francis of Assisi

Students

Love Jesus and follow his footsteps.
Riley Brown 4E

This Mass was special. Father Warrick talked about what being baptised means. He said to never dry off. That means God wants us to be clean, to be the best we can be. When I received my school leader badge, my life changed because I know the school is counting on us to guide the young and inspire the Year Fives to take on this responsibility. Michael Theodoridis 6F.

Today the hall was our church for celebrating Mass. It became a holy and peaceful place. We sang songs because they are joyful prayers. One reading was from Genesis and told about Noah and the ark. Father Jiss was with us for Mass at school for the first time. The whole school was introduced to the new Year Six leaders and they got their badges after Mass. 2 F.

The priests came to our school Mass. Peyton Childs 1W
At Mass I sang in the choir. Mackenzie Medway 1W
We got a talk at Mass about what happens. Lachlan Brassington 1W

Father Warrick talked about following in the footsteps of Jesus. He told the story about the blind man who Jesus cured. The message to me is to be like Jesus and see the good in people. Blayre McCauley 4E

Father Warrick said you should never wash off your baptism. Chwoy Aboy 4E
When we look at each other we see kindness, forgiveness and love. Nathan Salvage 4E
This Mass was awesome, with our praying and singing. Father Jiss has a wonderful accent, which you get used to. Shinaye Byron 4F
Father Warrick said to think about the times we have not been the best we can be. Isabella Sands 4F
Father Warrick asked us what we should see when we look at another person. Isabelle Agudo said, ‘Love and Jesus.’ Chloe Lucas 4E
We are peacemakers because we are safe, respectful and responsible learners. Emma Lopez 4E

Sacraments 2017
Notes have been sent home explaining how to enrol your Catholic child for Confirmation (June), Eucharist (August) or Reconciliation (November). These forms are due next Thursday, 23rd.
If you have any questions about the sacraments in 2017, please attend the FINAL information evening TONIGHT: Thursday 16th between 5:30pm - 6:30pm at Holy Family Church, Castleton Crescent, Gowrie.
OPENING SCHOOL MASS
The Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival will be held on Sunday 26th March. Notes were handed out to children in Years 3-6 on Monday. If your child is interested in playing, money and notes need to be returned by Tuesday 21st as teams need to be submitted by Friday 24th February. If your child missed out on a note please check the school website or contact Debbie Cossettini in the Library.

- Story time is happening again every Monday morning at 9am straight after morning assembly. Siblings of children attending St Francis are welcome to come to the library, listen to a story and participate in a small craft activity finishing by 9.30. This will begin next Monday 20th February Week 4.

- If any families have spare plastic bags they would like to donate to the library it would be greatly appreciated for children to use.
As I sit here writing this, I am very grateful for the cooler change in weather, not sure how long it is going to stick around for, but fingers crossed! The extreme temps we have been experiencing can be a little challenging, to say the least! We are well and truly into Week 3, time just seems to be flying!

It was great to see so many families turn up to the Parent Information Night, we had so many that we even ran out of food! On that note, it is really important that RSVPs come in so we know how much of everything to order. We received requests for 330 sausages so I doubled that when doing the shopping and even then we ran out of food and people missed out! If in future you forget to hand the RSVP slip back in, I am fine with parents sending me through a quick email saying how much you require. This could even work for events such as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts!

Speaking of events, we have the following dates coming up:
Tuesday 7 March – Swimming Carnival
Monday 20 March – Cross Country Carnival
Friday 24 March – Grandparent’s Day
Friday 7th April – School Walkathon

Please keep these in mind and an eye out for requests for parent assistance at these events.

On to Chaplaincy, I have had a busy nearly 3 weeks in the role. I am available for meetings with parents if you have any concerns and am also very happy to work with your child with regards to any concerns you may have. Just on the word Chaplaincy, I have had some feedback that people think it is a religious role. It isn’t actually primarily that, whilst I can provide discussion on those matters, there are others in the school who already provide pastoral care services. To work as a Chaplain in a school environment you need a qualification as a Youth Worker. So hopefully that gives some sort of sense of a component of the role. I am here to support parents, students and teachers and it could be for a multitude of reasons, come and have a chat (or send an email) and I can let you know what we can do to help. I am at the school on Tuesday’s (8:30am till 2:00pm), Thursday’s (9:15am till 2:45pm) and Friday’s (9:15am till 2:45pm). I am able to be flexible with times and realise that working parents/carers can find it hard to get here during school hours, so get in contact and we can work something out. I would love to hear from you all about ideas you might have for services/activities we can offer at the school, especially something that you think is an area of need.

I have been liaising with the Chaplain at St Clare of Assisi Primary School and they are running a Worry/Anxiety Information night for parents on Thursday 16th March. We have been invited to come along, and I believe this night was run last year and was a really valuable resource. If you have a child who is worried or anxious and you think this is something you would be interested in attending, please let me know. I will send out further information when I receive it on my end.

My contact details are romney.kelly@cg.catholic.edu.au or alternatively contact the front office on 6292 4500.

Kind regards
Romney
AIR WATCH INFORMATION SESSION

Information Sessions for AirWatch and BYOD Enrolment

Dear Parents
St Francis of Assisi Primary will be running two information sessions regarding AirWatch and BYOD enrolment on Wednesday 22 February 2017. Sessions will be held in the Library, with the first session commencing at 3.00pm and the second commencing at 6.00pm. These sessions aim to educate parents in regards to AirWatch and how it is used to manage student devices. There will also be time to assist with device enrolment for those who are unsure of what to do.

I will be available to discuss any queries you may have regarding BYOD at the end of each session.

These information sessions may be of particular interest to parents of children in Year 4, who are yet to begin participation in the program or who have recently purchased a device.

Kind Regards

Peter Collins
ICT Coordinator

BASCA NEWS

BASCA ACCOUNTS
The BASCA Accounts for Weeks 1 & 2 will be emailed this week. Due date for payments is Friday 24 February. Please check your account carefully (especially new families to BASCA) to ensure your account is correct. The fee increase for 2017 has been applied.

VACATION CARE ACCOUNTS
The statements for the recent January program were emailed last week. Due date for payment is Friday 17 February. Please finalise to avoid “Late” fees.

PAYMENT
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.

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

Dear Families

Term 1 school fees were emailed last week – if you have not received your fee statement by email, please let me know so that I can re-send your statement or update your billing details with a new email address.

Term 1 fees are due Friday 17 March 2017, unless paying by regular instalments.

Just a reminder that we have a new payment method for credit card payments – QKR! by MasterCard. This is a free app that you can download from the Apple Store or Google Play to pay for school fees as well as other school payments through the year.

As always please contact me if you would like to discuss your school fee account. I’m in the office Monday to Thursday.

Kind regards,
Susan Rowell

CANTEEN NEWS

The Canteen is closed on TUESDAYS again this year.
Thank you to the parents who have made contact with us to volunteer to help us in the canteen. A roster will be sent home with your eldest child early next week. If your child/children have any food allergies or any special dietary requirements please come and see us or phone us on 62927477. Sue and Jo, Canteen Managers.

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

In 2017 the Tuggeranong Lions continue our ongoing commitment to provide the boys and girls of Tuggeranong and surrounding areas with a family oriented, friendly, and fun Aussie Rules footy environment.

If you’re looking for a great experience this winter, meeting new friends and learning new skills then WE WANT YOU.

For information on the 2017 season including registration, training times and fees visit our website or contact us.

web: Google search Tuggeranong Lions
email: tuggeranonglionspresident@gmail.com

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Do you want to play rugby league in 2017?

Why not come along and sign up to play footy with the South Tuggeranong Knights

We are a small friendly family orientated club which operates with Gordon Playing Fields as our home ground and Conder Ovals (near Conder Primary) as our training fields.

We have teams from U6’s to U16’s and we also run a Junior Jousters program for Pre-Schoolers (4 years old and up) where they get an introduction in to the basics of footy (ball handling skills, tackle bags, etc. This is a small group program run by boys from our U16’s team).

Registration for U6’s – U16’s $135 per player (family discounts may apply)
Junior Jousters $40

Our club is run by dedicated volunteers with fully qualified coaching and support staff.

We are looking for more players in the U12, U13, and U14 age groups.

Online Registration are open. A link is on our Website at: http://southtuggeranongknights.leaguenet.com.au

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Grab a stick & Hit a ball with University Juniors Hockey Club

Welcoming boys & girls 5-18 years of age & levels of ability

For further information about the Uni Juniors Hockey Club, please head over to the website: unijuniorshockey.com.au

If you wish to be placed on our club newsletter / email distribution list, please contact our President Andrew Sutton t 0412 618 975 / President@unijuniorshockey.com.au

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you out there!

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If you’re aged between 5 to 15 years old and want to play footy in 2017 then...

We want U

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If you’re looking for a great experience this winter, meeting new friends and learning new skills then WE WANT YOU.

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web: Google search Tuggeranong Lions
email: tuggeranonglionspresident@gmail.com