



St. Francis of Assisi Primary School
312 Childs Road, Mill Park. 3082

Telephone: 9407.3100

email: principal@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

Flyer

27th July, 2020 Newsletter No. 16

Dear Parents,

Once again, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to you, our parents who have continued to support remote learning despite the many challenges faced during this difficult time. I understand how challenging it is to juggle everything at a time like this. Your support is very much appreciated, and we could not do it without you.

Please know that the Learning Grid serves as a menu of learning opportunities that your child can engage in. Some days it may be hard to complete all the work and that is perfectly fine. Be kind to yourselves and do what you can. Please do not put yourself or child under undue stress to try and complete everything every day, especially if you are trying to work from home too.

NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA (NCCD) AT ST. FRANCIS

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data? Schools must now complete the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on school students every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or 'help' at school.

Many students who need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety). Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the child's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD. Our Privacy and Collection policies are updated to cover the collection of this information. The Policies are available on our school website. For more information, please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

CENSUS

Accompanying this newsletter is an attachment explaining the collection of information by the Commonwealth Government. The Australian Government provides funding to Australian schools under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (AE Act). The AE Act and the associated *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the AE Regulation) require that a school authority provides the Australian Government with certain information about the school, its staff, and student body to ensure the school's funding is properly calculated and appropriately managed. This information is collected by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) on behalf of the Australian Government. For more information, please see the letter attached to the newsletter.

YEAR 5 CAMP

It was with deep regret that I informed our Year 5 parents and students of the cancellation of Year 5 Camp. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to go ahead given the current circumstances. Year 5 school fees have been rebated \$300. I thank you for your understanding.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION – EARLY NOTICE

Due to current circumstances (COVID-19), we are at a point where I have had to make decisions regarding school fees. As Year 6 parents are aware, part of the Year 6 Levy includes \$200 for our Graduation Ceremony. I have decided to rebate this amount of the Levy back into the accounts of our Year 6 families as we are unsure of whether we will be having our Graduation Ceremony at Casa D'Abruzzo.

If we were to go ahead with the Graduation Ceremony at Casa D'Abruzzo then the school will pay the full amount as a parting gift to our Year 6 families. If we are unable to have a large ceremony I envisage a smaller gathering in our school hall with the Year 6 students only (a catered formal event).

If you have any queries in regard to school fees please contact Anne Coleiro or Mary Milione in our Accounts office.



FIRST EUCHARIST - SACRAMENTAL UPDATE FOR YEAR 3 PARENTS

Unfortunately, due to current government-imposed restrictions and guidelines related to COVID-19 it is highly unlikely that it will be possible to accommodate both First Eucharist and Confirmation celebrations this year.

In response to the current circumstances, all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese have been directed to prioritise the celebration of Confirmation over and above all other sacramental celebrations. Taking into account our larger numbers and relatively small window of opportunity to celebrate both of these ceremonies during Term Four, we regretfully advise families that First Eucharist celebrations will not be able to take place this year.

For next year only, students will receive their First Eucharist in Year Four during Term Two of 2021. It is envisaged that this decision will allow families to celebrate this sacrament with their immediate and extended family members in a more relaxed, meaningful and memorable manner.

The Year Three students will fulfill all preparatory requirements during the 2020 school year and only need to spend a short amount of time preparing for the liturgical celebrations during 2021. In order to maintain our annual sacramental obligations, we also intend to celebrate First Eucharist for the students in Year Three, as usual, towards the end of Term Two 2021.

At this point, we intend to celebrate First Eucharist for Year Four students over 2 weekends in May 2021- Saturday, 1st May & Sunday, 2nd May as well as Saturday, 15th May & Sunday, 16th May (due to Mother's Day being celebrated on Sunday, 9th May).

We also intend to celebrate First Eucharist for Year Three students over 2 weekends later in the same term- Saturday, 5th June & Sunday, 6th June as well as Saturday, 19th June & Sunday, 20th June (due to the Queen's Birthday public holiday being celebrated on Monday, 14th June).

As we move into 2022 our intention is to return to our normal practice of celebrating First Eucharist for Year Three students only during Term Two.

Although the postponement of our First Eucharist masses to 2021 is disappointing for us all, I am sure that all families can appreciate that we are totally governed by government directives related to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and that this modification to our rich sacramental program is necessary in order to protect the health and safety of all members of our school community.

I thank you again for your continued support, patience and prayers during this time.

CONFIRMATION - SACRAMENTAL UPDATE FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

After discussions with Fr Anthony regarding Confirmation, we wish to notify families of our proposed model for our celebrations in November. Subject to approval from appropriate regulatory bodies such as the Victorian Government and the Melbourne Archdiocese, our intention is to hold twelve smaller Confirmation Masses over the course of three weeks in November.

The Archbishop is delegating authority to all Parish Priests in the Archdiocese to confer the sacrament of Confirmation upon the children in their parishes. Furthermore he is leaving it to the local parishes to determine how best the needs of the parish will be served.

So, if it is permissible for 100 people or more to gather in a church by November, we intend to hold our Confirmation Masses during the week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings commencing at 7pm. These Masses are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 10th November and conclude with the last of our Confirmation Masses on Friday, 27th November.

Our proposal involves 14 students from each class receiving the sacrament at each Mass with a maximum of 6 people per family in attendance (candidate, sponsor and up to 4 other family members). In order for this model to be as fair as possible, the class rolls will need to be simply divided in half to determine the families permitted to attend each celebration. The necessity to divide each class is unfortunate, yet unavoidable in the current circumstances and we thank you for your understanding in this matter.

The dates allocated for the classes are listed below for your reference.

6C Tuesday 10th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6C Wednesday 11th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)
6F Thursday 12th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6F Friday 13th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)
6H Tuesday 17th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6H Wednesday 18th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)
6J Thursday 19th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6J Friday 20th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)
6M Tuesday 24th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6M Wednesday 25th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)
6W Thursday 26th November 7pm (1st half of the class)
6W Friday 27th November 7pm (2nd half of the class)

We have again enlisted the services of professional photographers to capture these special memories with photos being taken before and during each Mass. The school will cover the cost of the photographs as a token of our appreciation for the patience and understanding which families have shown throughout this most challenging year.

If necessary, all services will be streamed online so additional family members are able to view the celebrations from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

The above model depends upon a permitted gathering of 100 people. If Government or Archdiocesan directives determine otherwise, or give us a wider scope, we will explore alternative ways of celebrating this very important sacramental event before the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss or further clarify details pertaining to our planned Confirmations.

Confirmation Details & Stole Embroidery Forms

Parents have also been asked to complete and return the Confirmation Details Form (sent home via the Compass App last term) and the Stole Embroidery Form (if they wish to use this service) by **Friday, 31st July**. Given our return to remote learning, we ask that the Confirmation Details Form is completed and forwarded via email to your child's teacher.

Being mindful of maintaining important safety protocols at this time, we also invite parents to leave their stole and completed order form in the designated "Drop Off Box" located under the porch just outside the school office over the coming week.

As a small gesture of our school's appreciation for the support, patience and understanding shown by all Year Six families during this challenging time, **the school will cover the cost of embroidery on stoles for any families who wish to use this service.**

I again offer my heartfelt thanks to all parents and students for their support.

CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGE ENROLMENT (STUDENTS STARTING YEAR 7 IN 2022)

If your child is currently in Year 5 (2020), now is the time to enrol for a place at a CATHOLIC secondary college for the 2022 academic year. Below are some important dates to be aware of:

Due to Covid-19 disruptions The Catholic Education Office in Melbourne has extended the deadlines for our current Year 5 students in 2020 starting Year 7 in 2022.

Below are the new Key enrolment dates for our current Year 5 students in 2020 starting Year 7 in 2022.

Critical Dates:

Due to the extended deadline, the timeline of events has been updated to the following:

- **9 October 2020 – applications close**
- 23 October 2020 – principals exchange full list of applications with neighbouring colleges, including parish of residence .

- 6 November 2020 – principals exchange full list of applications with neighbouring colleges, identifying proposed offers and non-offers.
- 20 November 2020 – Principals and Registrars Enrolment Briefing will be held to finalise offers for 2022 and exchange names of unsuccessful applicants to ensure all students are offered a place. Session time and place will be advised later in the year.
- 1 December 2020 – offers posted to prospective applicants on 15 December 2020 – final date for families to accept offer made by school.

Should you wish to enrol your child in a government secondary school, this will be facilitated through the transition coordinator in 2021 when your child is in Year 6. For transition enquiries please email (Brooke Brennan, Transition Coordinator) at bbrennan@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au and she will assist you.

God bless,

Mark Basile

Mark Basile
Principal

BADGES



Congratulations to the following children who have recently been awarded Blue Badges:

Cooper D (Prep S) and Sebastian F (Prep T).