



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

Telephone: 9407 3100

email: principal@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au
22nd February, 2021 Newsletter No. 5

Dear Parents,

It was great to see all our students walking through the gates on Friday morning. I was so appreciative that the lockdown didn't extend any longer than what was planned. We have now prepared ourselves that if there were to be more Stage 4 Lockdowns (Circuit Breakers) that we are equipped to implement a full Remote Learning Package as we did last year.

Thank you for your understanding and support during last weeks Lockdown. I am feeling your frustration as we just had the children up and running with their Learning and the restraints were placed upon us again.

MORNING DROP OFF

This week we will continue as normal. **Please note – no parent is to enter the classroom before or after school. If you need to communicate with your child's teacher please continue to do so via phone or email. The Parent Helper Program will not be operating until further notice.**

When you do walk your child in through the gates, we ask you to adhere to the following:

- ◆ Maintain a respectable social distance from other parents / staff members
- ◆ You must wear a mask when on school grounds whether you are inside or outside
- ◆ When you arrive at your child's classroom you are to remain at least 10 metres away from the classroom entrance (this allows you to see your child enter the classroom so you can relax for the rest of the day!)

We ask that you minimise your time on site during drop off and pick up. Please do not socialise in the school yard.

AFTERNOON PICK UP

End of school day arrangements will remain as normal (3.30 pm finish time for all students). Please follow the rules of social distancing, not entering classrooms or using playground equipment at the end of the day. All gates and pick up / drop off points will be open at the end of the day also.

We are pretty efficient at clearing the school grounds by 3.45 pm, and there should not be anyone remaining on school grounds after this time. Please ensure that your children do not play on the playground after school. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAYS

Today, we will be photographing 45 classes, 1,200 individual photos and 860 family photos. The dates are the 22nd & 23rd February. The children will need to wear full Summer School Uniform on these days even if they have sport on one of them. (PMP is cancelled on Monday 22nd February). **Information on how to order photos will be sent home with the children on their photo day. Each child will have an individual code for their class and individual portrait photos. In the past, you have had to order photos prior to the photo days. This is no longer the case.**

Some frequently asked questions regarding photos:

Question: If my child's photo has already been taken do they need to be in full uniform on Tuesday?
Answer: Yes, as many children will still need to have family photos taken or if any photos need to be retaken.

Question: Do I send my child to school with their school jumper if it is cold?

Answer: Yes, the photographer will most likely have the children remove their jumper for the photo but the children can put it back on after the photo.

INFORMATION FROM ARTHUR REED

School Photos 2021 – St Francis of Assisi School

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken at St Francis of Assisi School by Arthur Reed Photos on Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd Feb, 2021.

There is no need to return any forms or money to school.

Unique image codes will be issued to all students on/after photo day so families can register online to view images when they become available in the webshop.

Registration is simple, just follow the 3 simple steps on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it and remember to add the codes for all your children attending this school.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do again this year using your child's 2021 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details.

When images are ready to view and in the webshop, all parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email.

Once registered, please wait for notification that 2021 images are online to view before making your purchase.

2021 PREP INFORMATION EVENING

This week we have our Prep Information Evening that is scheduled for Thursday, 25th February. At this point in time, we will still go ahead with the Information Evening, however, this may change due to Government directives. Please visit the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website and use the event code: **h4wub** to schedule your Prep Information Evening booking time. We will continue to update you as we receive more information.

MUSIC AT ST. FRANCIS

Here at St. Francis, we offer many opportunities for our students to extend themselves in the field of music or singing. Please encourage your child/ren to get involved in one of the following, if not all.

Rock Band (Years 5 & 6): Tuesday mornings at 8 am - We need guitarists, drummers and keyboard players who have been learning for at least 2 years.

Band and Strings (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6): Wednesday mornings at 8 am - for anyone who would like to join a group of enthusiastic musicians - Violin, Cello, Keyboard and Guitar.

Vocal Harmony Group (Years 4, 5 & 6): Thursday mornings at 8 am - Learn to sing in parts and develop your musical ear. We need people who have a good ear and can sing in tune. This group is especially good for older music students or anyone who wants to develop their singing ability. Come along and try it!

Choir: Choir rehearsals take place on Tuesdays during Break 1 (first half only - 11.10 am - 11.30 am) and are open to anyone who is keen to sing, especially at Mass (Years 1 to 6).

All ensembles will meet in the music room (next to the Library).

PUBLIC HOLIDAY – MONDAY MARCH 8 (FIRST AID TRAINING TUESDAY MARCH 9)

Please note that Monday, 8th March is the Labour Day Public Holiday. (Please note, we have scheduled First Aid training for all of the staff on Tuesday 9th March, this will be a school closure day). OSHC will be operating on Tuesday, 9th March.

COMPASS LOGIN—2021

New families have received an envelope containing your new Compass login information. **Each parent has their own unique username and password.** We recommend you log into your Compass portal as soon as possible and also download the mobile app so that you can stay up to date with any school communication.

Parents who already have children at St. Francis did not receive an envelope as you can already access Compass with your existing login details.

If you have any questions relating to Compass please contact Andrea Dato via email at:

adato@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

2022 PREP ENROLMENTS

Enrolment Forms are available from the School Office for Prep 2022. Current families are asked to collect your enrolment package from the office or phone them to have one sent home. New families can contact the office and an enrolment pack will be mailed. To assist our planning it would be appreciated if existing families can lodge enrolments over the next couple of weeks. Our second Open Day is set to coincide with our first Working Bee on Saturday, 20th March. (If you are an existing family make sure that you remember to pick up a T-shirt saying 'I am going to St. Francis' for your child to wear.)

SCHOOL FEES & PAYMENT PLANS

School Fees have been sent home.

If you opt to pay your fees via instalments:

- Instalment 1 is due by 19/3/2021
- Instalment 2 is due by 4/6/2021
- Instalment 3 is due by 27/8/2021

If you have arranged a payment plan for 2021—these fees are covered by your payment plan.

Thank you to all families who have already made arrangements to pay via direct debit or automatic credit card payments. Parents wishing to complete a payment plan are asked to send the completed paperwork to the school office as soon as possible. It is preferred that payments commence before the end of February and are finalised by November. Payments may be made by cash, cheque or EFT at the school office from 8am to 4pm. If you are unable to come to the school, direct transfer payments may be made to our school fee account (BSB 083 347 A/C 528755292). **Please include your child's surname in the reference.** If you have any queries, please contact Anne Coleiro or Mary Milione at the school office or email accounts@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

CSEF (CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND)

If you hold a valid means tested health care card or are a foster parent, you may be eligible for Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF). The annual CSEF amount for primary school students is \$125.00. The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion expenses for the benefit of eligible students. The card must be valid as at 27th January 2021. Parents can obtain a form from the school office or download a form from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. The school can accept applications up to 24th June 2021 however parents are encouraged to lodge their form early. We are unable to accept late applications. The school also requires a copy of your current health care card.

2021 SACRAMENTAL DATES

I would like to advise parents that we have set dates for 2021 First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Below is a schedule of these for your reference.

First Reconciliation—2021

Year 3C	Wednesday 24th March—10 am	Year 3D	Wednesday 24th March—12 noon
Year 3M	Thursday 25th March—10 am	Year 3R	Thursday 25th March—12 noon
Year 3S	Friday 26th March—10 am	Year 3K	Friday 26th March—12 noon

First Eucharist—2021—Year 4

Year 4D	Saturday 1st May—11.30 am	Year 4S	Sunday 2nd May—1 pm
Year 4J	Sunday 2nd May—3 pm	Year 4C	Saturday 15th May—11.30 am
Year 4A	Sunday 16th May—1 pm	Year 4N	Sunday 16th May—3 pm

First Eucharist—2021—Year 3

Year 3C	Saturday 5th June—11.30 am	Year 3D	Sunday 6th June—1 pm
Year 3M	Sunday 6th June—3 pm	Year 3R	Saturday 19th June—11.30 am
Year 3S	Sunday 20th June—1 pm	Year 3K	Sunday 20th June—3 pm

Confirmation—2021

Year 6O & 6G Friday 27th August—7 pm
Year 5J & 6W Sunday 29th August—1 pm
Year 6F & 6M Sunday 29th August 3 pm

KEY ENROLMENT DATES FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS IN 2021 - CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGE ENROLMENT (STUDENTS STARTING YEAR 7 IN 2023)

If your child is currently in Year 5 (2021) now is the time to enrol for a place at a CATHOLIC secondary college for the 2023 academic year. Below are some important dates to be aware of:

Key Enrolment Dates for our current YEAR 5 students (2021) for Catholic Secondary Enrolment

- **Term 1** - January 2021: Applications open for Year 5 students commencing Year 7 in 2023.
- **Term 3** - 20th August 2021: APPLICATIONS CLOSE.
- **Term 3** - 3rd September 2021: Principals exchange a full list of applications with neighbouring colleges, including parish of residence.
- **Term 3** - 17th September 2021: Principals exchange a full list of applications with neighbouring colleges, identifying proposed offers and non offers.
- **Term 4** - 22nd October 2021: Offers posted to prospective Year 7, 2023 applicants.
- **Term 4** - 12th November 2021: Final date for families to accept offer made by the school.

Should you wish to enrol your child in a government secondary school, this will be facilitated through the transition coordinator in 2022 when your child is in Year 6.

For transition enquiries please email (Brooke Brennan, Transition Coordinator)
bbrennan@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au and she will be happy to assist you.

God bless



Mark Basile
Principal

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

This week we welcome the students into the Library to borrow for the first time in 2021.

All students are expected to have their own Library Bag with their name clearly marked before they can borrow.

In the Library this year we welcome Mrs Kalane Horwood who will be teaching the Year 3 & 4 students on Tuesdays and Mrs Anthea McKay who will be teaching Years 1 & 2 on Thursdays.

Miss Michelle James will continue to teach the Preps on Fridays.

Please be aware of your child's Library day and make sure they have their Library Bag and any books to return in their school bag the night before. This will save any upsets on the day.

The Library is open before and after school for borrowing and returning of books.

The Library Team

SFOA Parent Information Session

BUILDING RESILIENT, CONNECTED FAMILIES.

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH

**THEME: SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO NAVIGATE TIMES OF LOSS,
TRAUMA AND SEVERE ANXIETY.**

Parents are warmly invited to attend an informal and informative session to be held under the shade sails (outside the school office) on Thursday, 4th March from 3 pm — 3.25 pm. The session will unpack valuable strategies for parents in assisting young children to understand and cope during difficult times.

This session will provide parents with an insight into several important resilience practices featured within our school-based 'Seasons For Grief' resilience program. It is envisaged that this session will equip parents with valuable life-long skills that can be used to support members of their own families during challenging times.

The session will be facilitated by John Dwyer (Deputy Principal/ RE / Wellbeing Leader) and some strategies to be addressed include:

- * Tips for understanding grief
- * Coping with trauma in a healthy way
- * The power of positive self-talk
- * Understanding and controlling anxiety
- * Tips for a healthy mind and happy heart

Looking forward to sharing these important sessions with parents on Thursday, 4th March from 3 pm - 3.25 pm under the shade sails.

John Dwyer





CALENDAR DATES FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

Monday February 22	School Photos (All children to be in full summer school uniform today (No Prep PMP today).
Tuesday February 23	School Photos (All children to be in full summer school uniform. No sport uniform.)
Wednesday February 24	No Preps today (Rest Day)
Wednesday February 24	BDSSA Swimming
Thursday February 25	Prep Information Night (3 X sessions - in classrooms)
Friday February 26	Year 6 Interschool Sport (9 am - 11 am)
Monday March 1	Preps begin full time (8.45 am to 3.30 pm)
Monday March 1	Division Tennis
Tuesday March 2	Division Swimming
Friday March 5	Year 6 Interschool Sport (9 am - 11 am)

**Print this page and place it on
your fridge**

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2021 - Important Registration Information



School Photographs will be taken at

St Francis of Assisi School

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd Feb, 2021

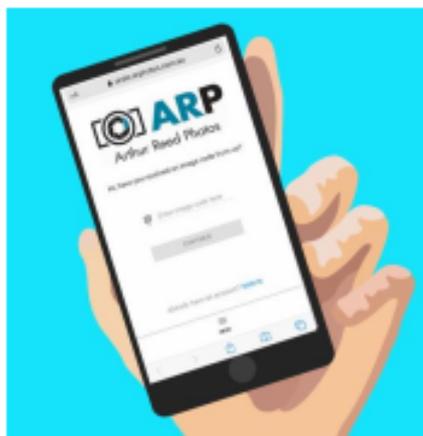
There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day

Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day

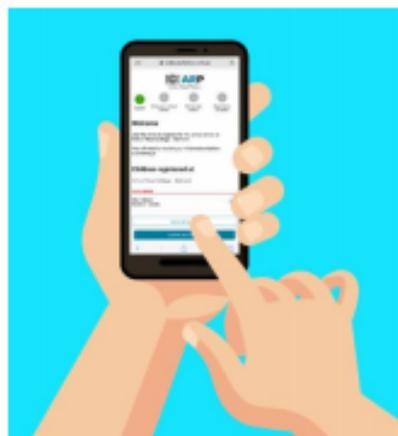
When you receive the flyer with your child's 2021 image code

Follow these 3 simple steps -

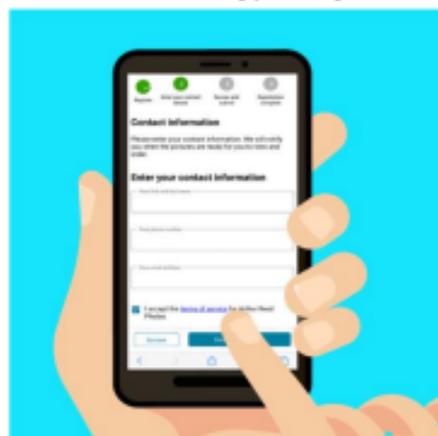
1 Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's **2021 image code**



2 Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



3 Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration*



*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

That's it!

It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details
When 2021 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS

****BEFORE ORDERING for 2021, please wait to receive notification that new images are online****

- Order on any mobile device
- Share the images with family & friends for FREE
- Create a photo package with any layout + YOUR choice of images + Digital Downloads



Enrol Now

APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7, 2023
CLOSE ON

FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST 2021



St Monica's College, Epping

www.stmonicas-epping.com

T: 9409 8800

Junior Campus Year 7 - 9

400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076

Senior Campus Year 10 - 12

16 Davisson Street, Epping VIC 3076

Morning Tea With The Principal

Tours of the junior campus are held regularly throughout the year during school time. This is an excellent opportunity to see our College at work. Bookings are essential.

For tour dates, bookings and further information about enrolment, please contact the College Registrar on 9409 8800 or email registrar@stmonicas-epping.com.



APPLY NOW: www.stmonicas-epping.com/apply

COMMUNITY NEWS



Softball Australia's national participation program, Softball Batter Up, is designed to be fun, flexible and engaging for children from kindergarten age to Year 6, focusing on fun activities while learning basic throwing, catching and striking skills.

Every registered participant receives an Official SBU Starter Kit to begin their softball journey.



NORTHERN SOFTBALL BATTER UP 2021

Venue: Mill Park Recreation Reserve, Mill Park

Dates: Fri 19 Feb - Fri 26 March 2021 (6 weeks)

Times: 6:30pm - 7:30pm Ages: 4 - 8

Contact: Kerry Laird Ph: 0423 661 860

Email: kerrylaird626@gmail.com

Register: <https://www.softballbatterup.com.au>

Cost: \$60.00