

22nd November, 2021

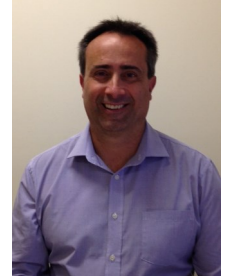
St. Francis of Assisi Primary School
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Telephone: 9407 3100

email: principal@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

Newsletter No. 23

Special Points of Interest:

- School Closure Day—
Monday 29th November
- Vacation Care 2022
- Student Reports
- Year 1 to Year 6
Orientation for 2022
- Confirmation Update
- 2022 Class Groupings
- 2022 Stationery Lists
- Graduation Mass
- Upcoming Dates
- Speech Therapy for
2022
- Summer Uniform
- Families Not Returning
to St Francis in 2022
- End of Year
Arrangements
- Beginning of School Year
2022 Assessments
- Healthy Communication
Protocols
- Morning Drop-off/
Afternoon Pick Up
- Mask Requirements
- Health Awareness



Dear Parents,

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – MONDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 29th November. This day has been set aside for teachers to plan for the 2022 school year. The Out of School Hours Program will be operating on this day.

VACATION CARE 2022

Holiday Program will be operating on Thursday 27th January to Tuesday 1st February 2022. If you wish to enrol your child into Vacation Care please contact either Joy or Angela on 9407 3170.

STUDENT REPORTS

Students' final reports will be available digitally via Compass on Tuesday, 7th December. On this day, students will also receive a Christmas Card from their 2022 teacher. Included with the card will be instructions for bookings for student assessments on the 31st January and 1st February, 2022. Bookings open at 7 pm on Tuesday, 7th December.

YEAR 1 - YEAR 6 ORIENTATION FOR 2022

On Tuesday, 7th December from 9.30 am to 10.45 am students will have an orientation session to enable them to spend some time with their 2022 teacher and the students that they will be with. I encourage parents to positively support students as they work through their feelings about their class placement for 2022.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Our Confirmation Masses are scheduled to commence this week.

In light of the most recent easing of **restrictions we will now be in a position to offer reserved seating for 8 people per family at our Confirmation Masses (candidate, sponsor and 6 guests). Additional guest who may now be attending will be required to show evidence of their fully vaccinated status to the designated COVID Marshalls at the door of the church before entering.** Those sponsors and family members who have already forwarded their vaccination documentation to the school will not be required to show their documentation a second time.

- Candidates, their sponsors and family members are asked to arrive at the hall **1 hour prior** to the Mass beginning for photos and sponsor briefing. **Please note, that we are now able to invite siblings to join the Year Six candidates for their family photos in the school hall prior to our Confirmation Masses.**

Also included in this Newsletter

- Badges
- Parish News
- Calendar Dates
- Learning & Teaching News
- RE News

- Additional guests are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the Mass begins to check in with our designated COVID-19 Marshalls before entering the church and taking their seats.
- As the students arrive, they are expected to check in with their teacher who will hand them a white Confirmation Details Card. This card is to be handed to their sponsor who, in turn will hand it to the Priest as the candidate is anointed/ blessed.
- All students are asked to **wear their white sacramental stoles** to the celebration, and they are welcome to add their Confirmation dove pin to their stole if they wish to do so.
- Students are asked to wear clothes that are appropriate for this special liturgical event, and we remind all those in attendance that the **wearing of fitted face masks is encouraged but now optional**.
- The sponsor will be asked to sit beside the candidate during the Mass and accompany the candidate as they move forward to be anointed or blessed by Fr Anthony. As the candidate moves forward, they will stand in front of Fr Anthony. Their sponsor is required to hand the white Confirmation Detail Card to Fr Anthony and stand behind the candidate with their right hand resting above the candidate's right shoulder. This is done as a simple but beautiful sign of support and solidarity.
- All Masses will be live streamed so members of the family who are not able to attend in person can still view the celebration.

Family members who wish to view the ceremony online are encouraged to follow the appropriate link below.

Live Stream Links for Confirmation Masses 2021

Year 6F Confirmation Mass - Tuesday, 23rd November 2021 7pm
 Year 6G Confirmation Mass - Thursday, 25th November 2021 7pm
 Year 6J Confirmation Mass - Friday, 26th November 2021 7pm
 Year 6M Confirmation Mass - Tuesday, 30th November 2021 7pm
 Year 6O Confirmation Mass - Thursday, 2nd December 2021 7pm
 Year 6W Confirmation Mass - Friday, 3rd December 2021 7pm

<https://youtu.be/GSCppT1J2kl>
<https://youtu.be/c7VNMAHllyo>
<https://youtu.be/sjzVJJec9OI>
<https://youtu.be/vaz7WDM2-K4>
<https://youtu.be/NN5J56nJwtw>
<https://youtu.be/Gra9R73QMc>

CLASS GROUPINGS – RESILIENCE

We have endeavoured to meet the educational and social needs of all students in arranging their placement for next year. Some parents may be disappointed about the placement of their child. Some students may feel uncertain about their teacher or the group of students in their class for 2022. As parents we need to be AFFIRMING and POSITIVE when speaking about the year ahead. Please do not let personalities and side issues impact upon your child's outlook for 2022. Remember schools are in the business of education not entertainment. That requires us to ensure that the best educational groupings are made and this can at times mean that best friends are not always placed together.

**PLEASE ASSIST US IN BUILDING RESILIENCE IN ALL STUDENTS.
 STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN TO FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES WITH SUPPORT.**

(Parent support in this would be greatly appreciated as changes will not be made to student grade allocations.)

2022 STATIONERY LISTS

2022 stationery lists have been sent out on Compass. All orders will be done online through wincschools.com.au and will be delivered to homes. If you wish to buy some of your children's stationery at alternative stores that is fine, however could you please ensure that your child/ren have their stationery labelled and with them on the first day of school next year. **Please Note: Home delivery is free if you place your order before Wednesday 1st December.**

GRADUATION MASS

Due to the easing of restrictions we can now have all our Year 6 students and their families attend the Year 6 Graduation Mass which will be held at 10.15 am on Friday 10th December in the Church. Our Year 6 children formally finish at 3.30 pm on this day and will say goodbye to the school community under the shade sails outside the school office.

UPCOMING DATES

Year 6 Funfields Fun Day
Always great fun!

Wednesday 1st December

Whole School 2022 Orientation

Tuesday 7th December

Students from Prep – 5 will meet their 2022 teacher and class from 9 am – 11 am.

Reports and Learning Assessment Journals

Tuesday 7th December

Student's Reports will be available on Compass from 5 pm.

Year 6 Graduation Bear Signing

Wednesday, 8th December

The students will have the opportunity to sign Graduation Bears/Graduation T-Shirts from 9 – 11 am.

Year 6 Fun Day at the School

Thursday 9th December

This day is set aside for our Year 6 students to celebrate their time at St. Francis. This will include a disco, jumping castle, ice-cream van and additional time to sign graduation bears.

Year 6 Graduation Mass & Ceremony

Friday 10th December (10.15 am)

This is the final farewell for our Year 6 students. The Mass and Ceremony will be held in the Church for all our Year 6 students and their families.

Year 6 Graduation Lunch

Friday 10th December (12.30 pm)

The Year 6 students will enjoy a catered lunch in the school hall with their teachers.

Final Day for Year 6 Students

Friday 10th December (3.30 pm)

Following lunch, our Year 6 students will walk down from the Year 6 building at 2.50 pm. The students will meet with parents under the shade sails outside the office for final photos and goodbyes. This will be the final day of school for our Year 6 students.

Final Day for Students (Prep to Year 5)

Tuesday 14th December (1 pm)

The end of school year Mass for children in Prep to Year 5 will be celebrated on Tuesday 14th December at 10.15 am under the shade sails (weather permitting). **Our school community are invited to attend. Please make sure that you check in and show your Covid ID Pass to the office secretary before attending the outdoor mass.** Children will be dismissed at 1 pm on Tuesday, 14th December. This will be the final day of school for students.

SPEECH THERAPY FOR 2022

As of January 2022, speech therapy offered by the school will now be provided by two speech therapists directly employed by the school. They are Emily Jackson & Alina Inserra. We have chosen to do this to keep costs down for our parents accessing the service. We will no longer be engaging the services of Listen, Learn, Communicate for speech therapy as their sessions were going to increase in price significantly for 2022.

There are limited places available for 2022 with both of these speech therapists should you wish your child to access speech therapy from one of these therapists next year. If so please contact

Nicole Federico: (Prep - Year 3) nfederico@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

Martine Klaic: (Years 4-6) martine.klaic@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

There will also be a new price structure in 2022.

Half hour Sessions will be \$70 for non NDIS clients.

Half hour sessions will be \$120 for NDIS clients.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Children must now be wearing their Summer uniform. Parents are reminded that this term our Sunsmart Policy 'No Hat / No Play' is in place which means that the children are required to wear their school hat at recess and lunchtime.

Please Note; we have provided sunscreen in each class for the children to place on themselves when going out to play. If your child suffers from an allergy regarding sunscreen could you please provide appropriate sunscreen for your child clearly labelled with their name.

FAMILIES NOT RETURNING TO ST. FRANCIS IN 2022

If your family is not planning on attending St. Francis next year please let me know via email (principal@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au). I have had many enquiries from families who wish to enrol into our school in 2022.

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

Year 6 students will finish on Friday, 10th December at 3.30 pm following Graduation celebrations.

The end of school year Mass for children in Prep to Year 5 will be celebrated at 10.15 am on Tuesday 14th December (weather permitting). Children will be dismissed at 1 pm on Tuesday, 14th December.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR—2022 - ASSESSMENTS

We will again follow a similar routine as this year, in that we will conduct testing with students on the first two days of the school year (Year 1 to Year 6). ***Students from Year 1 – 6 will begin their first formal day of school on Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022.***

Year 1 - 6 students will have an appointment for a one hour test on either Monday 31st January or Tuesday 1st February.

We will again use the online booking system. Instructions for this will be sent home with reports later in the term.

Please note that the **Prep grades** will have a staggered start commencing:

- Monday, 31st January (8.45 am – 12.30 pm). Children with Surnames beginning with the letters A – L.
- Tuesday, 1st February (8.45 am – 12.30 pm). Children with Surnames beginning with the letters M – Z.
- Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th February (8.45 am - 12.30 pm). All Prep students attend for 2 further half days (*Wednesday 2nd February is a rest day for Preps*).

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS—THE ‘SFOA WAY’

Strong and sustainable relationships are built on a foundation of respectful communication. At times when we feel overwhelmed, anxious, angry or worried about those most precious to us, our method and/or tone of communication can be detrimental to achieving the desired outcome or maintaining a positive relationship.

One of the challenges of electronic communication in particular, is that we can be tempted to compose an email in response to an upsetting event while feeling quite emotional and send it off late at night before taking the time to ensure its content is both respectful and appropriate.

All teachers and parents at St Francis of Assisi work hard in order to ensure respectful and effective communication remains the cornerstone of our strong, dignified and caring school community.

As we begin to emerge from two years of lockdowns, restrictions and constant uncertainty we remind all of the following protocols of respectful communication and ask all staff, students and parents to continue to work in partnership as we support and nurture the students of SFOA,

Below are several helpful reminders to promote respectful, effective communication:

- * If you are concerned about an issue or incident, contact your child’s classroom teacher to arrange a time to communicate your concern. Remember, we want to investigate, address and resolve issues that may occur within the school- and we need your help to do so effectively.
- * Avoid the temptation to compose long emails when you are overwhelmed with emotion or anxiety. Often, in the heat of the moment, emotion can take over and result in an email being composed and sent late at night which contains assumptions, disrespectful or upsetting phrasing.
- * If there is an incident or issue that is of concern to you, we want to know, and want to address the concern with you. We suggest if there is an issue you wish to discuss when feeling upset or emotional you could simply use the template below to ensure your concerns are communicated in a respectful and appropriate manner:

Dear XXXXXXXX

I hope that you are well.

My son/daughter has come home today and spoken of an incident that occurred on the yard/in the classroom. My son/ daughter told me that

.....
.....

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in clarifying what may have happened.

If you could please contact me at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,
.....

- * To promote staff wellbeing, we ask that emails are not sent between the hours of 6 pm and 7.30 am. Teachers need to have time to recharge and rest in order to provide the best education and support for the students during the day. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.
- * Staff will endeavour to respond to your concerns as soon as possible and continue to work in close partnership with families to best protect, support and nurture all students.

MORNING DROP OFF:

Due to Covid Guidelines we will continue to adhere to the following procedures: 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. When you do walk your child in through the gates, we ask you to adhere to the following:

You must wear a mask when entering the School Office.

- Maintain a respectable social distance from other parents / staff members .
- 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 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.

MASK REQUIREMENTS

Please see coronavirus.vic.gov.au for the latest face mask requirements.

For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer:

- Directs school staff must wear face masks while teaching wherever practicable, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication.
- Directs students in Year 3 to Year 6 to wear face masks when indoors on school premises, unless an exemption applies (Please be assured that any student that is distressed about wearing a mask will not be forced to wear one).

HEALTH AWARENESS—WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL

Please keep your children at home if they, or any family members, have any symptoms of COVID-19. Should a child be sent to school with cold or flu symptoms they will be assessed in First Aid and you will be notified immediately to collect them. Your child will be isolated until you arrive, so it is very important that you are prompt.

God Bless,



**Mark Basile
Principal**

BADGES

Special Congratulations go to:

Sia A (1S), Chloe G (1S), Julian D (2J), Gilbert P (5K) and Jacob L (5K)

who have attained a Gold Badge.

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

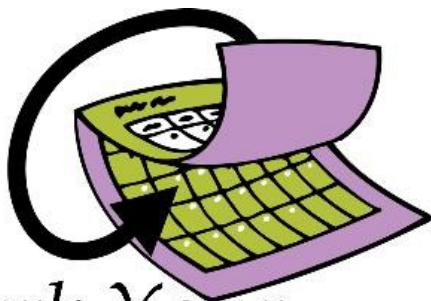
Jamie Y (Prep S), Elijah Y (1B), Sofia C (1V), Luca C (Prep U), Jayden L (Prep F), Lucas M (3D), Heydi P (1V), Marcus L (1B), Mark S (3R), Julian H (1A), Roisin J (1F), Tesmaria J (5P), Oliver V (Prep F), Christian Y (Prep W), Marcus F (1A), Zalia G (Prep F), Alexander S (1F), Alexa M (Prep A), Lucy Q (1M), Brigid Q (Prep F), Ethan G (2B), Jayden G (4N), Dante D (3K), Valentina T (Prep F), Olivia T (4A), Laila K (2P), Chloe K (6G), Sheyansi F (1V), Emilia V (Prep K), Olivia M (3D), Levi G (Prep U), Isabelle R (Prep U), Christian A (Prep T), Stefan D (Prep W), Samara H (4S), Issabella D (3D), Eliana R (3D), Caitlin D (2I), Gianni R (1S), Mia I (2J), Liz S (Prep M), Ava I (1B), Zoe L (Prep F), Ellie C (3C), Pearl P (2V), Ebuka A (1M), Domenic M (2P), Annabelle G (2G), Annabelle P (Prep A), Mark A (5A), Ethan V (1S), Chrishenth P (1V), Hannah V (3M), Vienna A (1V), Ruby P (Prep F), Amaya H (Prep K) and Lucas F (3K).

Parish News

ST FRANCIS FAMILY FAIR CANCELLED IN 2022

Thank you very much to all who volunteer your help at St Francis Family Fair each year. Unfortunately the decision has been made to cancel our Fair next year due to the continuing uncertainty of the COVID situation. Thank you to everyone for your past support.

From the St Francis Family Fair Committee.



*Mark Your
Calendar*

CALENDAR DATES FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

Tuesday 23rd November	Year 6F Confirmation 7 pm
Thursday 25th November	Year 6G Confirmation 7 pm
Friday 26th November	Year 6J Confirmation 7 pm
Monday 29th November	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Tuesday 30th November	Prep 2022 Orientation Sessions (Prep A, Prep F, Prep U & Prep W) 9.15 am & 10.15 am
Tuesday 30th November	Year 6M Confirmation 7 pm
Wednesday 1st December	Year 6 to Funfields
Thursday 2nd December	Prep 2022 Orientation Sessions (Prep B, Prep C, Prep S & Prep V) 9.15 am & 10.15 am
Thursday 2nd December	Year 6O Confirmation 7 pm
Friday 3rd December	Year 6W Confirmation 7 pm

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

Learning and Teaching

A message from the Learning Diversity Team

Children's feelings about the return to school after lockdown

Children may have **mixed feelings about the return to school**. For example, they might be excited and eager to be back to face-to-face learning and seeing their teachers and friends. They might also feel uncertain, worried or anxious about catching up on learning, fitting back into friendship groups and coping with a school routine. If your child has strong emotions about the return to school or simply the uncertainty of the year that it has been, these ideas might help:

- Be confident and enthusiastic about your child being back at school. This sends your child the positive message that they'll cope and have fun when they get back into the school routine.
- [Talk and listen](#) to your child's feelings about returning to school, and let them know that their feelings are OK. For example, 'Yes, it will be great to see Hartley again' or 'It's OK that your brother is excited and you're nervous'.
- Let your child know it's OK to feel nervous or uncertain, but reassure them that they'll get through it. For example, 'It's OK to feel unsettled - it's another big change', 'A lot of kids will be feeling the same as you' or 'Teachers and parents are here to help you'.
- Help your child reconnect with their classmates. For example, you could organise a playdate in the park before the first day back, or practise lunch time conversations.
- Give your child some control. For example, ask what they want for school lunch or what they want to do after school.

[Practise breathing exercises](#) or [muscle relaxation activities](#) with your child. These can help if your child is feeling very anxious.

Sourced from: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Learning Diversity Contacts

Prep - Year 3: nfederico@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

Year 4 - 6: martine.klaic@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY: INFORMATION AND TIPS

Online webinars for parents and carers.

The next webinar topic will be: ***Anxiety in Children: Information and Tips.***

This webinar talks about what anxiety is and how it can present in children. It provides some tips and strategies on how to support a child who may be feeling anxious. It also provides information about other resources, websites and online programs that can be helpful for children and families in need.

Upcoming sessions are scheduled for:

Tuesday 16th November 7.30pm-8.30pm

Thursday 25th November 12.30pm-1.30pm

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUXTQ>

Email pattipsychology@gmail.com to express your interest and receive updates on future webinar topics or follow us on Facebook:

Child Psychology: Information and Tips

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071928164074>

These webinars are hosted by Ms Jessica Patti, who is a Clinical Neuropsychologist with experience working in public, private and educational settings in NSW and Victoria. She specialises in working with children and young people and has experience supporting individuals with brain injury, neurological disorders, developmental disorders, autism, ADHD, medical conditions, mood disorders, learning and behavioural difficulties.

Jessica is registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) with endorsement in Clinical Neuropsychology and is a member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS).



RE News



Dear Parents,

It has again been a year of uncertainty and change; however, we are at last able to gather as a family of faith as our senior students welcome the Holy Spirit into their lives. We are thrilled to be in a position to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with our Year Six students over the coming two weeks. The students have prepared diligently for these important sacramental events since returning to onsite learning and I commend them all for the mature and respectful way they have embraced our modified preparation program.

Due to the recently announced easing of restrictions, a number of modifications have been adopted such as:

- Each student will now be permitted to be accompanied by their sponsor and six family members- a **total of 8 people per family**.
- All Masses will take place in St Francis of Assisi parish church and social distancing protocols & modified seating arrangements will be in place to maximise social distancing.
- All Masses will be live streamed so additional family members may view the ceremony.
- The 6 Masses have been scheduled for the following times:

Year 6F Confirmation Mass: Tuesday, 23rd November 2021 7pm

Year 6G Confirmation Mass: Thursday, 25th November 2021 7pm

Year 6J Confirmation Mass: Friday, 26th November 2021 7pm

Year 6M Confirmation Mass: Tuesday, 30th November 2021 7pm

Year 6O Confirmation Mass: Thursday, 2nd December 2021 7pm

Year 6W Confirmation Mass: Friday, 3rd December 2021 7pm

We again thank all Year Six families for their support and understanding throughout the year and look forward to celebrating this wonderful sacramental event as a family of faith in the coming weeks. We ask all SFOA families to keep the Year Six students, their sponsors and families in their prayers at this exciting time.

Advent- A time of Reflecting, Preparing & Repenting

Next week heralds the beginning of the Advent season. During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. We contemplate the first Christmas and give thanks for Jesus' daily presence in our lives. Amid the flurry of Christmas preparations, we look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season in our everyday lives.

Christmas is for all! The story of Christ's birth inspires and strengthens each one of us. Christmas is a time for thanksgiving and it is also a time of hope. The birth of Christ reminds us all that with every new day, we have a chance to be born again and live a life of service, humility, peace and love.

As we look at the many nativity scenes that begin to adorn our shopping precincts, schools, churches and homes, we notice some important features that provide insight into the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus' birth wasn't only celebrated by his immediate family- it was celebrated by a community, his extended family-parents, angels, shepherds and even kings. This scene reminds us that the joy of Christmas is for all of humanity, it is not just for kings, (the esteemed and privileged members of the community) but for the shepherds (the poor and disenfranchised among us) as well.

So this Christmas, as you look at your nativity scene, I invite you to take a deeper look into the significance of the image of a young mother with her precious child, surrounded by 'family'. I pray that you too have a Christmas filled with the joy and blessings of that first Christmas and are surrounded by the love and peace that God's love brings.

Celebrations of Faith

As we look towards the joy and peace of Christmas, we anticipate with great excitement several opportunities to gather as a family of faith.

Due to restrictions related to liturgical gatherings being recently eased, we are in a position to invite the parents of our Year Six students to join us as we farewell our senior students at our Graduation Mass. Our Mass will be held in the church on Friday, 10th December at 10.15 am.

Our final thanksgiving Mass will take place under the sails in the school courtyard on Tuesday, 14th December at 10.15 am (weather permitting). It will be an opportunity to express our collective gratitude for the blessings of the year and acknowledge the achievements of our school community. With the recent easing of restrictions we are now able to warmly invite parents to join the staff and students to celebrate the 2021 school year.

Wishing all a happy, healthy and very holy Advent & Christmas season.



Time to Pray

For the people of this land, and of all nations, that we may be guided in the ways of justice and peace as we approach the Christmas season, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For our Advent celebrations, that they are a time of reflection and filled with prayer, repentance, and love for God, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

For all the sick and suffering, the homeless, the unemployed, those suffering from any form of distress, may they be comforted by God's love and mercy, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer.

God Bless,
John Dwyer,
Deputy Principal / Religious Education Leader