3rd December 2015

Dear St Francis de Sales Families

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

To your enemy - FORGIVENESS
To your opponent - TOLERANCE
To a friend - YOUR HEART
To a customer - SERVICE
To all - CHARITY
To every child - A GOOD EXAMPLE
To yourself – RESPECT

Owen Arnold

At the close of the school year as we approach Christmas, the words of Owen Arnold challenge us to remember the true reason for celebrating Christmas. More than 2,000 years ago, a child was born to two faithful travellers who could find rest only in a stable, among the cattle and the sheep, but this was not just any child.

Christ's birth made the angels rejoice and attracted shepherds and kings from afar. He was a manifestation of God's love for us.

Jesus grew up to become a leader with a servant's heart who taught us a message as simple as it is powerful: that we should love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

As this is the final newsletter for the school year, I would like to thank all who have made the year at St Francis de Sales School the good year that it has been. I thank all students, staff members, parents and volunteers for their generous contribution to the realisation of our school vision.

Best wishes to the members of our community who are leaving us at the end of the year. I hope that you will take many fond memories of your time at St Francis de Sales with you as well as lasting friendships.

A special thank you - and farewell to Mr Tyronne Maher and Miss Rebecca Nystrom. Ty has been an integral member of the school community for 10 years and has proven himself to be an outstanding educator in this time. Ty's energy and hard-working nature has been a blessing to the school and I wish him all the very best in his new position as Principal of St Pat's, Allora.

Rebecca Nystrom has been with us for 3 years and I thank her for her hard work and excellent work ethic. She has been a delight to have on staff and the children have loved being in her classroom. I know that she will be an asset in her new school and wish her God Speed!

On a personal note, I wish to say farewell and thank-you to the amazing school that I have had the privilege to lead for the last 6 years. Thank you to our wonderful children, staff and parents for the support the staff and I have received over the years. Your children and their welfare have always been at the heart of my leadership and I know that as a staff, we have catered for and achieved great educational milestones. Thank you Fr Rod for his wonderful support and May God Bless this School.
SCHOOL FEES:
School Fees for Term 4 have been sent home and are due for payment. Please remember that these fees help with the smooth running of the school and are vital to pay for most of our everyday expenses. We especially need to pay all our end of year bills before the Summer break and make a final balancing of accounts to hand over to the new Principal.
It would be appreciated if any families having difficulty meeting this commitment could contact me as soon as possible.

Library Returns
As part of our annual stocktake we are asking that all students get their books back to the library. We thank parents in advance for your assistance in helping your child locate these books. This includes Home Readers.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS
House winner: McKenna
Age Champions:
9 Year Boys: Ryan Gillam
10 Year Boys: Campbell Jessen
10 Year Girls: Heidi Burton
11 Year Boys: Michael Shingles
11 Year Girls: Lily Rickert
12 Year Boys: Hamish Rutherford
12 Year Girls: Abigail Maher

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Please ensure that a note is sent with your child if you want your child to go home with any other parents after the Christmas Assembly.
A note will also be required if you wish your child to accompany other parents to the local swimming pool.
The Christmas Assembly starts at 11.00 a.m.

This Week’s Family Mass Roster
Saturday: 5th December 7pm
Welcoming: L May
POF/OH: M Lucas
Readers: R & G Imhoff
Offertory: J & M Towmey
Eucharistic Ministers: G Imhoff & K Flynn
Church Cleaning: J Keleher, J Meara, C Horton, G Murray

Dates To Remember
December 2015
3rd - Year 6 Farewell Mass and Parent BBQ 6pm
4th - End of year Nativity Assembly (11.00) School Closes after assembly.

DATE CLAIMERS:
19 January - School Office opens
25 January - Bring Supplies to school 2.00 - 3.00pm
27 January - Term 1 Begins
9 February - African Drummers Show
29 February 2016 - School Photos
15/16 March - Angela Ehmer
19 March 2016 - PARISH FETE

NEW HAT FOUND. CONTACT THE OFFICE on 46973366 IF YOU ARE MISSING A HAT.

UNIFORM SHOP NOW OPEN
ON TUESDAYS 8.30am.
If you have any questions or need to place an order please contact Jenny Gillam on 0408198538.

The Uniform shop will be open on 19th & 20th January 2016 from 9.30am to 11.30am.
For uniform Direct Debit PAYMENTS please phone Anne-Maree Bange on 0413 127 398 for the P & F bank details as school fees are paid into a

Quote of the Week:
My best wishes to you all for a very safe and restful holiday, a holy Christmas and a happy new year. May the Light of Christmas bring you joy and peace, hope and love.

God Bless,
Brett Pollard
Principal
P&F NEWS

END OF YEAR – HELP NEEDED!

As the year draws to a close there are a few jobs that we need help with. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Tuckshop – Please see Anna if you can help on Friday to clean out the tuckshop’s fridges and freezers. Thank you.

End of Year BBQ – if you could please lend a hand with packing up this evening it would be very much appreciated. Many hands make light work. Thank you.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL – BBQ LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who ordered their lunch at the Swimming Carnival. The P&F raised about $150.

SAVE THE DATE – CLIFTON SHOW (CHIP VAN)

The P&F will be running the Chip Van again next year at the Clifton Show. This is one of the P&F’s annual fundraisers. Next year, we will send home a request for families to help in the Chip Van for a couple of hours on Friday 12th, Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th of February. Please save the dates.

TEACHERS & STAFF

Thank you to all the teachers and staff for the outstanding education and care you have provided for our children.

We wish Mr Pollard, Mr Maher and Miss Nystrom all the best in their new roles for 2016 – you will all be missed.

We look forward to Mrs Skillington joining us full time next year and welcoming Mr O’Reilly, our new Principal and Mrs Doherty our new APRE and Yr2/3 teacher.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The P&F wishes you a Safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time or donated items to support the P&F this year, it is greatly appreciated. See you all next year!

Next P&F Meeting: 6pm – Wednesday, 10th February 2016

Please email your agenda items to: Clifton.PandF@twb.catholic.edu.au

2016 P&F Committee: Simone Gillam, Emma Gascoyne, Ann-maree Bange, Lisa Lucas
Minnie Vinnies Christmas Appeal

We are coming up to that festive time of the year yet again where we, as a Christian community, need to remember and help those people in our area that are less fortunate than ourselves. This year we are again encouraging all of our families to bring non-perishable items into the foyer of the school office for our Minnie Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Items are to be placed in (or around) the ‘Christmas Tree’. Watch this space each week for an update of our collection. I thank you in advance for your generosity.

Congratulations Billy Bange, Lilli Gilroy and Noah McDougall receiving their certificate for the completion of MINILIT Level 1.

Prep - 2 Children visited the Fire Station in Clifton.