



St Francis of Assisi School Newsletter 21/03/2024

Important Dates

Class Liturgy 3/4D
Friday 22 March 2024

**Year 6 Reflection
Day**
Friday 22 March 2024

**Assembly 2:15pm in
MPF led by 5R**
Monday 25 March 2024

Easter Week
Community prayer
8.55am - Palm
Sunday led by 1/2V
Tuesday 26 March 2024

Holy Week
Community prayer
8.55am - The Last
Supper led by 3/4Z
Wednesday 27 March 2024

Holy Week
Community Prayer
8.55am - Stations of
the Cross led by 6V
Thursday 28 March 2024

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday 29 March 2024

**Swimming Carnival -
SA Aquatic Centre
Oaklands Park**
Thursday 4 April 2024

EASTER MONDAY
Monday 1 April 2024

Carnevale Day
Friday 5 April 2024

Family Mass _5pm
Sunday 7 April 2024

Term 1 Concludes -

From the Principal

2023 AGM Report

Writing the 2023 AGM report as the Principal who has started in 2024 is somewhat complex. I have drawn on colleagues to focus on the achievements on 2023, but also used this report as a lens to look forward into 2024.

2023 saw the resignation of Principal James Meiksans from St Francis of Assisi, Newton. It's important to acknowledge the significant work of James throughout the years as the school transitioned from an R-7 school to an R-6 school. This change across the system brought many challenges regarding staffing, and I know there was significant work completed by James in this space. I'd like to thank James for the work that he completed during his time at SFOA as well as his broader career in Catholic Education.

We also thank Angela Morrison and Kerri Dent for their leadership across the past 18 months respectively. The role of Acting Principal is a challenging one to navigate, especially across longer periods of time. I'd like to thank both Angela and Kerri for their time at SFOA and wish her them all the best in their future roles.

2023 saw the opening of the Nature Play area on the Eastern Edge of the school. The spectacular area is used strongly by our students and adds to the wide array of play opportunities for students at SFOA.

There were also a wide array of community events including the biannual Dance Concert held in a marquee in the piazza area, as well the Quiz Night ran by the P and F committee. I'd like to thank the P and F for their ongoing work to building community at our school.

Our enrolment profile remained steady with 250 students attending the school at the August census.

During term 4 the school launched the 2024-2026 strategic plan which will guide the future work of the school moving forward. Part of this strategic plan is to re-establish our school, as the school of choice in the East in both a space of enrolment growth and high-quality teaching and learning.

Staffing

At the conclusion of 2023 Alison Hubner-Booth was seconded to the Catholic Education Office to be a part of the Learning team in the system. We wish Alison all the best in this role for 2024.

Moving into 2023 we welcomed Carla Maio, Kayla Russell, Sarah Tirimacco into classroom teaching positions at our school. We have also welcomed Louise Belperio into a Front Office Admin position at the school.

Furthermore, with the support of CESA we have employed Ms Michelle Page to Assistant Principal Learning Diversity at St Francis of Assisi. Michelle will play a crucial role in being a direct point of contact for families when working in a disability space.

At the beginning of the year as a leadership team we identified we were considerably under resourced regarding Education Support Officers at our school. Education Support Officers support students and teachers at school in a variety of ways, however the predominant use of ESO's is to support students with adjustments to their learning. Often the need for these adjustments is based on disability.

By the end of Week 8 the school has employed 7 new Education Support Officers to fill various roles across the school. These range from supporting students with disability, as well as running our various intervention programs. We are also introducing a new intervention program called Reading Tutor, which is a 1 to 1 program for students who need significant intervention.

Connecting in, Reaching out – 2024/2025 Theme

At the 2024 Launch Night we launched our theme for the next two years which is 'Connecting In, Reaching out' This will guide our strategic direction as a school board, staff, parent and student body as we move towards our 60th Year in 2025. 'Connecting in' speaks of the desire to tighten our practices as a school at an organisational level, ensuring that the school operates in an efficient, highly professional manner.

Reaching out speaks of the idea that our students and families exist as one element of a larger Newton community. We are currently establishing some exciting community partnerships, and looking at ways that our students can contribute to the wider Newton area.

Master Plan

In 2024 we will commence the development of a Master Plan for St Francis of Assisi, Newton.

The School Principal and Board are responsible for ensuring the school has the appropriate land, physical spaces, and facilities to realise its potential, coordinated by a plan to continually refresh and upgrade facilities in response to changing needs and community expectations.

Master Planning will consider SFOA's expectations regarding future enrolments, educational requirements, and community expectations. It should consider the adequacy or otherwise of the land currently available and whether it would be beneficial to acquire additional land in the future. Consideration may also be given to opportunities or obligations to share with the local parish and/or other organisations, to work cooperatively with other schools and issues arising from competition with other schools.

A Master Plan will usually identify the relative priority order of several future development projects, which may span the next 10 to 15 years, or longer. The Master Plan will explain (from a facilities development perspective) where the school is now, where the school wants to be, and how it will get there. The Master Plan also needs to recognise that circumstances and priorities change over time, and therefore needs to be flexible and attentive to the changing landscape of education.

Teaching and Learning

At present the leadership team alongside the teaching staff are reviewing the current educational practices at the school. Consistency across R-6 is paramount to having strong programs that support student learning and wellbeing.

We have recently launched Initialit program for our Reception Students. Initialit is an evidence-based whole class literacy program developed by Macquarie University. This program provides all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to be successful readers.

Conclusion

As we traverse into 2024 we head into an exciting period at St Francis of Assisi, Newton.

At times of change we look forward, but also look backwards for guidance. St Francis of Assisi has some wonderful quotes attributed to him but none more important than the following.

'Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.' – St Francis of Assisi

God Bless,

Scott March

Principal

APRIM News

Baptism

On Saturday 2 of our students were baptised as Catholics in the Newton Parish. Kezekia, Mubarak and their younger sister Nyibol Barach joined God's Family. Miss Cavuoto, Mrs Tirimacco and myself were the Godparents for the children and felt very blessed to support the Barach family in their faith journey. If you are interested in Baptising your child please come and speak to me, it is never too late for your child to be initiated into the Catholic Community.



St Joseph's Day – Tuesday 19th March

In 1866, a young 24-year old Mary MacKillop together with her Parish Priest Father Julian Tenison Woods began an order of sisters who were to be very different in the sense that instead of being behind the walls of a convent, they were to live amongst people, especially the poor, in groups of 3 or 4, own nothing, ask for donations and do what they could to help others. Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods chose the saint of St Joseph to be the patron saint for this order due to the understanding that Joseph, as the chosen earthly father of Jesus, was a humble man. In fact, the scripture they chose to base their order and work was from Micah 6:8 "Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly".

Today we reflect on St Joseph and the founding work of the Josephite order who begun our School in 1965 with only a few Josephite nuns.

Social Justice Leaders

Yr 6 Social Justice Leaders are running a stall on Wednesday to raise money for Project Compassion. They are selling jelly, cookies, cupcakes and lemonade which will be made by the students. All proceeds are going towards Project Compassion, Caritas' Lenten Appeal.

Harmony Day

This week classes will reflect on Harmony Week which commenced on Monday. Australia first observed 'Harmony Day' on 21 March 1999, carrying the message 'Everyone belongs', Harmony Day encourages Australians of all ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds to participate in their community, get to know one other, and understand and trust each other, respecting our cultural and religious differences. Acknowledging each other and our diversity helps us to grow as a community and as individuals, and in appreciating the world in which we live. As Catholics we support this vision

Italian Carnevale Day 5th April



The poster features a red and green wavy banner at the top left. The text 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in red, arched letters. Below it, 'ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY' is written in large, bold, green letters, and 'FRIDAY 5TH APRIL' is written in red, bold letters. Two circular inset photos show children wearing colorful masks. The bottom left has a green and red wavy shape. The bottom right has a red and green wavy shape. The text 'STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DRESS UP AS ANYTHING ITALIAN...' is in green. Below it, '9AM: PARADE IN OUR MPF FOR OUR STUDENTS TO SHOW OFF THEIR ITALIAN COSTUMES AND AMAZING MASKS MADE IN OUR ITALIAN LESSONS!' is in red. At the bottom, 'GET YOUR PIZZA & GELATI ORDERS IN BEFORE THURSDAY 28TH MARCH!' is in red.

SAVE THE DATE

ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DRESS UP AS ANYTHING ITALIAN...

9AM: PARADE IN OUR MPF FOR OUR STUDENTS TO SHOW OFF THEIR ITALIAN COSTUMES AND AMAZING MASKS MADE IN OUR ITALIAN LESSONS!

GET YOUR PIZZA & GELATI ORDERS IN BEFORE THURSDAY 28TH MARCH!





ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY

Friday 5th April

During our Italian lessons this term, the students have been learning about a traditional, exciting celebration called Carnevale. Carnevale is a time for people to wear wonderful costumes and masks to hide their identity!

SFOA will celebrate our own Italian Carnevale Day on Friday 5th April. Students are encouraged to dress up as anything ITALIAN...

Ideas: The colours of the Italian flag (red, white and green), a traditional Carnevale character, a nonna or nonno, an Italian chef, Pinocchio, a beautiful colourful Carnevale inspired costume, a gondolier, pizza maker, a famous Italian, an Italian "food" (eg a gelati or slice of pizza).

PARADE: We will have a parade in the MPF at 9.00am so the students can show off their Italian costumes as well as the stunning masks they made during Italian lessons.

The students will also enjoy an Incursion. Cool 4 Kids perform will perform an "INTO ITALY" show with songs, stories and dances that celebrate Italian traditions. The cost is covered by the Excursion budget.

SPECIAL PIZZA AND GELATI ORDERS:

Thank you to Lilly Delmedico and the P&F who have organised a special lunch order for pizza (EURO PIZZA) and gelati (GELISTA GELATI). Look out for the separate note about this. Orders can be placed through the QKR app. PLEASE NOTE THE FINAL DATE TO ORDER THESE ITEMS IS **THURSDAY, 28th MARCH**.

Grazie,

Signora Rossi



P: 08 8178 9900
A: 57 Newton Rd, Newton
E: info@sfoa.catholic.edu.au
W: sfoa.catholic.edu.au

EMPOWERED BY HOPE - INSPIRED BY CURIOSITY

Carnevale Day special food orders



ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY

FRIDAY 5th APRIL

SPECIAL FOOD ORDERS:

PIZZA AND GELATI



*****DUE TO THE EASTER LONG WEEKEND THE WEEK BEFORE CAREVALE DAY ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY THURSDAY, 28th MARCH*****

PLEASE GO TO THE [QKR app](#) to order and pay for the food orders.

PIZZA: FROM EURO PIZZA \$4.00 each

- Ham and Pineapple
- Ham and Cheese
- Margherita (Tomato and Cheese)

(unfortunately no gluten-free pizza available)



GELATI: FROM GELISTA GELATI \$3.50 each.

The gelati will be served in individual mini jars.

All gelati flavours are gluten free.

Flavours Available:

Classic Chocolate (Dairy based)

Vanilla Bean (Dairy based)

Coconut with Raspberry Swirl (DAIRY FREE)



NETBALL Winter Season



Dear Parents,

We are looking for players to join the **St Francis of Assisi Netball teams the Sapphires and the Diamonds**. Male or females can play as it is a mixed team competition.

Netball is being played for the Winter season, **Term 2, 2024** and **Term 3, 2024**, at Golden Grove Recreation Centre.

7&Under and **9&Under** play on a **Monday afternoons** from 5pm.

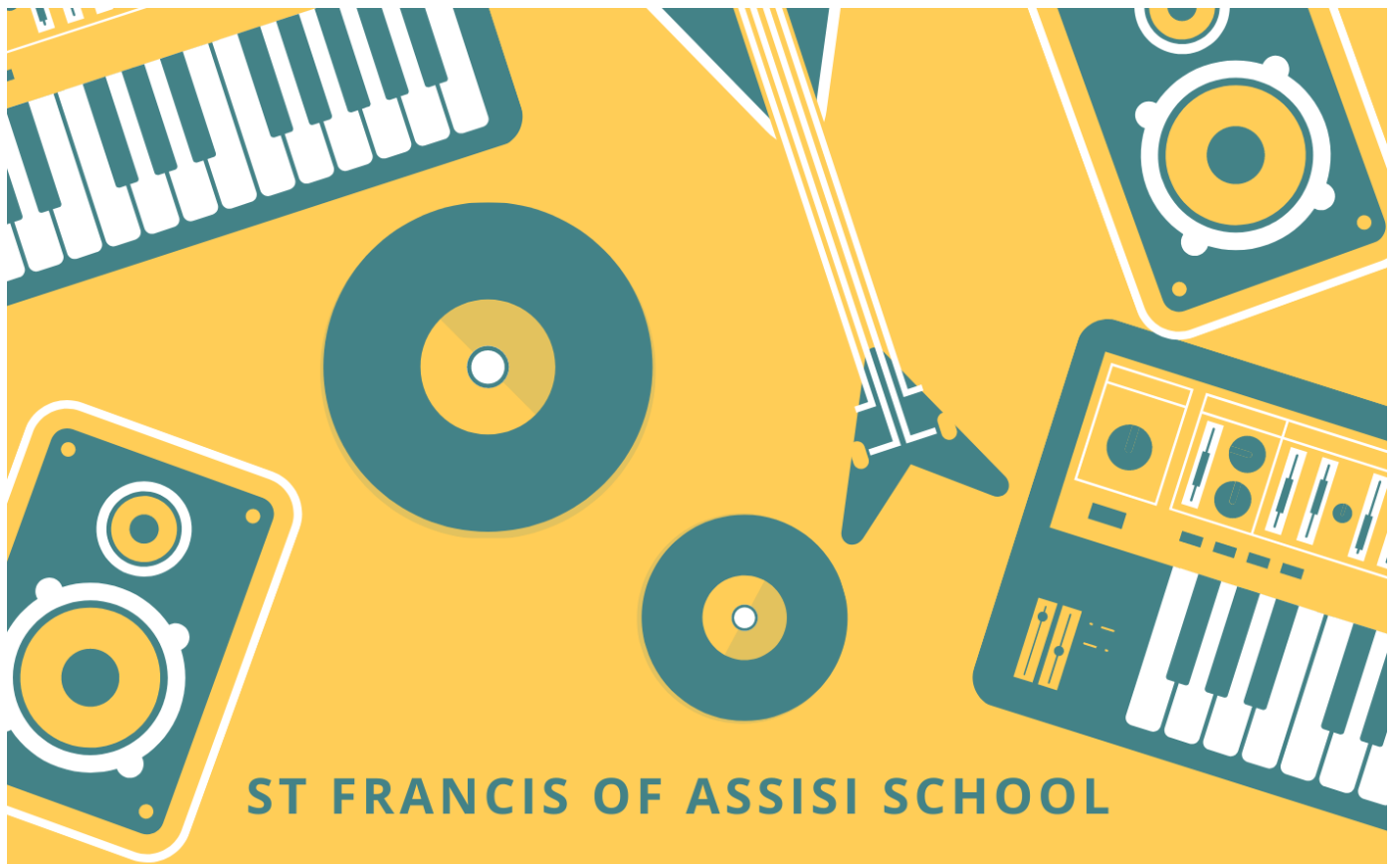
11&Under and **13&Under** play on a **Friday afternoons** from 5pm..

Payment is via the **QKR app**.

Registrations close **24th March**.

Please see attached for more information.

[Netball Winter season 2024](#)



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

Is your child interested in learning
a musical instrument?

We have tutors coming to the
school who teach **Piano, Guitar,
Drums, Violin, Flute, Clarinet
and Voice.**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND RETURN TO
THE SCHOOL OFFICE. IT WILL BE PASSED
ONTO THE MUSIC TUTORS

Campbelltown Library School Holiday programmes



Please use the link for some free and paid classes through the Campbelltown Library for the School Holidays.

<https://ticketing.humanitix.com/tours/school-holiday-programs>

The School Holiday Program is jammed packed full of activities for children and families, with many of them (see below) being suitable for CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY VALIDATION.



Sew a card -Begin to Sew { 8-12 year olds}

The Joy of Slime; {8-12 year olds}

Soap Donuts Workshops {12 - 16 year olds}

Flower canes workshop {10-13 year olds}

Dragon Mobiles Sculpture {9-13 year olds}

Cold rolls & Rocky Road Cooking class {7-9 year olds}

QKR tips - How do I cancel food orders that i have already paid for



masterpass

TIP OF THE WEEK

Q. How do I cancel food orders that have already been paid for?

A. To cancel a food order from your itemized eReceipt:

1. Open Qkr! and tap Activity.
2. Scroll down to 'Order History' and sign in with your password.
3. Tap the red circle with a minus symbol on the order to be cancelled. Select the entire order or individual items to cancel and tap 'OK'.
4. If your eReceipt contains food orders for more than one child, you will need to cancel one by one.

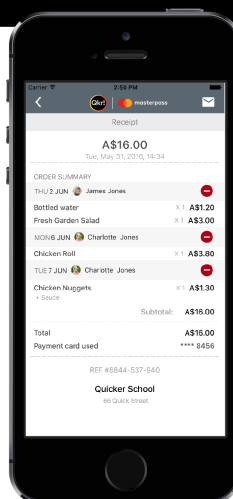
OR

To cancel a food order from the calendar view:

1. Open Qkr! and select the relevant menu.
2. Tap on the tick icon on the date for which you want to cancel the order.
3. Tap the red circle with a minus symbol on the order to be cancelled. Select the entire order or individual items to cancel and tap 'OK'.

Cancelled items are shown in red on your eReceipt confirming they have been cancelled and a credit is available for future food orders. The value of any credits will be automatically deducted from your next Qkr! food order.

Please contact your school office to cancel any other (non-food) school payments according to school policy.



St Francis of Assisi School Calender

Please find attached the St Francis of Assisi School calender for Term 1 2024

[School Calender Term 1 2024](#)

Community Notices

Kildare College Tours

Term 2 2025

Saturday 17 May	11.00am
Saturday 31 May	11.00am
Saturday 14 June	11.00am

Book a College Tour today
kildare.catholic.edu.au

BASKETBALL HOOPS 4 BEGINNERS TERM 2

MONDAYS
4.00pm - 5.00pm

\$80

MARDEN BASKETBALL CENTRE

START THEIR JOURNEY
HERE AGES 9-12

ATHELSTONE SCOUT GROUP

Come and Try Scouting FUN Day

When and Where

Join us on Saturday, February 8th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM to explore scouting! Parents and guardians are required. No cost or registration needed—just show up.

Saturday 8th February 2025
10:00am to 4:00pm
Athelstone Scout Hall
Maryvale Road

What's On

BBQ Lunch & Soft Drinks Pop Corn Machine Activity Passports Face Painting STEM Activities Knot Tying Activities Bottle Rockets	Tent Pitching and Pack Up Family Challenge Fundraising Table Cake + Biscuits + Dessert Table Badge Making Making Catapults Homemade Lava Lamp
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FUTURE DATES

TERM 2

TERM 2 BEGINS - Monday 29th April

PUPIL FREE DAY - Monday 7th June - OSHC available

TERM 3

PUPIL FREE DAY- Monday 22nd July and 27th September - OSHC available

TERM 4

Is your child due to start school?



2024 SCHOOL ENROLMENT

NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS

Enrol your child now, we are opening new student admissions for the 2024 school year.
Reception to Year 6 places available.

 For more information or to book a tour call:
8178 9900



ENROL NOW

Visit Our Website
www.sfoa.catholic.edu.au 



SFOA Merchandise



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Francis of Assisi School

UMBRELLAS

*"Stay Dry, Rain
or Shine: Our
School Umbrellas
Keep You
Covered!"*

**Umbrellas are navy with a
silver lining and white school
logo.**

COST
\$30.00

**Purchase through the
QKR! App under
Merchandising.
Available for collection
Term 3.**



SFOA Umbrellas are now available on the QKR! app. Get your orders in quick - limited stock available!



[CLICK HERE](#) to enrol online!

Available before / after school hours with Vacation Care during school holidays.

The Southern Cross Newsletter



Current Edition - March

Uniform Shop

[Opening Hours & Uniform Prices](#)

By Appointment Only: [BOOK HERE](#)

10 Newton Road, Campbelltown

Phone: 8336 2602

Parish Bulletin



Latest Parish bulletin [available here](#)

Catholic Schools Magazine

• 2023/24 EIGHTH EDITION •

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PICTURE OF INCLUSION

Coming together at multicultural school

PUP-ULAR STUDENT

Wellbeing dog offers a supportive paw

CARE AND COMPASSION

Bringing joy to older community



 catholic
education
south australia

**MODERN
PRACTICES
ENSURE
EXCELLENCE**
DATA DRIVING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

YOUR COMPLETE SCHOOL DIRECTORY: ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LISTED

2023/24 Eighth Edition

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