



# St Francis of Assisi school Newsletter 28th May 2025

## Important Dates

Inflatable  
Classroom

Monday 5 May 2025

Inflatable  
Classroom

Wednesday 28 May 2025

Inflatable  
Classroom

Thursday 29 May 2025

AFL Academy

Thursday 29 May 2025

Class Liturgy RTC-  
9am

Friday 30 May 2025

Pizza Day

Friday 30 May 2025

Assembly led by  
3/4S -2.15 in MPF

Monday 2 June 2025

Inflatable  
Classroom

Tuesday 3 June 2025

Inflatable  
Classroom

Wednesday 4 June 2025

PUPIL FREE DAY -  
OSHC available

Friday 6 June 2025

PUBLIC HOLIDAY -  
Kings Birthday

Monday 9 June 2025

Receptions  
Hahndorf Farm Barn  
Excursion

Wednesday 11 June 2025

Community Prayer  
8.55am 6E

Friday 13 June 2025

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# From the Principal

Dear Families,

Time seems to be flying very quickly at the moment as we reach the midway point of Term 2. At this time of year as the weather changes, and the grind of daily life kicks in we need to look after ourselves and look after each other. If you're like me, there's not too many clear days at present, as winter sport kicks in and navigating pick ups and drop offs for children at various places.

Today in a rare hour spare I thought I'd complete a bit of a longer newsletter article this time and again try to give you an insight into some of the conversations we have around education, what's topical, how we react to changes in society and what's important to us here at SFOA.

## **Let's start with technology and screen time.**

Depending on when you were educated you might be considered a digital native. In the 90s and 2000's it was almost seen as a responsibility of a school to introduce children to technology.

To turn on and off a computer. To use operating systems. To painfully build html limited websites. It's where I learned to type. To navigate the web.

With each new advancement, schools have adapted, explored, and sometimes wrestled with the possibilities of what technology might mean for learning.

One reflective moment from our own school's story is a video taken in the early 1990s, showing students gathered around computer with a DOS operating system, playing a basic educational game. In the background, then-acting principal Michael Honey can be heard wondering aloud what technology might look like in 25 years' time. Now, 35 years on, it's fair to say even he couldn't have imagined the reality: computers in every pocket, integrated into our daily lives through smartphones and constant connectivity. That moment captures not just how far we've come — but how quickly the landscape has changed.

Fast forward to today, and technology is no longer a novelty in the classroom — it's part of everyday life. Particularly in Years 3–6, this prepares them well for the digital demands of secondary schooling and future workplaces. Students collaborate online, submit work through platforms like Microsoft Teams, and use both the Apple and Office 365 suites to communicate, create, and learn.

But while we embrace innovation, we also remain deeply grounded in our beliefs about what matters most. Education is not, and should never be, about looking at life through a screen — it's about looking at a person. It's about connection, relationship, and presence.

That's why in Reception to Year 2, iPads are used sparingly, and only when they genuinely add value to the learning experience. Human interaction, conversation, and hands-on exploration are the heartbeat of learning in those early years.

We also take the responsibility of managing technology seriously. All devices are managed by the school — meaning we control what apps can be installed, have access to search histories, and use a filtering system to ensure students are working within safe digital boundaries.

Do our children still have slip ups? Absolutely. Last week we did a sweep of all devices and restored all settings back to normal after many children had changed cursors, backgrounds and found different ways to get around certain filters. This is normal and while it sounds like we are the 'fun police' in monitoring these things, the reality is these steps are taken to keep our children safe.

Sometimes the best way to understand our approach is through metaphor: if the internet is the road, we're in charge of the road rules. We decide which vehicles (apps) are allowed on, the direction of travel (the tools used for each task), and where the speed bumps are placed. Students may be learning to drive in a digital world — but they're not doing it without guidance.

Technology will continue to evolve. Our commitment is to ensure it serves learning, not leads it. Because no matter how advanced the tools become, the heart of education remains unchanged: the learner in front of us.

The AI conversation can wait for another day.

## **Faith**

Next week, our staff will be heading off on retreat to Penola.

We'll be leaving Thursday night and staying in the Southeast for two nights exploring the part of the world where St Mary MacKillop established the first Catholic School in South Australia.

We will spend time celebrating Mass in Penola, visiting St Mary MacKillop Memorial School and the Mary MacKillop Museum, and reflecting on our own rich connection to the Josephite story — a history that began with the Sisters of St Joseph leading this very school in 1965. One of the most powerful moments will be visiting the site of the original stable where Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods founded the order. It promises to be a meaningful time of reconnection and spiritual reflection for our team.

It's a big commitment from our staff to travel this far and spend this time deepening their faith and knowledge of our story.

### **Initiatives**

Back in December, we shared several new initiatives with you — and I wanted to give you a quick update on how they're tracking. We promised a lot and it has taken a lot of work to get these off the ground.

We like to consider our school size in the 'Goldilocks Zone'. Small enough to have connections with each child, but large enough to ensure we offer a multitude of opportunities for our children.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club has been an incredible success. If you haven't been yet, it's what the kids would call *a vibe*! My favourite part is watching the children sit and eat together — not rushed, not on the go, but sharing food, chatting, and starting their day with connection and calm. It's such a simple idea, but its impact has been great. Thanks again for this term sponsor which is St George's Bakehouse in Firlie.

### **Strings Program**

The Strings Program has gone beyond my wildest dreams. The flow-on effect has been significant — our instrumental music program has more than tripled this year. Music is alive at SFOA! Later this term, our Year 3 strings students will perform at a special graduation night. We'll then open up expressions of interest for students who wish to continue. There is something so special about hearing strings echoing through our school grounds — it brings joy, focus, and discipline in such a unique way.

### **AFL and Soccer Academies**

Both academies are now underway and proving to be a fantastic part of what we offer. It's been wonderful to see students engaging, pushing themselves, and representing the school with pride and commitment.

### **60th Anniversary Gala**

A quick reminder — this week is your *last chance* to order tables for our 60th Anniversary Gala. It's shaping up to be a truly unforgettable night, and we'd love to see you there as we celebrate six decades of community, growth, and faith. We need a couple more tables to cover costs so please consider coming along.

### **Scott March**

Principal

## **APRIM News**

### **APRIM News Week 5 Term 2 2025**

#### **Mini-Vinnies**

Earlier this term the Mini-Vinnies and Social Justice Leaders launched out Vinnies Winter appeal. You will see the large blue bins around the school which are for donations of blankets, clothes and toys. Each class also has a tub for donations of non-perishable food. Some examples of non-perishable items that you can donate are, pasta, noodles, rice, long-life milk, tinned soup, tinned tuna, baked beans, tinned fruit and vegetables, tea and coffee, milo, cereal boxes, jars of jam or spreads, tomato sauce, meal bases, fruit juice, nuts, lollies, packets of biscuits and jelly packets. Later in the term we will be having a fundraiser to also raise money for the Winter Appeal. Thankyou for your continued support of St Vincent De Paul. This is a big help to those struggling in our community this winter.

#### **Sacramental Program**

On Sunday evening we had 24 students from school and Parish celebrating their First Holy Communion and Confirmation with Fr Dean

Marin. This has been a year long process with our candidates as they prepared to receive Jesus for the first time and be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The new Sacramental Program will begin in Term 3 for students interested in making their Reconciliation later this year.



### Reconciliation Week

This week marks *National Reconciliation Week* (27 May – 3 June), a significant time for us as a Catholic school community to reflect, learn, and act in support of healing and justice. The 2025 theme, "**Bridging Now to Next**," calls us to actively participate in building a future where the histories, cultures, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and respected.

**Laudato Si' Week** was celebrated last week in Australia this year and was extra special as we celebrated the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. It was also a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the incredible inspiration of Pope Francis in caring for our common home. Students were involved in some classroom activities for *Laudato Si' Week* and 1/2P led a beautiful community prayer to honour this event. Fr Anthoni spoke to our students at Mass about following the footsteps of Pope Francis and caring for one another and God's creation.

### Wellbeing News – The Inflatable Classroom is Back!

In Wk 5 and 6 of this term each class will enter the 'Top Secret' inflatable classroom that transports them to a place where they became 'Junior Secret Agents'. FYI Education is a South Australian school incursion enterprise, created by entertainer and teacher, Richard Rowland. Richard has been visiting our school for 4 years now and entertaining our students while educating them on wellbeing topics. Using new and exciting interactive technology, Richard (AKA "Agent FYI") engages and inspires students to learn whilst having fun! Students will be learning about resilience, friendship, bullying, cybersafety and how to stay mentally and physically healthy. More information available at <https://fyieducation.com/>

At the end of this week I will be leaving St Francis of Assisi to work at St Thomas School, Goodwood until the end of the term as Acting Deputy Principal. Lisa Cavuoto is replacing me and taking care of all Catholic Identity matters. I am eager to experience a new role in a different setting and look forward to returning to SFOA in term 3.

Blessings for the rest of the term,

Melissa Canil

APRIM

## St Francis of Assisi School 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner Invitation



Dear Families,

This year, we are thrilled to celebrate 60 years of St Francis of Assisi School, and we warmly invite you to join us for a special evening of connection and celebration at our 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

This milestone event is a chance for our school community—past and present—to come together and honour the rich history of St Francis of Assisi. Throughout the evening, we will reflect on the journey of our school, share stories, and celebrate the people who have helped shape the welcoming and nurturing environment we cherish today.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 21st June 2024

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide

Dress Code: Black Tie

We would love for our current families to be part of this special occasion. Whether you have recently joined our community or have been with us for years, your presence would make this event even more meaningful.

Tickets are available for purchase via the following link or by scanning the QR code on the attached invitation.

<https://events.humanitix.com/st-francis-of-assisi-60th-anniversary-gala>

The evening includes a four-course meal and a drinks package, promising a wonderful night of celebration.

We hope you can join us in marking this significant milestone in our school's history!

Warm regards,

Scott March

Principal



## Basketball for Terms 3 and 4, 2025



**Basketball** is being offered for students in year 1 to 6 for **season 2** of this year, **terms 3 and 4, 2025**.

**After School Basketball** is played at the ARC, 532 Lower North East Rd Campbelltown.

Please see the attached leaflet for more details on cost, uniform and days each year level plays.

Registration is via the **QKR app only**.

Registrations are open **NOW until 6th JUNE**. There will be NO late registrations after the 6th JUNE 2025.

[Basketball for Term 3 & 4 2025 information](#)

## Instrumental Programme for 2025

Have you thought about instrumental music lessons for your child?

At St Francis of Assisi, we offer instrumental lessons with expert tutors who come to school and conduct one-on-one lessons with students during the school day. We are currently offering lessons in piano, violin, viola, cello, drums and guitar. Click here to fill in the form [Instrumental Programme expression of interest](#) or feel free to contact me on [therese.smith@sfoa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:therese.smith@sfoa.catholic.edu.au) if you have any questions about our program.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to develop skills in a musical instrument and the benefits of music include improved memory, enhanced coordination, stress reduction, and increased creativity, as well as fostering discipline, confidence, and social skills.



Ella playing with her best piano posture for her teacher Mrs Lee.

## Volunteers RRHAN training

All **Volunteers** wishing to continue as a registered volunteer at the school MUST update their **RRHAN-EC training** and provide the school with the new Certificate. It will have a **new date of 31/12/2027**.

ALL previous RRHAN certificates **expired in 2024** are no longer valid.

Please use this link to update the RRHAN certificate. [Plink](#)

## Little Seeds Playgroup at St Francis of Assisi School





St Francis of Assisi  
School



**little  
seeds**  
PLAYGROUP

**A place to learn, play and grow together!**

Join our educator-led playgroup for children from birth to five years old. A fun and welcoming space where little ones can explore, play, and connect while developing essential skills.

**Sessions run twice a week during school terms:**  
Mondays: 9.00–10.30am | Thursdays: 10.00–11.30am

**\$5.00 per family, per session**  
📍 **St Francis of Assisi School, Newton**

**No bookings needed – just come along!**

🔍 [sfoa.catholic.edu.au/community/playgroup](https://sfoa.catholic.edu.au/community/playgroup)



Supported Playgroups in Catholic Education

## UNIFORM SHOP



**St Francis of Assisi School**  
NEWTON, SA

### Uniform Shop

10 Newton Rd, Campbelltown SA 5074

### Contact details:

**Website:** [shop online](#)

**Phone:** 7095 2535

**Email:** [campbelltown@noone.com.au](mailto:campbelltown@noone.com.au)

### Trading hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday and public holidays CLOSED



# 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](http://kildare.catholic.edu.au)





## BASKETBALL HOOPS 4 BEGINNERS TERM 2

MONDAYS  
4.00pm - 5.00pm  
**\$80**

MARDEN BASKETBALL CENTRE

START THEIR JOURNEY  
HERE AGES 5-12



## AABA

ADELAIDE COMMUNITY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

### All Abilities

BASKETBALL PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS & GROUPS

Come and try basketball in a safe and friendly environment with experienced coaches!

Below are some of the amazing benefits from attending these tailor-made training programs. In school programs can be further specialised to students involved.

- Improved playing skills
- Increased confidence on and off the court
- Greater team-building skills
- One on one engagement with others
- Positive involvement with all
- Wheelchair basketball options available

Specifically designed for children with:

- An intellectual or physical disability
- Learning and integration difficulties
- Any type of special needs

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS OPTIONS AVAILABLE  
School uniforms can be used

PROGRAM	DAY	AGES	LOCATION	TIME	FUNCTIONS AVAILABLE
In school	AM/PM	R - 12	Your School	Subject to availability	Sports School
Magill	PM	8 - 16	Magill Uni Campus	4:45pm - 5:30pm	Sports School
Mawson lakes	PM	8 - 16	Lab 46	2:00pm - 2:45pm	Sports School

More programs are coming soon.  
To stay up to date, please complete the registration of interest form on the website



## SCHOOL CALENDAR - Term 2, 2025

Term 2 2025 Parent School Calendar of Events

## FUTURE DATES

### TERM 2 2025

- Pupil Free Day - *Friday 6th June*
- Kings Birthday Public Holiday - *Monday 9th June*
- 60th Anniversary Gala dinner - *Saturday 21st June*
- Music Assembly - *Wednesday 18th June*
- Strings Graduation Performance -*Wednesday 25th June 6pm*
- Term 2 concludes 4th July

Is your child due to start school?



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.

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## The Southern Cross Newsletter



[The Southern Cross](#) | [South Australia's Catholic News](#) - May Issue

[Read More](#)

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## Uniform Shop

The uniform is available from:

NOONE uniform shop

10 Newton Rd, Campbelltown. ([See Google maps](#))

Phone: 08 7095 2535

Email: [campbelltown@noone.com.au](mailto:campbelltown@noone.com.au)

Please use the link to visit the Noone Uniform Shop to shop online or to book an appointment for a uniform fitting. [Shop Online](#)

Opening hours are:

- Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
- Saturday 9am to 1pm
- Sunday and Public Holidays - closed

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## Parish Bulletin





Latest Parish bulletin [available here](#)

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