



A PRAYER FOR LENTEN GRACE

Loving God, During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.

Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life. Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen

Of the three marks of Lent — prayer, fasting and almsgiving — almsgiving is surely the most neglected.

In the only place where the Bible brings all three together the emphasis is firmly on the last mark: "Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life" (Tob 12:8-9).

The reason why Christians see almsgiving as better than prayer and fasting is because almsgiving is prayer, and it does involve fasting. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is "giving to God". It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving — not just giving something, but giving up something, giving up something that has strong meaning for both the giver and the person receiving.

Jesus presented almsgiving as a necessary part of Christian life: "when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt 6:2-3). He does not say IF you give alms, but WHEN. Like fasting and prayer, almsgiving is non-negotiable.

Father Dennis and Father Junray came to school this week to start Lent with us in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy and they reminded each one of us of the Three Marks of Lent and most importantly our need to give alms. We will continue to talk with the children about the season Lent.

Please check website for last weeks News Sheet.

Mrs Jennyne Wilkinson
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 17TH	No Foundation students
FEB 18TH	Commencement and Commissioning Mass in the Gathering Place 9.30am, all welcome
FEB 18TH	Parent Sustainability Meeting 7.30 - 8.30pm
FEB 19TH	Swimming Carnival Yr 3 – 6
FEB 22ND	1:1 laptop information evening 6-7pm
FEB 24TH	No Foundation students

START OF YEAR HOUSEKEEPING



Use of laptops

Each year the families of year 5 and 6 students are invited to the school for a 1:1 laptop evening. This evening is to go through the Laptop Agreement and talk about laptop use in the home. All parents are invited to attend the information session.

Where: Year 5/6 classroom
When: Monday 22nd February from 6 - 6:30pm

At the meeting, families will receive the laptop agreement and information about laptop use at home. Students will be able to take their laptops home during the school term once families have attended the information session and signed the laptop agreement. If you are unable to attend the information evening please make contact with Bernadette Todd btodd@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au or Natalie npierce@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au to organise another meeting time.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) - Expressions of Interest

This year, we would like to offer the ICAS assessments to our families. We are seeking expressions of interest as there are minimum entries required.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. The assessments comprise Digital Technologies tests, English tests, Maths tests, Science tests, Spelling tests and Writing tests. There is a cost per assessment to be paid by families. The assessments will take place between June and August.

We are seeking expressions of interest for:

Spelling - \$12.10
English - \$8.80
Mathematics - \$8.80
Writing - \$18.70

These assessments are external to the school assessment schedule. A teacher would administer the assessment, the assessment would then be sent away for marking and results sent back to the school. If the ICAS assessments are something you would like your child to be involved in, please email Natalie Pierce with your interest npierce@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au by Monday February 22nd.

START OF TERM HOUSEKEEPING



We ask families and friends to assist us with our "housekeeping" requirements:

Who's who 2016 staff

Leadership Team

Principal	Jennynne Wilkinson
Deputy Principal	Natalie Pierce
Education for Sustainability Leader	Suzie Patralla
Learning Technologies Leader	Michelle Unsworth

Teachers

Foundation	Teresa Ellison
Year 1/2 Teachers	Michelle Unsworth & Tara Thompson
Year 3/4 Teachers	Suzie Patralla & Emily Sarroff
Year 5/6 Teachers	Natalie Pierce & Bernadette Todd

Learning and Wellbeing Team

Learner Diversity Specialist	Belinda Lingham
Speech Pathologist	Josette Goode
School Chaplain	Anne Tremethick
School Counsellor	Paula Mobach
Support Teacher	Zoe Hehir

Specialist

The Arts	Sharon Tobin
Languages (French)	Pam Stosic
Sports	Zoe Hehir

Administration

Finance Officer	Tracey Frauenfelder
Communication & Enrolment Officer	Christine Nelson

Lost Property

Is now located in the Office in the cupboard near the staff toilets. Please ensure your child's clothing items are named to avoid the problem of lost items.

School Yard Supervision

After monitoring the yard before school over the past week it has come to our attention that a significant number of children who travel to school via bus are arriving before 8.30am.

Teachers will now be on yard duty from 8.10am each day to supervise those children who catch a bus which arrives early.

Children who do not catch a bus are encouraged not to be at school before 8.30am.



Newsletter

Updating our Newsletter

Over coming weeks you will notice some big changes in our newsletter and website, as we transition to a new format. Dutch Media are currently re-designing our newsletter to be an e-Newsletter. Once the new design is complete you will no longer be receive your Newsletter and Newsheet as an attachment. Our aim is to make our Newsletters and Newsheet easier for you to receive and clearer for you to read. More information on this and our new website will come once it launches.

Produced weekly in both full and brief versions

We provide weekly news to our families; commencing this week with a full newsletter. We will then alternate between a smaller 'News Sheet' production and a full newsletter each Thursday throughout the year.

How can you receive a newsletter weekly?

The options are via direct email to those families who have indicated this preference or by accessing the School website at www.sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au and following the prompt to 'Newsletters'. Only those families who do not have internet access, can make a request for a paper copy to be sent home with the eldest child (please see Chris in the Office). If you would like the newsletter emailed directly to you, just email Chris at cnelson@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au. Please understand that occasionally times arise when the newsletter upload is not done until Friday due to a variety of activities/reasons.

Please note that all Years 5 – 6 students upload the Newsletter to their laptops each Thursday, so you can always ask them to show you the weekly news!



Absences and Attendances

If your child/children are absent from school, please contact the School by 9.30am on the day; either by phoning on (02) 6020 9100 or emailing Chris Nelson at cnelson@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au If students are to be away for an extended period, please notify your child's Teacher as well as the Office. Furthermore, if you need to collect your child/children early, please come to the Office and sign him or her out. If you child arrives late for school in the morning, he or she needs to report to the Office to sign in.

Once our new website is launched you will be able to notify your child's absence via an online form. More information about this will follow in the next few weeks.

Contact Numbers

On enrolment of your child/children at St Francis Primary School, you provided the school with contact addresses, phone numbers and additional information for communication purposes and emergency situations. We recently sent home a blanket permission slip with 'medical report' attached we have asked that you make any changes or additions to this form so that all of our records are up to date.

Medication

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please send it in with a note giving dosage, time and the child's name and class clearly marked. Zip-lock bags are a great way to send along medication as they can be clearly marked on the outside with permanent marker and any spills during transit are contained within the plastic bag and not throughout the whole school bag. The School's First Aid department requires updated copies of all Asthma Management Plans, Diabetes Plan and/or Anaphylaxis Action Plans please, so that we can be best informed to help them in case of emergency.

Labelling of Belongings

After the expense of purchasing uniform items, there is nothing worse than the loss or misplacement of them. More often than not, it has just been left in the school yard or been picked up by another child. Avoid undue stress and ensure ALL BELONGINGS are clearly labelled with your child's name.

iPods & mp3 Players

iPods and MP3 players may be used to and from school; not during class time unless given teacher permission. We discourage students sharing their selection of music particularly with younger students when the content and language may be inappropriate.

Assemblies

Assemblies will be held on Friday's at 9.00am each fortnight on even weeks (2,4,6,8)

Phones

We understand that students may need mobile phones before and after school hours. However, during the school hours students are required to keep mobile phones in their bags. If mobile phones are being used during the day, they will be confiscated and not returned until 3.15pm. Teachers will also contact parents. Repeat offences may result in phones being returned at the end of the week, or given directly to parents.

Permission Notes

We are aware that many notes are sent home to families for various activities/announcements, and as a means of communication. Permission notes must be signed by parents/guardians for all activities and excursions that are off school grounds or require transport to attend. Please ensure that when these forms are received home, they are completed, signed and returned promptly to class teachers by the required date. Children can become quite distressed and anxious when these are not returned and it will not be possible for staff to make phone calls home to chase verbal permission. We will encourage the students to take 'ownership' of having these notes completed & returned, which will assist both parents and staff.

We will also have permission notes uploaded to our School website for easy re-print access.

New Uniform

The students look great in their new uniforms. A very big thank you to Mrs Paula May, who ordered, packed and dispensed the new hat and sports shirt. The sports jumpers and school jumpers will arrive later this term. In the mean time please send your child to school in a plain dark jumper, preferably blue on cooler days.



School Uniform Requirements

In Term 1, CEW summer uniform is worn by our students. To avoid confusion, we would just like to remind parents and students of the following uniform requirements:

- BOYS – grey socks with black shoes/runners year round.
- BOYS – white socks with white runners as part of their year-round sports uniform.
- GIRLS – white socks with black shoes as part of their summer uniform and white runners for sport.
- HEADBANDS – must match the School colours; light blue or navy blue.
- JEWELLERY - Please do not wear dangly earrings to school. Simple studs or sleepers are preferred.

A watch and/or bracelet is acceptable, as is a fine gold/silver chain and one ring.

The CEW Uniform Shop

Is located at the rear of the Parish Centre, Cnr Mark & Beech Roads, Beechworth.

Regular Summer Trading Hours apply from Tuesday 16th Feb 2016 until Saturday 2nd April 2016.

Tuesday 8am to 11am

Thursday 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 9am to 12 noon

Telephone them on (02) 6024 1727.

Special Food Days

The School offers lunch order days to our students;

- Lunch orders from the Baranduda Store (first Friday of the month unless advised otherwise).

The Lunch Day dates are well advertised in our Newsletter and on our School website calendar. The current Baranduda Store Schools Menu is available from the School Office.

Fee Payments & Enquiries

Contact Tracey Fraunfelder in the Office on 6020 9100 Mon to Fri 11 - 4pm or email

traceyf@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au to seek information and/or discuss fee amounts & payments.



Bushfire Code Red Days And School Closure

It is now the 6th anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires and you would be aware that following the enquiry into the fires a new system for fire warnings was introduced. Many areas in the North-East have been placed on the "At risk Register" – Baranduda and surrounding areas have been added to this list. On days that are declared CODE RED for this area **we will be closed; no staff, students or community members are permitted on the School site.** The procedure will be that the CODE RED will be confirmed by 12 noon the day prior to the Code Red. We will send home a note to you confirming that there will be no school the next day. Once a CODE RED day has been confirmed it will not be revoked, even in the event of weather changes. Most of the buses that service our School will not be running on CODE RED days

Attention: Concession card holders - \$125 funding per student available

**If you (the parent/guardian, not the student) currently hold a:
Veterans Affairs Gold Card; or Centrelink Health Care Card; or Pensioner Concession Card,**

Then you are eligible to receive \$125 for each student you have enrolled at St Francis of Assisi Primary School under the Victorian State Government Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

Details on the funding can be accessed via this link
www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1.

Applications can be printed one via the link above or contact Tracey Frauenfelder our Finance Officer on (02) 6020 9100. Applications must be returned to the School by Friday 26th February 2016 for lodgement. Forms can be scanned & emailed to traceyf@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au, delivered to reception or posted to PO Box 1223 Wodonga Vic 3689

Funding payments will be paid direct to the School. As our all inclusive fee includes compulsory camp costs, the funding will be applied directly to your fee account.

Please note that a new application is required to be lodged each year.

If you have any queries, please contact Tracey (02) 6020 9100 or email traceyf@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au



Class Parent Representative 2016

As mentioned in the News Sheet last week, in consultation with the parents we have developed a Class Parent Representative role, this role has been designed to support the transition of new families to the school and enhance the connection between families and the classroom teacher.

Please read through the role description attached and email me, jwilkinson@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au by Friday 19th of February to express your interest in this role. We are asking for a one year commitment and you can express an interest individually or in partnership with another parent.

I look forward to hearing from you, Jennynne

Class Parent Representative Team – St Francis of Assisi Primary School Role Description – updated December 2015

- To be a support person and contact for families in the class. To welcome new families to the class at the beginning of the year as well as during the year, (Principal or teacher to advise Class Parent Representative when a new family commences). This role can also be shared between 1 to 2 parents.
- The Class Parent Representative (CPR) team will meet approximately once a term as a group and be involved in tasks that parents or the school identify as valuable for parent involvement. Examples include updating CPR role, communicating with fellow class parents to help get families involved in class or school events, checking lost property in the class room a couple of times a term.
- Meet with the classroom teacher a couple of times a term to become familiar with changes and upcoming events if needed, and communicate to parent group.
- If available, attend first day of school welcome/morning tea to support new parents and to display and encourage parent involvement in the school. (Particularly Foundation and Year 1/2 CPR)
- Attend the School Forum and the Parents and Friends Network meetings at least once per term, or arrange for a parent from your class to attend, this will enable a broad representation and input of parents across the school.
- Organise a parent contact list for your class, electronic template to be provided. Also gather a knowledge of the skills and attributes of parents and match them to class and school events when required.
- Organise a social gathering (one or more) to encourage interaction between parents and students. With the earlier year levels (Foundation particularly) this would be class based. For the higher year levels, i.e. 3/4, this could include multiple class groups. This may be for parents to meet for morning coffee, or meet in the park on a weekend.
- Organise to thank the class teacher at the end of the year.
- All communication from the CPR to the parent group should also be sent through to the classroom teacher. If via email, classroom teachers to be included in recipients. If via paper, classroom teacher to receive a copy prior to distributing. This is to ensure communication flows across all parties involved.
- The CPR should NEVER mediate between a parent or group of parents and the classroom teacher. All classroom / student concerns should be directed straight to the classroom teacher; secondly to the Principal if the concern has not been resolved.

St. Francis Parents & Friends Network (PFN)

Parents please come and share your skills with the students. Please let us know if you have any skills that you may be able share with the children. It can be anything from some sporting and fitness skills, yoga and meditation, listening to the children read, arts and crafts. It would be great if you can spare some time during school hours.

Also if there are any keen gardeners out there who can assist in a working bee your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please fill out the form at the following address:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XH3CKGOf3srvQW-ZuZMJf6-56-aMjjsLR4-FZ4dsXDY/viewform?usp=send_form

Commencement and Commissioning Mass

To the St Francis of Assisi School Community, we warmly invite you to join us for the Commencement and Commissioning Mass of St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Wodonga

When: Thursday 18th February at 9.30am

Where: Deb Cousin's Gathering Place, St Francis of Assisi Primary School

Morning tea provided after mass.



Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival

All Students have now signed up for our swimming carnival. The carnival will be held at Yackandandah Swimming Pool on Friday the 19th of February, 2016. Buses will leave St. Francis of Assisi around 9.15am and depart from Yackandandah pool at 2.30pm. Students are reminded to bring their bathers, a swim top, sunscreen, water bottles, lunch, snacks, School hat and a towel. Don't forget to wear your Mob colours or your sports uniform.

Good luck to all of the swimmers.

Sport Days

Foundation: Mondays and Fridays

Grade 1/2: Tuesdays and Fridays

Grade 3/4: Tuesdays and Fridays

Grade 5/6: Tuesdays and Fridays

Mrs Hehir

Facebook

Don't forget to check our Facebook page for updates and all of the latest news and photos from St Francis Primary School

<https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisWodonga/>

School Photo day

Will be on Thursday the 25th of February – further information to follow

Baranduda Play Group

We warmly welcome Baranduda Playgroup to St Francis Primary School. They will be using the Gathering Place On Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am in Term 1 and possibly Term 2.

St Francis Froglets

Welcome back to our Froglets who started back on Tuesday February 9. They will meet every week on Tuesday at 9am in the Gathering Place and everyone is welcome.

Out of Hours School Care at St Francis

OHSC has started at St Francis, if you are interested in your children attending in the afternoons please call into the Gathering Place after 3pm to talk to Emily or Donald or email them on oshc@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au or 0448 902 173

New Bell Times

School Starts: 8.50am

Lunch break: 11.00am – 11.50

Recess: 1.45pm – 2.10pm

Home Time: 3.10pm

First Bus: 3.15pm



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Holiday Gardening and Chooks

A huge thank-you to the May (Amiani & Sema), Tinkler, Sullivan, Cave, Dunne and May (Austin & Elliott) families for caring for our chooks and watering the vegie garden during the holidays. Your time and dedication is very much appreciated.

2016 Parent Sustainability Group

St Francis of Assisi is an accredited 5 Star Sustainable school. We couldn't do this without the fantastic parents that make up our Parent Sustainability Group.

The Parent Sustainability Group is an active group of parents who plan and implement projects to enhance different aspects of sustainability in our school. During 2014/15 our major project involved the building of the nature trail around the school grounds, which we did so with great success.

In 2016, projects we will be looking at include signage for the nature trail, developing our wetlands, increasing the use of solar power at school, along with any other great ideas for projects developed in consultation with students and our Parent Sustainability Group at St Francis of Assisi.

Our first meeting for 2016 will be Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm in the staff room.

We warmly welcome all new and current members to our group, so come along and share your thoughts and ideas.

Extension to our Nature Trail

Over the holidays a nature trail, incorporating a small bridge and pedestrian gates, was completed in the WREN (Wodonga Retained Environment Network) land adjacent to St Francis of Assisi Primary School (around the top dam). The work was undertaken by Wodonga City Council staff and contractors as part of a partnership between ourselves and Wodonga City Council to improve the biodiversity of the area and improve access for community use.

Students from our school with assistance from Wodonga City Council planted 1400 native trees, shrubs and grasses in the area last year. Over the holidays the trail was connected to the school nature trail via pedestrian gates making a wonderful extension to our nature trail and resource for our students, staff and community members.

A huge thank-you to Wodonga City Council for initiating, organising, managing and implementing the project.

Volunteers Needed

Year 3/4 students will be taking part in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program on Mondays at 12.30pm.

If you would like to be a part of this great program and lend a hand in either the kitchen or the garden, WE NEED YOU!! No experience needed in the kitchen, with gardening or with children - just lots of enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Or if you would like a quieter more peaceful time, come and work in our vegie garden at a time that suits you. Everyone Welcome!

Please contact Emily or Suzie for more details. esarroff@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au spatrala@sfwodonga.catholic.edu.au

Eggs for Sale

Each day we will have our St Francis free range eggs for sale in the front office. Drop in and by some fresh eggs from our much loved school chooks.



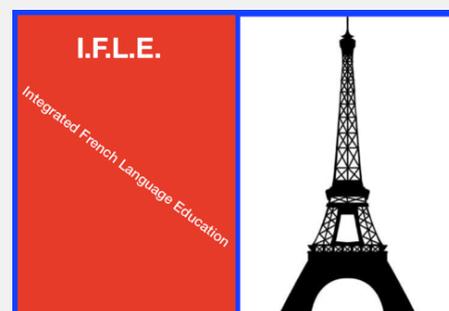
FRENCH LANGUAGE 2016

2016 has brought many exciting changes to our school, including the development and implementation of a new Language learning approach. The pedagogy underpinning the approach is 'Content and Language Integrated Learning' (CLIL). CLIL is a flexible approach to dual focused instruction (language and content); essentially students are learning cross-curricular subject matter in a second language. Research has shown that this approach to language education has beneficial linguistic, academic and social outcomes including improved student engagement, a deeper understanding of the content and a more positive attitude to the cultures of others. CLIL is broadly acknowledged as a contemporary and successful approach to languages learning for students at both the primary and secondary level and is at the core of many school languages programs.

What this will look like for St. Francis Primary School in 2016 is:

- Across the school we aim to progressively incorporate aspects of our daily routine in French. At first this may include simple things, such as taking the roll in French and saying a daily French Prayer.
- Foundation to Year 6 French Language classes, taught by our Languages Specialist Mrs. Pam Stosic, will continue to have language specific learning activities and outcomes. Lessons will be task based and will include content derived from other curriculum domains and the Learning Focus of the classroom (in collaboration with the classroom teachers).
- Year 5/6 will have an additional 'content and language' focus class each week, team taught by Mrs. Stosic and Ms.Tobin. This class, listed on the timetable as Integrated French Language Education (I.F.L.E), aims to more strongly adopt the CLIL approach with French Language being the primary mode of learning delivery, i.e. Mrs. Stosic will provide instruction and explain tasks in French, and worksheets and explanations will be written in French. (English will be used at a minimum and as required). This format will have the added advantage of more fully preparing the students for further study of Languages in particular French when they transition to secondary school. The content for the learning will be taken from the broader Year 5/6 curriculum (in collaboration with Mrs.Todd and Mrs. Pierce), with Term 1 having a strong focus on Personal and Interpersonal Learning.

We have developed the name and a logo for our 5/6 class - I.F.L.E. (pronounced like the tower!)



COMMUNITY NOTICES



The ART lab

Do you have an aspiring young artist in your family?

Kat & Fox are offering a fantastic term of after-school art workshops for late primary school students. Our classes encourage creativity and artistic exploration using a variety of mediums and techniques. Class tutor Kath Rattray is both a talented artist and an experienced teacher who is passionate about inspiring her students.

Dates: Wednesday 13th April to Wednesday 15th June (10 classes) - 3.45 to 5.15pm
School years: 4 to 6 Venue: St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Baranduda Blvd
Contact: 0424 504 284 or www.katandfox.com.au

Guitar Tuition in 2016

As part of the St Francis Music Tuition Program, well known local guitarist Phil Quirk is available for guitar lesson on Thursdays at school. If you are considering guitar tuition for your child at school, please contact the Instrumental teacher directly to discuss the arrangement of lesson times and fee arrangements.

IMPORTANT: It is the responsibility of the student and their parents to let the Instrumental teacher know if your child will not be at school for a lesson so as to make alternative arrangements.



Tennis Coaching

All children in Wodonga are invited to the Wodonga Parklands Tennis Club or Baranduda Tennis Club. Coaching with your local and fully qualified (Level 2) Club Professional Tennis Australia coach Mick Young. Experience a local junior player development program fully endorsed by Tennis Australia.

Book Tennis Coaching for term 1

Contact - Mick & Janine Young
17 McMahon Place, Wodonga 3690
Phone: 02 60595164 or 0417 517959
Email: mick@jamtennis.com
Website: www.jamtennis.com

Junior Hockey

\$75 for 2016 - Nothing more to pay

Includes: Rego, Uniform, Insurance, Game fees & Training.
Phone: 0418 218 238
Email: wodongahockey.com.au



Yoga Classes

Dru yoga classes commencing at the St Francis School Hall (previously Frayne College).

Date: Tuesdays commencing the 1st March 2016

Time: 6pm until 7.15pm

Investment options:

Casual rate \$15 per class, \$48 for 1st term=\$12 per class or 20 class pass \$200=\$10 per class.

What to bring: Water bottle yoga mat and light blanket for guided relaxation at the end.

Dru yoga is a therapeutic style of yoga and recommended therapy for those experiencing stress, depression and/or anxiety or come along just for some additional exercise and relaxation. Perfect for beginners all the way up to advanced. Hope to see you on the mat

Contact Ella for more details

Mobile:0438 021 157

Email:breatheandbendyoga@gmail.com

For more information like the FB page breathe and bend yoga

Yoga with Lanice in the Gathering Place

When: Wednesday nights from 7pm until 8.15pm

Date: Feb 17th until March 23rd

Contact: Lanice for more information 0427 708 113



St Francis of Assisi Primary School

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Baranduda VIC 3691

(02) 6020 9100

(02) 6020 9180

cnelson@sfdwongacatholic.edu.au