Dear SFC Community,

A CONTEMPORARY ADVENT STORY

A Science teacher stood before his class with some items on the table in front of him. When the class began, without speaking he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about 2 inches in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The teacher then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up the remaining open areas of the jar.

He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “Yes.”

“Now,” said the teacher, “I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your close friends, your health, your faith – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter – like your part time job, your house, your possessions. The sand is everything else, the small stuff = like your money or like your IPod or phone.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Tell your family how much you love and appreciate them. Have fun with your friends. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party, or update your facebook status.”

“Take care of the rocks first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. Work hard. Love your family and friends. Be true to your faith. Treat others as you wish to be treated. The rest is just sand.”

A reminder to everyone that the College Speech Night will be held on Friday 13th December in the Hall, commencing at 6:15pm. There will be NO BOARDERS BUSES operating on this day. Boarding students will be able to access a meal prior to the Speech Night. A letter to boarding families in regard to arrangements after 3.30pm is being forwarded via email/fax. If you do not receive this letter by the weekend please advise the College Office.
It was a privilege to welcome LEETON RSL SUB BRANCH PRESIDENT, Mr John Power to our Assembly on Thursday. John presented the Hospitality Department with a cheque for $200 as a vote of thanks for the efforts of students and staff in serving the Vietnam Veterans at their recent gathering here in town. It was not lost on me that John and his mates who served our Nation in Vietnam are far more worthy of our thanks for their service. Nevertheless we thank John and the Leeton RSL.

John, in his generous way, made a personal $20 donation to ‘kick off’ the fundraising effort for the 8 year old student from Goolgowi Public School. See story following.

Mr Seb Spina
Acting Principal

SFC FUNDRAISER IN AID OF BRANDON

Brandon Williams is an 8 year old boy from Goolgowi. Earlier this term he was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor and has been in Sydney since.

Recently he underwent a major operation to have the tumor removed however not all of it could be removed and still requires chemotherapy and radiation. This treatment has placed a massive financial burden upon the family. Parents, Rose and David Williams, have coped as best as possible, in juggling the Sydney trips, working and providing for their other three children. Brandon will be spending Christmas this year at the Ronald McDonald house however he remains positive to return to school and play footy with his mates. Unfortunately this will not occur in the near future. Brandon is in Year 2 at Goolgowi Public School.

Next week our school will help by having a fundraising day on Thursday 12 December which will be claimed as a CASUAL CLOTHES DAY (GOLD COIN donation for this privilege to wear casual clothes collected by student leaders during pastoral) and the College Community will have an opportunity to watch the GAME OF THE YEAR! the Students versus Staff Cricket Game during afternoon tea and Period 5.

Thank you in anticipation of your support, Abby Molloy Year 11
The College’s End of Year Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph’s Church Leeton at 9.00am on Friday 13 December 2013. Parents & Friends are invited to join us and celebrate the Eucharist on this occasion.

Day Buses have been notified to allow students to alight at St Joseph’s Primary School by 9am. Boarding Students will walk and/or be bussed to Church. All students will walk back to school at the conclusion of the Mass for a shortened Period 2 followed by Lunch. Period 3 will be a normal lesson; Period 4 is the Year Co-ordinator’s Encouragement Award Assemblies followed by Afternoon Tea.

Period 5 (part of) will be Speech Night practice for all prize winners and the whole school to assembly in Hall at 3.00pm.

LEARNING AND TEACHING REPORT

The end of a school year is a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the year that was. If we don’t take time to reflect on what we did and simply go ahead and do the same or similar next year, the result will more than likely be exactly the same.

All students need to consider what worked well for them in terms of their goals and studies, what did not work so well and what they would like to pursue in 2014 and perhaps how to do that. Please take the time to make improvements.

Reflection questions to ask yourself:

1. Is what I’m doing going to get me what I want?
2. Things that went well in each subject.
3. Have I completed my work to the best of my ability?
4. Things I need to improve on next year.
5. Do I need help to improve?
6. 

Reflection is a key to our personal development and overall improvement as people. People often reflect and do nothing about it, an honest reflection should be complemented with honest goals in what they want to change in order to improve for the future. Please take advantage of this fantastic growth opportunity so that you can reach the worthwhile goals that you set.

Mr Shane Fuller, Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator

DAY & BOARDING STUDENT INTENTIONS FOR 2014

Would any family who knows now that their child/children are not returning to the College in 2014 please NOTIFY THE COLLEGE OFFICE AT YOUR EARLIEST via phone on 02 6953 3622 or email Mrs Briggs at office@sfcww.catholic.edu.au at your earliest and no later than Friday 13 December 2013.

At this stage, we are having trouble accommodating boarding applicants and day applicants in some classes. Knowing of present students who are not returning would help in the task we have ahead of us.

NB: a number of boarding families have not returned their child/children’s intentions for 2014 – your urgent attention to this would be appreciated. D Briggs SFC Office
NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE LAUNCH

Next week will see St Francis College launch a brand new College website. The address will be the same:  
http://web.sfcww.catholic.edu.au/

You will find information about our school, learning and teaching, a virtual tour, Pastoral Care, services we provide, forms and policies, Boarding School information, employment and fee paying options. The information has been revamped and updated and there is an array of new images to see.

I hope that you find it informative and useful. Mr Shane Fuller, Website Co-ordinator

DOM FONDACARO SHIELD

Named in honour of respected Leeton basketball identity the late Dom Fondacaro, the inter-school event usually features St Francis, Leeton High & Yanco Ag in boys and girls teams. Unfortunately Yanco Ag was unable to put a team together for this year’s tournament.

Dom Fondacaro not only helped establish the indoor stadium, he was a player, coach and senior referee for many years, stretching back to the Parkview courts days.

St Francis was able to defeat Leeton High in both teams. For the girls it continued their success in the tournament, making it three wins in a row. For the boys they gained their first win against the High since the tournament began.

The girls got off to a slow start with a narrow two point lead at the quarter time break. Momentum eventually kicked in for the team and the girls were able to extend their lead as the game went on, coming out winners 53-22.

The boy’s game was intense throughout the match with the lead constantly changing between the two teams. The boys found themselves five points down at the third quarter break and needed to dig deep if
they were to cause an upset. They were able to unsettle their opponents and come out winners by five points.

Girl’s team: Katelyn Clyne, Isabel Dando, Keira Argus, Maddy Clyne, Kiara Bloomfield, Sophie McGregor & Lexi Tuckett (pictured above)
Boy’s Team: Matthew Flynn, Will Wakeman, Bas Blackett, Kurt Jensen, Jagroop Singh, Jake Scarr, Jack Grintell & Angus Morschel (sorry no picture taken!)

Mrs Clare Vant, Basketball Convenor

YEAR 10 COMMERCE REPORT

Year 10 Commerce got on the bus at 8:30 Tuesday (3/12/13) morning with Mrs Milne and Mrs Thurgood and headed over to Junee. We arrived at the Junee Jail at 10:30 and many of us were nervous about what we were going to see inside the jail. Mrs Charles joined us at the jail and we were all scanned by security before we went inside the jail and we all got through. We were taken to the Culture Centre within the jail and we were all amazed by the paintings that filled the walls inside the Centre that were completed by many of the inmates that had been in the jail. We sat down and we first watched a video that was created by four inmates explaining about what they thought that time in jail was like. The video surprised everyone of how strict and boring jail is as the inmates are restricted with what they can do and how difficult it can be to not feel bored every day. After the video the four inmates that were in the video spoke to the students about many things including how bad the food is and what it is like inside their cell with other inmates. After we had a delicious lunch provided by the jail which included sandwiches, cake and soft drinks we headed back to the bus to travel to the Junee Liquorice Factory. Once we arrived at the Liquorice Factory we learnt how to make our own chocolate freckle. We than learnt about the history of the factory and taste tested some of the products that they produce. After this we played a game of liquorice bowling with three teams of pairs taking the winning prizes. After the tour of the factory we got back on the bus and travelled over to Wagga Wagga. We arrived at our accommodation and had some free time and many people had a swim in the pool to cool off on the hot day. We all headed out for a fantastic dinner and then played two games of ten-pin bowling.

On Wednesday we were all packed and on the bus at 7:30 and we headed to Cache for breakfast. After breakfast we went to the Soap Kitchen to learn about different organic soaps and watched how soap was made. After we all got a souvenir we got back on the bus and travelled to the Family Relationships Centre. Inside the centre we watched a video showing the process of mediation that a family would go through in the Family Relationship Centre. After we took a tour of various different sections of the Centre we got back on the bus and arrived at the Market Plaza to have some free time. After we all had something eat and did some shopping we all got on the bus and headed home at 1:30.

Year 10 Commerce would like to thank Mrs Milne, Mr Thurgood and Mrs Charles for a wonderful excursion (& bus driver, Mr O). Without their brilliant organisation this excursion would not have been a greater success than it was. All of Year 10 Commerce came away from this excursion with many different and changed thoughts about life in jail, running a business and how families can get help during tough times.

Luke Helson, Year 10C2

WHAT’S HAPPENING?
**Canteen Roster: Week 10 Term 4**

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<td></td>
<td>Gina Smith</td>
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**Calendar of Events: Week 10 Term 4 – TT2**

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<td>9 December</td>
<td>YR 10 PASS, WOLLONGONG</td>
<td>YR 10 PASS, WOLLONGONG</td>
<td>YR 9 PASS, LEETON POOL &amp; GRIFFITH</td>
<td>9am MASS at SJ Church Leeton</td>
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<td>Last Boarders Bus Run for 2014</td>
<td>BERG Shield, Forbes, 7am-6pm</td>
<td>Peer Support Training</td>
<td>Speech Night @ SFC Hall, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start</td>
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<td>YR 10 PASS, WOLLONGONG</td>
<td>6pm College Council Meeting &amp; Dinner</td>
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<td>3.45pm Staff Meeting &amp; Asthma Training</td>
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**Maths Tutoring Available for Years 7-12; Physical Education Tutoring Available for Years 11/12**

If interested phone Lachlan O’Callaghan on 0438 870 758

Available to commence tutoring immediately

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**Bush Children’s Education Foundation**

**Applications for Secondary Boarding Bursary for School Year 2014**

Secondary Boarding Bursaries are designed to help needy, remote area families of NSW cover the gap between the accommodation costs at a country Boarding School and assistance received from the Federal Government’s AIC Allowance (Assistance for Isolated Children), and/or the NSW Government’s LAFHA (Living Away From Home Allowance).

Families whose children are weekly boarders are ineligible to apply.

**Conditions:**

Parents of application/s must consent to the school providing overall performance data at the end of Term 2 to the Board of the Bush Children’s education Foundation of NSW.

**Notes:**

1. Parents will be required to provide a copy of their last Tax Assessment Notice (single page)
2. All questions must be answered.

If you are interested to know more or in completing an application please contact the SFC Office for an Application Form. NB: Faxed or emailed applications are not acceptable.... Applications close 7 February 2014

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**Cystic Fibrosis**

**Freaky Friday Disco**

For Juniors & Teens

**Date:** Friday 13th December

**Venue:** Platform Lounge Racecourse Rd Leeton (Also known as the MIA Social Club)

**Time:**

- Juniors – Kindergarten to Year 6
  - 6.00pm – 8.00pm
- Teens – Year 7 to Year 10
  - 8.30pm – 10.30pm

**Entry:** $5.00 pp

**Music by:** DJ....ML....

Full lock in with supervision, no persons will be allowed outside the premises until collected by an adult.
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

or KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

Would you like to learn something about the Catholic faith? You are welcome to come along to the Beginning on Thursday 13 February 2014 at 7.30pm at Madonna Place, Leeton

~~~ INQUIRY NIGHT ~~~

Contact Fr Anthony Dunne on 02 6953 2099 or email leetonparish@gmail.com or Mary McPhee on 0409 748 872 or email mary.mcerath@bigpond.com

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- Is your child being bullyed or showing signs of being bullyed?
- Does your child seem stressed or overwhelmed, not wanting to go to school?
- As a parent are you concerned & want your child to learn how to deal with bullying?

Bullying Awareness & Prevention
3-Day Workshop

This workshop looks at positive strategies to support your child to become empowered, gaining more self confidence and self worth, along with the tools to deal with stressful situations.

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom!”

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**GRiffith Counselling Service NSW**

Qualified Counsellors:
Lorraine Sutton, Donna Piromalli & Rayma Torresan

- Are experienced Counsellors, Relationship Trainers, supporting people to deal with depression, anxiety, bullying, low self-esteem, grief and loss, career paths.
- Presenting many successful workshops touching the lives of many people, who have chosen self empowerment and improved the quality of their lives.

**Workshop for Year 7 to Year 9**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: Years 7-9
DATE: Mon 20th – Wed 22nd JAN 2014
TIME: 10am - 4pm
INVESTMENT: $200
VENUE: Riverina Yoga Studio
49A Kooyoo ST (upstairs)

**Workshop for Year 10 to Year 12**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: Years 10-12
DATE: Thurs 23rd – Sat 25th JAN 2014
TIME: 10am - 4pm
INVESTMENT: $200
VENUE: Riverina Yoga Studio
49A Kooyoo ST (upstairs)

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**Bookings essential Intake by December 2013**

For further information please contact:

Lorraine Sutton 0417 414 558
Donna Piromalli 0402 625 887
Rayma Torresan 0416 253 355

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**GRiffith Counselling Service NSW**
Artist Statement:
“Fundamental Associations’ is an exploration and commentary on social psychology. In my final years of high school, I grew increasingly aware of the intricacies of people’s interactions with each other. My photographs juxtapose notions of individuality and uniformity, and present ideas on how self-identity and attitudes are formed.”

The previous page includes a selection of works from the larger body of work which can be viewed at http://fundamentalassociations.tumblr.com/

From http://www.artexpress.nsw.edu.au/
“ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition of artworks created by students from government and non-government schools for the Higher School Certificate Examination in Visual Arts. The works demonstrate exceptional quality across a broad range of subject matter, approaches, styles and media including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, documented forms, textiles and fibre, ceramics, digital animation, film and video, and collections of works. ARTEXPRESS represents the high standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in New South Wales schools.”

My work will be a part of the following ARTEXPRESS exhibitions in 2014:
Art Gallery of New South Wales (12 March - 11 May)
Goulburn Regional Art Gallery (24 July - 23 August)
Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (3 October - 15 November)

In closing I would like to thank Mrs Hinder and the Creative Arts Department for their support.

Jacob Errey, Year 12/2013