

Running Club: On Tuesday and Thursday 8.50 with Fiona Webster, come and join us.

Can You Help? Do you have any Lego you would like to recycle or for a puppet theatre and puppets to help with developing oral language. We would like to get, a garage and cars and any simple jigsaws, knitting, threading etc for Room 1.

Thank you to our very supportive families who have donated jigsaws and lego we are truly grateful and the children love them.

ICAS Exams

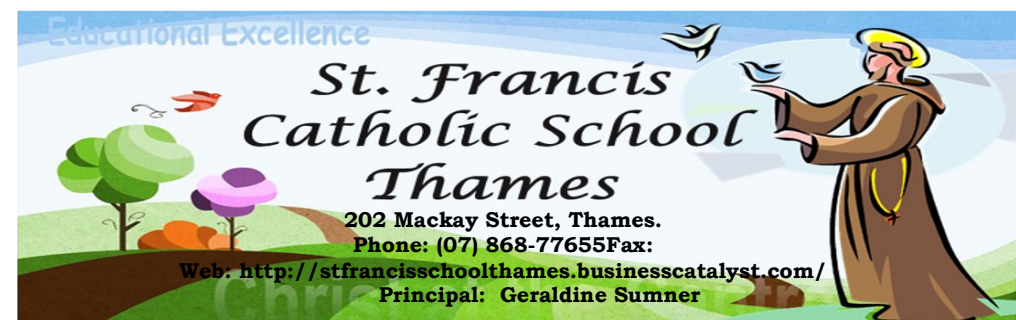
ICAS SUBJECT	ICAS SITTING DATE	Cost
Digital Technologies	Tuesday, 8 May 2018	NZD 9.50
Science	Tuesday, 29 May 2018	NZD 9.50
Spelling	Wednesday, 13 June 2018	NZD 20.50
Writing	Thursday, 14 June 2018	NZD 11.50
English	Tuesday, 31 July 2018	NZD 9.50
Mathematics	Tuesday, 14 August 2018	NZD 9.50

minimum of 3 entries per subject, irrespective of school year level, is required. Schools entering fewer than 3 students per subject will be charged the fee applicable to 3 enrolments (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region only). **Please place your orders before the 18th March.**

Upcoming Events for Term 1

Please remember to watch the weekly newsletter as sometimes we do need to change dates.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday	Sharyn Clark will be in for Piano Lessons Call Sharyn for any possible vacancies 027 4485089
Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Swimming for all classes
Every Tuesday	Clive hosting free brass instrument lessons from 2.15—3.45
Every Thursday	Rm 5 will be going to Technology Training at Thames High School
Every Wednesday	School Lunch orders (from Food for Thought) Class Mass starting in week 4 (9.15) in Church
Wednesday 21st February	B.O.T. Meeting
14th March	Thames Valley Swimming Sports
20th—23rd March	Hockey Big Day Out TBC
Date to be confirmed	Junior White Cluster Swimming Sports
Date to be confirmed	Senior White Cluster Swimming Sports
21st March	BOT Meeting
30th March	Good Friday—School closed
2 & 3 April	Easter Monday and Tuesday—School Closed
Friday 12 th April	Last day of Term 1
2nd May	B.O.T. Meeting



16th February 2018 (Vol. 03)



Whakatauki

Ma tini ma mano ke rapa te whai

Many hands make light work unity is strength

**Please remember
Sun Hats and Sun
Screen**

**Irish Fling Raffle
tickets a prize for
the most sold!**

**Lunch Orders on
Wednesday
Juices on Fridays**

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic faith community committed to quality education

**Celebrating
150 Years**

Focus for Term 1 is Love

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

1st Sunday of Lent - Year B Violet

'Turn back to God'

Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25 Mark 1:12-15

Have you ever thought about doing something that you know is not right? We call this 'temptation.' Even Jesus was tested by temptations. On Sunday we will hear how Jesus went into the desert to pray for forty days. On Sunday we too begin our forty day period of prayer called Lent. It is a little like going into the desert with Jesus.

Our universe, and more especially, our world has death, resurrection and renewal as its very core, continuous change is a part of its nature. Lent, if you like, is a celebration of change, of turning back, of renewing and reviewing, of turning over a new leaf. Start off a fresh, a new outlook, positivity and unity to grow and nurture our school and parish community. 'Together we are strong divided we are conquered'

Principal's Pen

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our school,

Room 1, Maree Hudson has taken ill and will not be able to continue to relieve in room 1. We have been setting up the routines and planning in preparation for the term. As of today we have confirmed relief Teacher for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday called Kathy Frantz, she is a very experienced teacher. I am interviewing another person tomorrow who also has new entrant experience, who could possibly cover the Thursday and Friday. Donna Thorburn will be working full time in room 1. Donna is very experienced and she will be there to support the children and the families. I will update all room 1 parents later on in the week directly.

We only have a few more weeks to get organised for the Irish Fling, we have the most amazing raffle: 1st prize 7 night Wilderness Motor Home (T&C's apply) 2nd prize family package in Rotorua, 3rd prize 30 seconds spray and walk away package, 4th Prize a Sunbeam convection oven. We will be sending home two raffle books per family to sell, the family that sells the most raffle tickets will win family water park pass. Elaine Tukitoga is organizing this event and would love to hear from anyone will to help on the day, to organise a stall or to sell raffle tickets. Many hands make light work. Email: epullen@xtra.co.nz or telephone: 0274068415.

Kia te Spirit tapu ki runga ki a koutou katoa. ~ May the Holy Spirit be upon you all.



Meet the Teacher and Family takeaway Night

To be re-arranged for later in the term.

School Uniform

The children are currently being reminded that if they do not wear their hats they are expected to sit under the shade cloth during breaks. Small hats are now available from the office. If you could remind your child in the morning to bring their hat along to school, it would be great. A reminder also that all children are expected to wear their correct school uniform to and from school - i.e. pinafores, dress, culottes or skirts for girls and grey shorts for boys. Black sandals are also to be worn each day – no jandals or bare feet. If headbands are worn they are to be blue or black plain head bands only please. Thank you so much for your help with this – together we will keep up the high standards that we are known for.

School Lunch Orders

Just a reminder that these yummy lunches will be available to order every Wednesday. Children's orders should be dropped off to the school office before 9am please. Putting the money in an envelope with the child's name and order on the outside would be helpful. The menu is available on our website under the Newsletter tab or at the school office. Thanks.

PTA Juicie Friday has Returned!

Juicie Friday has returned this term! Juicies will be sold at lunchtime each Friday so if your child wishes to enjoy a frozen treat, these will be sold for \$2 each outside room 1 (forms will not be distributed). All proceeds are going to our PTA. Any questions, please contact Wendy Johnson. Many thanks!

School Tennis — Starting Friday 16th February for 4 weeks. Shannon Paki will be working with the teacher and the children on the astroturf.

Homework Policy Review

We have our homework policy up for review on school docs, this is called home learning. Please have a look and make comments on your views on what you would like the policy to contain. All reviews will be taken into consideration.

<http://stfrancis-thames.schooldocs.co.nz>

Username: **stfrancis-thames**

Password: **mackay.**

To make a comment press the review tab, read and then press the green tab on the top of the document to make your comment. This policy will also be reviewed by the board and staff.

What is Lent?

Lent represents the 40 days Jesus wandered the desert praying and fasting after he was baptized. Lent begins on Feb. 14 and ends on Holy Thursday, which is March 29, when there is a mass to represent Jesus' last supper.

On Good Friday, (March 30) Jesus was crucified and on Easter (April 1) he rose from the dead.

Why the ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ashes represent two Biblical themes.

The first comes from the saying "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return". The ashes are burnt palm leaves that represented last years Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into the town of Jerusalem and the people laid palm leaves on the ground for him to ride upon saying ***"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"***.