

2023

SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE
REPORT



ST FRANCIS
XAVIER'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I am pleased to present to the St Francis Xavier's Catholic School community an overview of the 2023 school year. Whilst all schools are busy places, with lots of things happening, 2023 was a year that provided an opportunity to look back and reflect upon our past, as well as celebrate the present and look forward to the future.

40th Anniversary Year

2023 was the 40th Anniversary of St Francis Xavier's Catholic School, officially opening its doors to the local community in 1983. We celebrated in fine style with several events organised for the school community, including:

- Whole school concert at Influencers Church. The theme was "A Journey through the Decades".
- A Community Dinner was held at the Marche Club with Past Principals, Staff, Mr Blair Boyer MP, Mr Tony Zappia MP and Fr Kym Spurling in attendance as well as past and current families from across the school community.
- Sports Day at Bridgestone Arena
- St Francis Xavier's Feast Day Mass, where we celebrated 40 years, including a cake and muffins for students and staff. We also had a fun day with a Jumping Castle and Rock Climbing Wall for the children.

Wright Volunteer Award 2023

Matthew and Jo Burns became part of the SFX community in 2011 with their first-born Sienna commencing at SFX. Right from the beginning, they became invested as part of our SFX family through volunteering in many forms. It started with reading and excursions and then continued to grow as their children grew at SFX.

As their girls progressed through the years, Jo and Matt's involvement increased at SFX with volunteering for the numerous SAPSASA and Catholic Sporting events that the girls were selected in, including – Netball, Softball, Athletics, Girls Football, Soccer, and Cheer Competitions. Their involvement ranged from assisting on the day to coaching teams and taking on marshalling roles. Over the years, Jo has also been the 'unofficial SFX photographer' for all our community events – Music Concerts, Sports Days, Mad March Fairs, School Masses, Colour Fun Runs and the list goes on.

Both Matt and Jo have also coached After-School sports teams.

Their involvement has even reached our local SAPSASA TTG District events with coaching, assistant coaching, and marshalling (and photography) for TTG District Representative teams.

Molly- Well-being dog

In September 2023, we introduced our new well-being dog (Molly) to SFX. We have worked in partnership with Dogs Connect to be accredited and ensure Molly had a smooth transition to our school. We undertook weekly meetings, completed the online Dogs Connect units and met with the Dogs Connect team to be assessed on each unit. Molly also had extensive 1-1 training with Paws Adventure to ensure she was ready to work at our school and continues to complete ongoing training.

Evidence shows that just being near a dog when stressed can reduce anxiety. In one of our surveys, 92% of students said they felt more relaxed during teaching and learning time when a dog was in the classroom. We all know when children are more relaxed and less stressed, they're going to learn more.

Having a school dog can also help with:

- **School attendance**

Students experience a greater willingness to be active in the school environment when there is a school dog. School attendance rates improved as children looked forward to seeing a dog and interacting with them.

- **Communication**

A dog in school gives students a shared interest with other members of the school community. This helps them interact and build connections that they may have struggled to do otherwise. Well-being dogs can even be used with literacy programs as children may be less self-conscious reading to dogs than teachers or their peers.

- **Leadership**

A school dog can give students a sense of responsibility. They learn how to take care of the dog and how to delegate care, which can help them grow their leadership skills.

- **Behaviour**

Students can see the impact of their actions on their well-being dog. This helps them understand how their behaviour impacts people around them. As a result, children learn to be more empathetic and understanding.

- **Students dealing with trauma**

We focus on bringing connectedness and finding ways to manage trauma and anxiety in conjunction with existing strategies and community links. A well-being dog provides a calming presence when students are heightened or anxious and can help to regulate their behaviour and emotions.

Molly has been an amazing asset to our school. We continue working With Dogs Connect and Paws Adventure to ensure we provide Molly and the children with the best experience possible of having a dog on site to assist the children and staff.

Children's University

Last year, we participated in the University of Adelaide's Children's University for the first time. Children's University offers opportunities and recognises children's efforts to participate in and complete beyond-school learning. Our hope is that this encourages a love of learning in their pursuit of a future career. Children and young people can only aspire to what they know exists, and Children's University provides them with a system to navigate potential future pathways through this learning.

Children's University facilitates superior educational experiences for students outside of school hours and recognises their achievements through a graduation ceremony with certificates. This is done by leveraging local educational activity providers such as museums, theatres, school clubs and sports groups.

Learning Walks and Talks

We commenced Learning Walks last year through the classrooms and asked the children the following five questions.

1. What are you learning?
2. How are you going?
3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. Where can you go for help?

New staff and Departing staff

In 2023 we employed 12 new staff. Anita Avolio, Caitlin Costello, Malissa Jones, Ashlee McCarthy, Meaghan McCarthy, Leila Magnus, James Nisbet, James Norton, Michael O'Connell, Tayla Skurray, Victoria Szilassy, and Anne-Marie Wesley.

We also said farewell to Charmaine Aistroke, Colin Amos, Celine Barr, Rita Buonsanto, Ian Denham, Donna Eeles, Luke Ferguson, Jane Glasson, Courtney Kavanagh Jade Norris, Maria Panagiotopoulos Sue Sumsion, Michelle Thomas, Rosemarie Villano and Melinda Whitford.

Enrolments

We commenced 2023 with 474 students and ended up with 528. We had two transition classes commence in Term 3. Curious Xavier's and Playgroup were again very popular, and our numbers are

flourishing in these Early Years services.

NAPLAN

Our Student's performance in NAPLAN in 2023 was pleasing.

Year 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
SFX average	392	405	378	379	385
National average	398	411	391	388	396
Year 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
SFX average	500	479	530	494	500
National average	498	481	510	495	494

Quality Performance Team

In 2023 we continued working with our Quality Performance Team. This group consists of Principal/ Deputy/ Leader of Learning, Karen Luhrs, Year 2 and Nathan Bruce-Gordon, Year 6. This team is responsible for monitoring data and student performance. Our focus was on using data to inform our teaching.

As a team we continued to work through-

Learning walks

- Data walls
- Learning Intentions
- Success Criteria
- Pat testing Year 1- Year 6
- Literacy and Numeracy Blocks
- Resilience Project

Enviro Room

The Environment Room continues to be a popular space with the children enjoying the variety of animals the room has to offer. The room consists of:

- Bearded Dragons
- Shingle Back Lizard
- Southern Blue tongue lizards
- Hopping Mice
- Turtles
- Fish (Murray Cod, Southern spotted purple gudgeon)
- Yabbies
- Stick insects
- Tadpoles and Frogs

The children help feed the animals and check the PH water levels. The room is open every lunchtime for the children to feed and observe the animals. We have successfully bred the Gudgeon which are an endangered species. Once they get bigger, we will release fish in conjunction with SARDI.

School Community Events

The major events we had in 2023 were:

- Sports Day at Bridgestone Arena
- Stations of the Cross
- 40th Anniversary Year Dinner
- Mother's Day and Father's Day liturgies
- Grandparents Day
- Book Week
- Whole School Concert- Influencers Church
- School Disco

- Instrumental evening
- National Walk to School Day
- Christmas Concert

Value Add Programs

- School camps Year 3-6
- Peer mediation programs
- Resilience project whole school approach
- Festival choir
- Playgroup (increased from 2-3 days)
- Transition program- Curious Xavier's
- Extension Literacy
- SAPSASSA sporting programs
- National Walk to School Day

Thankyou

I would like to acknowledge the staff, my Leadership Team, Fr Kym Spurling, Mr Mikal Howard and the School Board and the Parish for all their support in 2023. The past year has been filled with much activity and growth throughout the school year as we take the learnings from the past and celebrate being connected as a community again.

Regards

Jason Mittiga
Principal SFX



2023 FINANCE REPORT

Student Enrolment Numbers

At August Census the enrolment number was 522 students. This was 47 students more than February Census 2023 and 49 more than August Census in 2022.

Year Level	February Census	August Census
Reception	75	115
Year 1	80	83
Year 2	51	51
Year 3	75	78
Year 4	66	68
Year 5	68	67
Year 6	60	60
Total	475	522



Historical Term Attendance

School Name

St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholi... ▾

Campus

All ▾

Attendance Year

2023 ▾

YL

Multiple selecti... ▾

Term	1			2			3			4			Total
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	
RE	93.5%	90.5%	92.1%	89.9%	86.8%	88.5%	92.1%	89.6%	90.9%	91.4%	88.0%	89.7%	90.3%
01	94.5%	92.3%	93.5%	91.0%	89.9%	90.5%	90.7%	87.3%	89.0%	88.1%	88.3%	88.2%	90.3%
02	93.6%	88.2%	91.5%	88.5%	92.8%	90.1%	92.2%	85.7%	89.8%	90.5%	89.5%	90.2%	90.4%
03	94.4%	94.4%	94.4%	90.9%	91.5%	91.2%	90.5%	92.6%	91.6%	90.2%	87.2%	88.7%	91.5%
04	94.0%	94.9%	94.5%	88.4%	90.0%	89.3%	88.5%	91.1%	89.9%	86.8%	89.7%	88.3%	90.6%
05	92.5%	92.8%	92.7%	90.1%	84.2%	87.1%	89.4%	91.9%	90.7%	86.6%	90.0%	88.4%	89.8%
06	92.6%	91.8%	92.2%	88.9%	90.0%	89.5%	88.0%	88.5%	88.3%	85.6%	87.0%	86.4%	89.2%
Total	93.7%	92.4%	93.0%	89.8%	89.2%	89.5%	90.5%	89.8%	90.1%	88.9%	88.4%	88.6%	90.3%

Human Resources

In 2023, St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School employed 63 staff in both teaching and non-teaching roles. St Francis did not identify any staff members as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

	Staff Total	FTE
Teaching	37	27.40
Non-Teaching	26	16.0
Indigenous	0	0

Staff Attendance

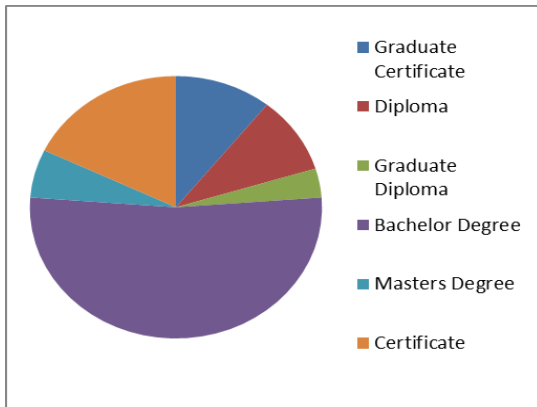
Teaching staff attendance for the 2023 school year was 93%, and the types of leave taken include sick leave, family leave, carers leave and bereavement leave.

Staff Retention

In 2023, 95% of our teachers continued from the previous year.

Staff Qualifications

We are very fortunate to have many staff with two or more qualifications in education. Among our staff there are 44 Bachelor degrees, 15 Certificates, 8 Diplomas, 9 Graduate Certificates, 5 Masters Degrees and 3 Graduate Diplomas totaling 84 in all.



11%	Graduate Certificate
9%	Diploma
4%	Graduate Diploma
52%	Bachelor degree
6%	Masters Degree
18%	Certificate

Professional Development

In 2023, just over \$23,000 was spent on the professional development of staff comprising \$9,000 (TRT) and \$14,000 in course fees.

School Funding

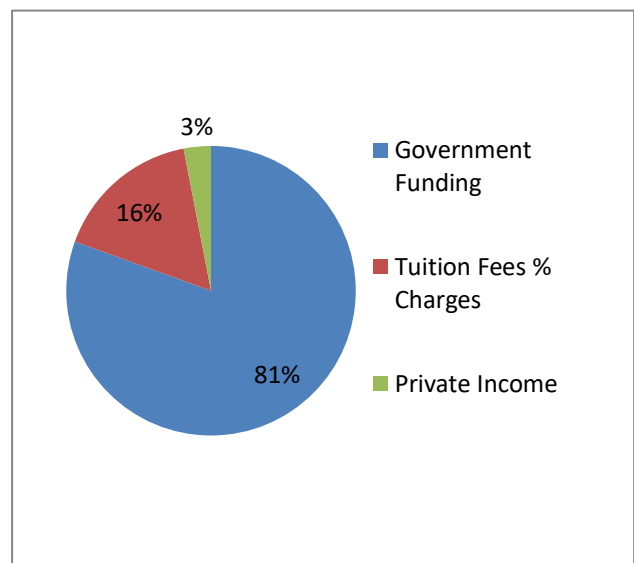
As a Catholic School we rely on the prompt payment of school fees to assist with the operation of the school.

The school receives its income from three main sources:

- Government funding
- Tuition fees and charges
- Private income

The graph shows 16% of School income is from school fees. Without school fees the school would be unable to provide many of the resources that we currently offer.

The school fees are set with due regard for the nature of the school community, appropriate resourcing and equity considerations, and other recommendations as determined by Catholic Education South Australia.



2023 CATHOLIC IDENTITY & MISSION

Our Vision

Inspiring a Community of Innovators

Our Mission

St Francis Xavier's Catholic School is a child-centred, future-focussed, and dynamic Catholic school. In partnership with the community and our unique environment, we flourish in a culture of learning.

Our Beliefs

We believe that children learn in a caring, accepting environment.

We believe that when children are encouraged and supported, they will experience success.

We believe that all children have a natural curiosity and desire to learn, and that this should be nurtured.

We believe that education should be directed toward preparing children for the future so they can effectively contribute and constructively change the society in which they live.

Because we believe in providing the best education for your child, our direction is clear: we are aware of the need to be constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students, staff, and parents. Our school values success and relationships that are based on trust, respect, and cooperation.

Our Core Values

- Service
- Compassion
- Respect

Beginning of the Year RE Professional Development Days

Staff had the privilege of working with Father Joshua Nash from the TTG Parish to discuss and break open the meaning of 'Charism'. In doing so, staff developed a deeper understanding of the history of SFX and the vision and mission of the school. After a rich discussion, a staff committee was formed to develop our Catholic Identity.

Staff also had the opportunity to work with Ray Gardner, a volunteer and sustainability committee member. Working with Ray, the staff planned and created a sustainability goal for the year.

Whole School Commissioning Mass

During Week 3 we celebrated the new school year with our Commissioning Mass. Father Josh encouraged us to create, build, and vision a life for our school community that is filled with amazing possibilities, exciting opportunities and great challenges that will enrich and guide us to reach our potential this year. We gave thanks to God for 40 years of St Francis Xavier's Catholic School and trust in our journey ahead.

Our Year 6 students were blessed by Father Josh and the community commissioned them as school leaders for 2023. Our staff were also commissioned as they asked God to grant them the wisdom, strength, and compassion to do their very best for all students at SFX.

Carnevale

Xavier hall was illuminated with flamboyant, scary, and heroic masks as we celebrated Carnevale.

Honouring our Year leaders for 2023, welcoming new students and families, listening to our talented Year 5 hosts and attempting to teach good choices to Mr Mittiga's mischievous friend Jack were just some ways we came together for our first student lead assembly for this year.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

The RE committee hosted a Whole School Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Through prayer, we come closer to God so that we are better able to live justly, as Jesus teaches us. Thank you to the RE committee for leading a beautiful and reflective Liturgy. We also thank and acknowledge those families who were able to join our prayer service.

Stations of the Cross

The Year 6 students led the school through a prayerful presentation of the story of Jesus' Passion (his suffering and death). The Year 6 students took students and staff members on a journey around the oval, retracing the steps of Jesus during his suffering and death.

Easter Mass

Our theme for the Mass was, Jesus is alive. We were reminded that during this time we must let Jesus reignite our hope as we exercise humility and selflessness.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee was formed with the vision of inspiring a community of innovators who live respectfully and sustainably. The committee met twice a term to discuss sustainable goals for 2022 and were successful in achieving them. Some highlights included-

- The blessing of the Memorial Garden
- The installation of Solar Panels
- Compost Bin-Year 6 leaders composting each week
- 5 Mixed recycling bins onsite

Thank you to our parent representatives, Erin Agius, Jessica Alikaris and Andrew Alikaris who gave up their time to attend meetings and to support staff with their SMART goals. Thank you to Ray Gardener who worked every Thursday in our garden with the Year 4 students.

Sacraments

St David's Parish

Students of the St David's Parish Sacramental Programme received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at St David's Tea Tree Gully during the month of June.

A parent workshop on Reconciliation was run by the Parish and school APRIMs. The workshop involved the Parish team and the children. The students received the sacrament of Reconciliation on November 8th.

Para Hills/Modbury Parish

Students of the Para Hills/Modbury Sacramental Programme received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at St John XXIII during the month of June.

All Souls Day

The Sacramental Students hosted a beautiful Mass to commemorate *All Souls' Day* and to Bless our new *St Francis Xavier's Memorial Garden*. We gathered on All Souls' Day to remember all those in our SFX community who are no longer with us, especially those who are remembered in our Memorial Garden. We asked the Lord to bless our garden and the water that nourishes it.

Thank you to Father Josh for leading us in Mass and for blessing our garden. Thank you to the families in our community who also joined us. Thank you to the Nash and Fitzpatrick families for praying with us and for laying a remembrance plaque in the garden. We also thank Tony and Colin for all their hard work to make the garden into the cherished space it is today.

St Francis Xavier's Feast Day

We gathered in prayer for a Whole School Liturgy to remember St Francis Xavier who preached the Gospel in many lands. We reflected on our Ignatian spirituality to *find God in all things*. Father Josh an excellent dramatisation of the life of St Francis Xavier.

As part of our celebration, R-3 students participated in an obstacle course inflatable and Year 3-6 students and staff participated in rock climbing and games on the oval. Like St Francis Xavier, students demonstrated the value of persistence and never giving up! Students feeling apprehensive to commence the activity, left the rock-climbing wall feeling very proud of themselves with a great sense achievement.

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

A wonderful End of Year Mass was celebrated by Fr Kym, where we gave thanks and reflected on the past year at SFX. We celebrated by giving thanks to God for all that has been. During our celebration we remembered the message that was given to us at the Beginning of the Year Mass. That challenge was to *rise up* and become people of compassion, people of service and people of love. We gave thanks to those who have inspired us, challenged us, and encouraged us to be better people in 2023. We farewelled children and families leaving, with our Year 6's formally passing over student leadership to the Year 5's. We wish the children, staff and families leaving our community this year all the very best.

Fred's Van

Staff members continued to support Fred's Van at Elizabeth once a month. Staff help with organizing and serving food. Fred's Van are very appreciative of the support from SFX.



Service



Compassion



Respect

2023 Information Communication Technologies (ICT)

During 2023 the School Leadership team in conjunction with the School Finance and ICT teams and with input from teaching and educator staff, worked together to ensure that the technologies available at SFX would meet the needs of all members of the school community, including students and all staff (teaching, support and admin). The information below provides a summary of the tasks undertaken:

- Maintenance of the ICT renewal program. This will ensure that ICTs are routinely updated to meet the changing technological landscape and that replacement costs are appropriately staggered over three or four years (depending on items).
- Rollout of new Laptop devices for all students in Year 3 and Year 4.
- Rollout of new iPad banks and docking stations for classes in Reception to Year 2.
- Rollout of new Desktop computers for administrative staff.
- Creating a bank of previously used laptop devices and repurposing them for students in the Ignatius Building (Years 1 & 2).
- Purchase of charging stations to facilitate the increase in devices.
- Changeover of the SFX Student Reporting system from Accelerus to SEQTA in line with CESA guidelines.
- Purchase and installation of SMART Panels for all classes from Reception - Year 2, plus Specialist Teacher rooms (Music & Languages)
- Ordering of SMART Boards for Year 3-6 Classrooms in preparation for the 2024 School Year
- Ordering of RedCat Soundfields for all Classrooms (R-6) in preparation for the 2024 School Year.
- Purchase or renewal of online subscriptions for student administration, reporting, curriculum and well-being.
- Development of a Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices policy and an updated ICT Acceptable Use Agreement for students in Year 3-6 in preparation for the 2024 School Year.
- Increase in ICT onsite support staff from 3 to 4.5 days per week, including dedicated CESA ICT technicians.



2023 SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

School Sport SA – Tea Tree Gully (TTG) District Events

- School Sport SA – TTG District Softball Carnival – 24 February
 - School Sport SA – TTG District Swimming Carnival – 3 March
 - School Sport SA – TTG District Athletics Carnival – 28 March
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Cross Country Carnival – 12 May
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Soccer Carnival – 26 May
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Boys Football Carnival – 16 June
 - School Sport SA – State Championships - Girl and Boys – 9 August
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Girls Football Carnival – 4 August
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Tennis Carnival – 25 August
 - School Sport SA - TTG District Netball Carnival – 22 September
 - School Sport SA – T20 Blast Cricket – 27 October
 - School Sport SA – Golf Championships
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- SACPSSA Netball Carnival – 195 students attended Years 4-6 – 4 July
 - SACPSSA Years 3/4 Tennis Carnival – 18 October
 - SACPSSA Athletics Carnival – 6 November

After School Sports

2023 teams included:

- 7 basketball teams
- 6 netball teams
- 3 Futsal Indoor Soccer teams

Before School Sports

- Reception – Year 2 Hot Shots Tennis with Coach Craig Mousley, Golden Grove Tennis Club.

After School Clinics

- Reception – Year 2 NAB AFL AusKick, supported by Norwood FC Game Development Officers
- Reception – Year 2 Simply Sports:
 - KICKStart Soccer (Term 1)
 - NETStarted Netball (Term 2)
 - JUMPStart Basketball (Term 3)
 - NEWBall Cricket (Term 4)



Sporting Schools

- Gymnastics with Tri Skills Australia
- Softball with Softball SA
- Netball with Netball SA

Extracurricular Events

- Whole School Sports Day

Held off-site at Bridgestone Athletics Stadium to celebrate 40 years of SFX

Student Leadership

In 2023, all Year 6 students were assigned a specific leadership committee that they managed with the aim of implementing change and improvements within the school.

The leadership committees comprised: Sustainability, Newsletter, Personal Responsibilities, Religious Education, Peer Mentoring, Early Childhood Support, Library, ICT, Music, Drama, Sport, Public Relations.

The students embraced their roles and demonstrated initiative, teamwork and organisation.

We also ran the Student Representative Council (SRC) for Years 2-6 who met fortnightly with the school Principal to discuss school issues and improvements.

The Arts Program

We continued, under the leadership of James Nisbet and Mel Ainslie and students were able to be involved with the school rock band, a liturgical ensemble and choir, a Festival Choir and a concert band.

The Senior Vocal Ensemble was involved with the Catholic Schools Music Festival, which performed at the Adelaide Festival Theatre, during Week 10 of Term 3.

We performed a whole school concert at Influencers Church with all students working with Groundforce Dance Company to complete a medley of songs through the decades. The children performed in front of an audience of 2000 people.

Community Satisfaction

- Professional development added to School Board meeting agendas, where a staff member would present curriculum updates and initiatives to the School Board.
- Resilience Project feedback.
- Sacramental program feedback.
- School values survey information.
- Wellbeing dog survey/ information/ workshop.
- Sports Day feedback survey.