Principal's News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is wonderful to be joining this school community for Term 1. I personally feel very privileged to be here and to have the opportunity to lead such an exemplary school. My background includes a number of years as Principal at St Catherine’s School, Stirling along with previous acting roles within our Catholic system.

This week I have thoroughly enjoyed popping into classrooms and meeting the students. They all seem happy and enthusiastic about their new beginnings and this reflects in the warm and welcoming feel I have of the school. I look forward to getting to know as many students and parents as I can and to learn more about what makes SFX a happy and vibrant place.

A very special welcome to all our families returning from the holiday break. No doubt you are all looking forward to what 2014 holds for you. We welcomed this week many new students and their families and it was wonderful to meet so many of you throughout the week - special thanks to those who have come forward and introduced themselves to me. I actually am finding it a challenge to learn names so please be patient with me! This year begins the new Same Start Day for Reception children so we have been thrilled to see 67 new children and their families join us. As you would appreciate this new process means we will have no further classes begin this year - with that a total of 634 students began this week. This is impressive. A warm welcome to the new students and their families who have begun for the first time in other year levels. We welcome you to our community and may you feel nurtured and cherished throughout your experience here. We also have new staff and others returning from leave. Welcome back to Katrina Brown (Room 17—Year 4), Lisa Karamicou (Room 18—Year 4), Michelle Williams (Room 5—Rec/Year 1) and welcome to Sally Morgan (Uniform Shop Manager).

You will find a complete listing of staff within this newsletter to assist in communication throughout the school. As well, our term calendar will be distributed shortly. Please make sure this is kept handy as I can see this is a busy and exciting place to be and knowing what is happening definitely assists in the smooth running of a large school.

I have been warmly welcomed by staff and know they are very professional and skilled educators. The staff days before we began our school year included professional learning in Mathematics, which was highly engaging and provided staff with the plans for a school wide focus on basic number skills and the principles of teaching maths effectively.

During the first few weeks of school it is important your child gains confidence and experience in building successful relationships and is happy and comfortable in their class. With this in mind, staff will be concentrating on the important elements of the social and emotional wellbeing of their students throughout the first few weeks of the year. You may find this overshadows the content of the curriculum, but it does have long term benefits for any successful learner. Along with you, the parents, we want the best for every child here at St Francis and together we will respect and develop that goal throughout the year.

Other News

We are aware that families found it difficult to order the 2014 School Diary. They are available at the Front Office with payment of $10 to receive. Thank you for your patience with this extra costing.

Parent teacher information evenings will be held over the next few weeks. I urge your attendance if possible as these sessions provide the expectations and foundations of the learning your child will experience this year. It assists and develops a mutual understanding between teacher and parent as together we place the child at the centre of all we do.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Opening of School Year Mass on Thursday, 6th February at 2pm. This important event signifies the beginning of our journey together in 2014 and provides our community the opportunity to pray and be thankful for our blessings in life.

I look forward to serving the SFX community this term and with both Gabby and Angela we send our best wishes for a positive and enjoyable start to 2014.

Kind regards,

Leonie De Garis
Principal
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to another exciting school year, 2014 family school fees & charges statements have been sent home. If you have not received your family statement please contact the finance office on 8251 9500. All families are asked to complete and return a payment arrangement form by Tuesday, 4th February. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, BPAY, Visa, MasterCard, Eftpos, EFT or Direct Debit. Families that have not entered into a payment arrangement plan via direct debit or credit card are reminded of the due dates enclosed with your annual fee package. If no payment or arrangement has been finalised by the due date, families may be issued with a late payment charge.

Payments that were made directly to the school bank account during January will be applied to family accounts during the first two weeks of Term 1. If you would like to discuss your account please contact the finance department on 8251 9500.

School Card
The School Card Scheme is administered by the South Australian Department of Education and Child Development (DECD). It is an income means tested scheme providing assistance for low income families towards the cost of education expenses. Application forms are available from the School Office. For eligible families, St Francis Xavier’s applies a 40% discount on the Net Tuition Fee.

Out of School Hours Care & Vacation Care
Families are now eligible to make payments for Out of Hours School Care and Vacation Care directly through the school bank account. Please ensure that your reference includes the narration OSCH or VAC CARE to ensure that payments are correctly allocated. An example of the description to be used is: 8006xxxxxxxxOSCH

Any payments without reference to OSCH or VAC CARE will be automatically processed through to families school fee accounts. If you have any enquires please do not hesitate to discuss this with the Out of School Hours Care staff.

Kind regards,

Charmaine Aistrote
Business Manager

---

**Library News**

Welcome back to another school year!

The Library is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm.
Closed at recess: 11:00-11:30, open at lunch: 1:00-1:30

The Library has a **Book Replacement Policy** to help us with recuperating the cost of lost/damaged books. The policy appears below for your information.

**Library Book Replacement Policy**
St Francis Xavier’s School Library provides a variety of resources to support the student’s educational program. Primarily this takes the form of textual material, both fiction and non-fiction, on loan for a definite period.

It is expected that items on loan will be cared for and kept in reasonable condition in order that they will be immediately available to students.

Where a book is lost, does not re-appear following school holidays of the term in which it was borrowed, or is damaged beyond repair whilst borrowed to a student, it is the policy that the parents/caregivers will be responsible for its replacement.

The Library budgets on a life expectancy of 7 years for book material, hence parents/caregivers will be responsible to meet the cost of the un-used portion of the 7 year term. An official invoice will be prepared by the bursar upon information provided by the teacher/librarian for the portion outstanding.

Once an invoice has been paid a refund cannot be offered if the book is then located. Invoices will be issued at the beginning of a term for books not returned the previous term.

**Book Club**
Book Club offers a great way for children to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books.

It operates twice a term. The children will receive Book Club brochures, they simply select any books they like and return the order with a credit card receipt or correct monies in a sealed envelope labelled with their name and room number. This is then placed in the box marked BOOK CLUB ORDERS in the front office. The orders must be received by the due date. Please note that late orders cannot be processed. Orders are usually received within a couple of weeks.

Supporting the Book club supports our School Library as we are able to purchase books for the Library based on sales.

We appreciate the hard work of Jan Wemid who is our Book Club coordinator and gives freely of her time to organise the Book Club.

Congratulations to our long standing Library volunteer Raelene Denham, who this Australia Day was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her services to the community in particular with St John’s. Well done Raelene!

Happy Reading,

**Lucy Vozzo**
Teacher/Librarian
Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great holiday and were able to spend lots of quality time with family and friends.

The start of a new year holds excitement, possibly some apprehension and challenge as we all get ready to make new friends and settle into new routines. This term has started with “heat-wave” conditions forecast. I am sure we all started to think about how unfortunate we were to have such a physically uncomfortable start to the school year. I then recalled a quote from Lord Alton that I would like to share with you, which for me, puts everything into perspective.

“If you have never been in war, imprisoned or suffered from starvation, then you are better off than five hundred million other people. If you can read, then you are better off than the two billion who are unable to do so. If you can attend a church without fear of harassment, or worse, then you are better off than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, then you are richer than three-quarters of your fellow human beings. If you have money in the bank or your wallet or purse, then you are among the top eight per cent of the world’s wealthy.” With this in mind, despite the hot weather, we have so much to be truly thankful for and should never stop counting our blessings!

I would like to remind everyone, that my office - first door on the left as you enter the admin area - is always open. Feel free to drop in to say “Hello,” or to discuss any concerns or questions that I may be able to help you with. I have included my email as many parents work and may not be able to get to school or are unable to attend the prayer Café on a Friday, I have included my school email address as another means of contacting me directly.

**“Prayer Café” – Staff Room**

Thank you to those people who were part of the Prayer Café group in 2013. This year, in response to parent requests, the **Prayer Café will be held on FRIDAY mornings in the SCIENCE ROOM** beginning Friday, **31st Jan**, from 9.00am – 9.30am approx. This meeting is open to **all community members** at St Francis Xavier’s, which includes: parents, grandparents, relatives and friends of the school. Each session is independent of each other enabling attendance at any time during the year as your schedule permits. During this time, we meet together to reflect and chat over a coffee. Prayer – organised by me on the Smart board - is based on a Gospel passage, reflection on what Jesus’ message may mean for us today and a YouTube music clip to help further reflection on the theme. No-one is, “put on the spot,” and a common comment from participants in 2013, was that, the Prayer Café was a ‘great way to begin the week’ (This year we will end the week with prayer). Coffee Conversations ranged from discussing weekend activities, religious questions asked by children and anything and everything in between! I look forward to meeting with you on Friday mornings!

**“Prayer Café” Meetings:**

- **When:** Friday mornings, 9.00am – 9.30am approximately. (Beginning Friday, 31st January, Week 1)
- **Where:** Science Room
- **Why:** To build community growing in faith and understanding
- **Cost:** Approximately 30 minutes of your time!

**Important Dates:**

Friday, **31st January** – Prayer Café, 9.00am in the Science Room

**Thursday 6th February** - **Opening Mass – “Journeying Together”** at 2.00pm in Xavier Hall. Father Peter from the Para Hills/Modbury Parish will celebrate Mass for us and all the SFX community are invited to attend.

**Made In The Image of God (MITIOG)**

The Made in the Image of God program (MITIOG) is the Human Sexuality Education program for use in Catholic Schools. During Term 1, the first of the four strands titled “Being Human” will be covered from R-Yr 7. This topic explores the value of the human person. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) sent the following information for parents, which expands on the importance of the “Being Human” strand.

A Catholic understanding of the human person is based on the belief that humans are created by God as an outward pouring of God’s love for humanity. One of the Genesis stories describing creation tells us that God created human kind in God’s own image. Thus we are ‘of God’. Created by God, each human person is deserving of the utmost dignity and respect. This fundamental belief is what underpins the Catholic Church’s views on many issues surrounding human rights and sexuality.

The desire to love and be loved, to do what is right and just, is ingrained on every human heart. As we know – it is not always easy to hear the call of our hearts. At times, it can be confusing to know what is right or just in a certain situation. Some aspects of society can also give us conflicting messages. Just look critically at some advertising in a glossy magazine and consider what messages these are giving about the human person…. Do they portray people with dignity and respect?

The Being Human strand aims to affirm the value and dignity of human life and to promote reverence for self, others and the whole of creation. Students in R-2 explore God’s unconditional love for them and examine the various ways people who love and care for them are an expression of God’s constant and ever-present love. Students in 3-4 focus on the belief that life is a special gift that God shares with them and identify factors influencing the development of positive regard for self and others. Students in Years 5-7 investigate and share ways of developing responsibility for the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of self and others.” (CEO)

**ANGELA COON**
Assistant Principal RE
acoon@sx.catholic.edu.au
Welcome to 2014, I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas, New Year and holidays overall. Welcome to our new students and their families. If you have any queries about school sports please contact me via the following options:

Email: tania.krawczyk@sfx.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 8251 9531
In person: Tuesdays & Thursdays in the Hall.

**CRICKET PLAYERS (& COACHES) NEEDED**

Games commence Friday, 14th February (Kanga) & Saturday, 15th February (Junior/Senior).

Kanga Yr 2/3: Friday evenings from 6-7pm at Pertaringa Oval
Junior Yr 4/5: Saturday mornings at 8.15 or 10.15am at various ovals
Senior Yr 6/7: Saturday mornings from 8.15am at various ovals

If your child is interested, please contact me ASAP as games start in Week 4!

For those that play in an SFX Netball or Basketball after school team, you can now download the SportFix app to your mobile to get all current rosters.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

QuickSmart is a maths based program that aims to help children improve their confidence, speed and accuracy in the four basic maths operations: 

( + - x ÷ )

QuickSmart is in its 5th year at SFX. Twenty students from Years 4 – 6 will be chosen from classroom test results, to participate in the complete QuickSmart program. They will have 3 sessions a week for 30 weeks.

In an effort to help more children gain confidence, speed and accuracy in basic numeracy I have given each class from Years 2 – 7 a set of flashcards.

If you have a spare 5 or 10 minutes in the morning or afternoon, to help children improve their numeracy skills please let your class teacher know. It only takes 1 minute per child and the impact can be huge.

If there are enough volunteers, I will aim to hold an information session Monday Week 3 in Room 9 at 9.00am. However if you are unable to make that time or would prefer a one to one chat, please drop in to Room 9 Monday - Thursday from 8.45am – 3.45pm.

Thank you!

Cathy Turner
QuickSmart Coordinator

*The services and events from outside agencies contained in this newsletter are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children.*
| ROOM 2 | COURTNEY MYLREA | REC |
| ROOM 3 | JULIA DE NITTO/VICTORIA SZILASSY | REC |
| ROOM 4 | MALIA KANONGATA'A /VIVIEN IASIELLO | REC |
| ROOM 5 | KAREN LUHRS/MICHELLE WILLIAMS | REC/YEAR 1 |
| ROOM 6 | SARA DELANEY | REC/YEAR 1 |
| ROOM 7 | ANITA GAGLIARDI | YEAR 1 |
| ROOM 8 | RENEE NIXON | YEAR 1 |
| ROOM 10 | SOPHIE SMITH | YEAR 2 |
| ROOM 11 | RITA BUONSANTO/DEBBIE PICKERING | YEAR 2 |
| ROOM 12 | MELINDA WHITFORD | YEAR 2 |
| ROOM 13 | MICHAEL CAIN | YEAR 3 |
| ROOM 14 | CELINE BARR/JANE HAMDORF | YEAR 3 |
| ROOM 15 | KAREN PUTNIK | YEAR 3 |
| ROOM 16 | SELINA BARONA | YEAR 4 |
| ROOM 17 | MICHELLE NENKE/KATRINA BROWN | YEAR 4 |
| ROOM 18 | LISA KARANICOLOU | YEAR 4 |
| ROOM 19 | KERRY JANSSAN | YEAR 5 |
| ROOM 20 | LUCY WHITE/LUCY VOZZO | YEAR 5 |
| ROOM 21 | DAMIEN STAGG | YEAR 5 |
| ROOM 22 | LUKE FERGUSON | YEAR 6 |
| ROOM 23 | MARIA TRIMARCHI | YEAR 6 |
| ROOM 24 | NATHAN BRUCE-GORDON | YEAR 7 |
| ROOM 25 | ELISA CHILLINGWORTH | YEAR 7 |
| ROOM 26 | KATE CORTVRIEND | YEAR 7 |
| ROOM 27 | IAN DENHAM | YEAR 6 |

PE TEACHER | LUKE TAVERNER |
MUSIC | SARAH WILDY |
LANGUAGES | ROMA CHIERA-GARNELLI |
ART | JODY MISKOV |
SCIENCE | ELAINE AMOS |
SPECIAL ED & READING RECOVERY | GAIL MACNAMARA |
TEACHER/LIBRARIAN | LUCY VOZZO |
COUNSELLOR | MARIE DELLOSO |
PRINCIPAL | LEONIE DE GARIS |
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL | GABBY TULLIO |
APRIM | ANGELA COON |
BUSINESS MANAGER | CHARMAIN AISTROPE |
SCHOOL SECRETARY & ENROLMENTS | SONJA CARROLL |
FINANCE OFFICER | DEBBIE GRAEBER |
RECEPTIONIST | SUE SUMSION |
OHS&W COORDINATOR | NICKY DNSITRIANSKY |
ICT | CHRIS WHALAN & FRANK ALLAN |
GROUNDSMAN | TONY THACKER |
SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR | TANIA KRAWCZYK |
LIBRARY ASSISTANTS | ROBYN STARR & JAN WEDMID |
SPECIAL ED & LAP | MARILYN MALONEY |
PLAYGROUP | PAULA SIMIONATO |
MUSIC ADMIN | JANICE DAVIS |
QUICKSMART | CATHY TURNER |
UNIFORM SHOP | SALLY MORGAN |
CANTEEN | JENNY WILLIAMS |
OSHC & VAC CARE | GAIL WILKEY & STAFF |

If you wish to contact a staff member, or school area, via email please use following examples:
(firstname.surname@sfx.catholic.edu.au) e.g. john.jones@sfx.catholic.edu.au
OSHC/Vacation Care: oshc@sfx.catholic.edu.au
Uniform Shop: uniform@sfx.catholic.edu.au
Canteen: canteen@sfx.catholic.edu.au