Welcome to 2015 at St Francis Xavier's

Thoughts of our new students at SFX.

"I met lots of new friends and the sports teacher is very sporty."
Riley Jones

"Playing with my friends."
Joe Dismone

"I made new friends straight away and we made cupcakes."
Emma Bradford

"What I like is all the space and all the wonderful teachers I have."
Jack JENSEN

"The teachers are nice and love challenges from students."
Josh JENSEN

"Friends, Kerry, the best teacher ever. Best school ever."
Leandra Carter

"I love the library because it is open at lunch every day."
Joss Justo

"I am having lots of fun and I like my new class."
Avi Sharma

Diary Dates

Friday, 6th February
MMF Casual Day
(donations for Lucky Darts Stall)

Monday, 9th February
Year 5 Parent Information
Evening 6.30pm

Tuesday, 10th February
Year 4 Parent Information
Evening 6pm

Years 1 & 2 Parent Information
Evening 6.30pm

Wednesday, 11th February
School Board Meeting 6.30pm

Thursday, 12th February
New Reception Parent Reading
Workshop Sessions
2.15—3.00pm & 6.30—7.15pm

Friday, 13th February
Whole School Assembly 9am
(run by Rms 26 & 13)

New students welcomed

Saturday, 14th February
Valentine’s Day

Monday, 16th February
Year 7 Camp returns

Tuesday, 17th February
Shrove Tuesday
Year 7 Camp

Uniform Committee Meeting 9am

MMF Executive Committee
Meeting 7pm

Wednesday, 18th February
Year 7 Camp returns
Year 2 Marine Discovery
Excursion

Thursday, 19th February
Chinese New Year
Newsletter out today
SAPSASA Softball Carnival
New Reception Parent Reading
Workshop 6.30—7.15pm

Friday, 20th February
Year 3 Surf Education Excursion
New Reception Parent Reading
Workshop 2.15—3.00pm

Saturday, 21st February
Principal’s Tour
9.30am—10.30am
Dear SFX Community,

A warm welcome to you all, as we begin another year together. Now in our second week, the students seem very well settled into their classes and enjoying their new year level experiences. I would say a very smooth, settled and enjoyable time has been spent by your children, building relationships with their teacher and classmates - a very important element of a successful school.

I would especially like to welcome our new students and their families to our community. We wish you all well as you begin a very special journey with us. May SFX meet the expectations you aspire your child to achieve. We have welcomed a range of students across the year levels and all seem to feel at ease and enjoying their start. As well, a very large group of Receptions have joined us across four classes. It was a very busy and rather hectic first day, yet I am thrilled with the way the children have settled into their learning environment. There is a very calm and peaceful sense across our classrooms - a wonderful indicator of children engaged and enjoying their new experiences.

We also welcome a couple of familiar teachers and staff returning to our school. A special welcome back to Julieann Simonetti, following two years at the Singapore International School. Darren Esposito, who has previously worked in a number of teaching roles at SFX, has joined our staff, while Michael Cain takes Long Service Leave this term. Also, we welcome back Tim Ferry, who has joined out IT Department for 2015.

During the Christmas holidays, we bid a fond farewell to a long serving staff member who chose to pursue new challenges. Frank Allan has been on staff at SFX for 10 years and highly valued in his IT skills. He has managed and developed a highly resourced and future focussed department along with Chris Whalan. They have serviced our needs exceptionally well. We wish Frank our sincere best wishes for the future and immensely thank him for all he has contributed to our school over the years.

This week we came together to welcome the new year with our Opening School Mass. Fr Eric led us in prayer and together we gave thanks for our school and each other, as we aspire towards a successful year ahead. Our Year 7 student executive team officiated for the Mass and demonstrated their genuine leadership and compassion throughout the Mass. Our team consists of: Lucy Burford, Alessandra Chiera-Garnelli, Jacob Fergusson, Jana Ivancic, Madison Sauerwald, Benjamin Silverwood.

This year we have chosen a special word to emphasise and explore together. This is, **Imagine**

The staff and students will use this word to discuss, set future goals and help us strive for the best people we can become throughout the year. The student executive team took time to write what they believe Imagine means to them. Please find below comments shared by one student with the school at assembly. We will include further comments in future newsletters.

"Imagine what SFX would be like if nothing ever changed. You might be thinking that SFX doesn’t need to change. However, that would mean we would all miss out on great opportunities. Change is something that will open doors to new things and has made SFX what it is today. Not all changes are good, but most are. Get involved and have your say to make sure the changes are positive. We can all work together to make SFX an even better place."

In today's newsletter, the calendar will be received by families. It is important that you are all aware of the many exciting and important events that take place throughout the year. We have tried to include all events we are aware of at this stage to keep you informed. Importantly, we will be having a Pupil Free Day on Friday, March 6th, adjoining the long weekend. This will be for our regional schools conference day to be held at SFX. Please take note of this date when school will be closed, however, OSHC will be available, though bookings are required for all attendances.

It has been a busy and event rich start to the year. I thank all students for their presentation and pride in school uniform, their ready engagement in learning and their happy disposition. I can just imagine what a delightful year lies ahead for us all!

Kind regards,

Leonie De Garis
Principal
Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday spending lots of quality time with family and friends. I know I look forward and enjoy organising the Christmas holiday time so I can spend time with my family who all now live interstate!

The recent bushfires, for the first time in my knowledge, have had a major impact on areas surrounding where most of us live. For some of our families and staff, along with many communities living in the bushfire area, having to evacuate their homes and experience the trauma of not knowing the effect of the fires to their property, is something I can only imagine. I am sure, due to the close proximity of the fires, we all know of people, or areas that we visit, that have been devastated. As the rebuilding starts, I am sure that our school community will be able to assist in some way in the near future.

**Opening School Mass**

On Tuesday, 3rd February, the school celebrated the Eucharist to mark the start of the school year. The Opening School Mass built on our 2015 school focus – “Imagine” - as we explored the theme, “Imagine What We Can Achieve With God’s Love.” Father Eric from St David’s Parish kindly celebrated Mass for us, as Father Manu is visiting his family in India. At this Mass, the staff received a special blessing on their work for 2015. The Year7’s also received a special blessing and their Year 7 badges, as they take on their leadership role for the year.

**What would you like?**

I am looking for ideas to better meet the needs of the parent community. Through conversations last year, some parents have expressed an interest in meeting informally together over a coffee, to have the opportunity to:

- Discuss religious questions their children may have raised
- Ask questions about our Catholic faith and traditions eg: Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter...
- Discuss the MITIOG focus for the current term

I am open to any further suggestions and would appreciate your feedback by email to – acoon@sfx.catholic.edu.au

Of course I am also available and enjoy meeting with parents individually, to discuss questions you may have.

**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 Churches 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)

**Important Dates**

- **Tuesday, 17th February** – Shrove Tuesday
- **Wednesday, 18th February** – Ash Wednesday

“Enthusiasm is the Spirit of God working with you.”

Angela Coon
APRIM – Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission
accoon@sfx.catholic.edu.au
Middle School Creative Writing Competition

During Term 4 last year, our Middle School students were offered the opportunity to enter a Creative Writing Competition, run by published author (and SFX parent) Vikki Wakefield. Students were invited to write a short story based on one of the following themes: fear, hideout, magic. An impressive 60 entries were received – it’s great to see so many enthusiastic writers amongst our students.

Shortlisted entrants were then invited to attend a Creative Writing Workshop with Vikki, where they explored the writing process. Students then applied what they learned to their piece of writing, revising their stories and re-submitting them for final judging. During Week 9, we had a Final Presentation where the Major and Commended Winners were announced and awarded their prizes (kindly donated by Text Publishers). All entries received Judge’s Comments written by Vikki, which provided students with valuable feedback about their stories. Congratulations to all of our students involved, especially to our Major Winners Keeley Cain, Emma Gavini and Emily Unewisse.

Reading Workshop for Parents/Caregivers of Reception Students

A reminder for Parents/Caregivers of Reception Students to please RSVP their attendance at one of our Reading Workshops “How To Help Your Child Be A Better Reader” during Weeks 3 and 4. Please return your Reply Slip to your child’s teacher or alternatively send me an email.

Milk Bottle Lids

I am looking for donations of plastic milk bottle lids to make resources to support our work in Jolly Phonics. If you have some, please send them into Sue at the Front Office.

Parent Involvement

From time to time throughout the year, teachers and students require resources (flash cards, games etc) to be made to support their work in Literacy. If you are interested in helping to make these, please send me an email to join a Mailing List – I will send calls out for assistance when the need arises!

Malia Kanongata’a
Key Literacy Teacher
mkanonga@sfx.catholic.edu.au

New Canteen Menu

Please note, that as from Week 1 this term there is a new Rory’s School Canteen Menu available. You can view/download the new menu on the school website: www.sfx.catholic.edu.au There are also a few hard copies available at the Front Office for your convenience.

IT’S A BOY!

Congratulations to the GIANQUITTO FAMILY
Rene & Giovanni
Tyler Jamison (Rm 22) & Amelia Gianquitto (Rm 8) on the recent arrival of their new baby son/brother
ALFIE
Born Tuesday, 30th December, 2014
Welcome back to another school year! The Library is open Monday to Friday from 8:35am to 4:00pm. Closed at recess: 11:00-11:30, open at lunch: 1:00-1:25.

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 unused 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 twice a term. Orders may be placed by parents online or they may be ordered through the school. Orders with a credit card slip or correct monies in a sealed envelope labelled with the child’s name and room number can be 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 Wedmid who is our Book Club coordinator and gives freely of her time to organise the Book Club.

Happy reading!

**Lucy Vozzo**
**Teacher/ Librarian**

Welcome back everyone, to a new year in OSHC and especially to all our new children who have commenced school. We hope your time with us will be a happy one, filled with lots of new experiences.

Could I please remind all parents the following:
- Please notify OSHC directly if your child or children will not be attending for any session in advance. Our direct line is 8251 9560. Fees will apply if not done so. Valuable time is spent looking for children when eventually we find out that they have already gone home.
- All enrolment enquiries to be directed to OSHC please, not through the Front Office.
- Fee payment is required on regular basis, either weekly or fortnightly. A fine of $5.00 will be applied if not paid by the third week.
- Payment of fees can be made by direct deposit, credit card, cash or cheque. When paying by bank deposit, please make sure that you include your name and OSHC as reference, otherwise it will be automatically deducted from your school fees.
- If you have outstanding fees from last year and the holidays, payment in full is required by the end of Week 2 (Friday, 6th February).
- All children must have a **RED HAT** for outside play. They are to be kept in children’s school bag at all times, not in the classroom. **NO HAT, NO PLAY!**
- **PUPIL FREE DAY: FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH** Please book asap, if you require care on this day.
- **WANTED:** A child with an artistic flair to create a logo for the OSHC Program. We want it to be very simple, something that signifies children in OSHC. Can either be drawn in black and white or can have blue and red in the colourings in small figures. Please bring your drawings to the Green Room by the end of Week 5. Winner to be selected by the Management Committee.

Kind Regards,

**Gail Wilkey**
**St Francis Xaviers OSHC Director**

Ph: 8251 9560
**DIARY DATES—TERM 1, 2015**

| Week 3 | Saturday, February 15th | Cricket begins (Kanga Friday 14th) |
| Week 4 | Wednesday, 18th February | TTG SAPSASA Softball Carnival |
| Week 6 | Friday, 6th March (Pupil Free Day) | TTG SAPSASA Swimming Carnival |
| Week 8 | Tuesday, 18th March | Catholic Swimming Carnival |
| Week 9 | Friday, 27th March | TTG SAPSASA Athletics Carnival |
| Week 10 | Wednesday, 1st April | Boys Football Carnival |

Welcome to SFX Heat – U10 Basketball

This awesome group of boys have had an excellent season. Their dedication, positive attitude, team work and thirst for learning has meant they are now a force to be reckoned with! They never give up. It has been a pleasure to coach them, Lachlan Abraham, Jack Findlay, James Field, Noah Matikulas, Austin North, Luca Saccone & Lachlan Wilson.

Sandra North

**IMPORTANT**

**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 8.15am or 10.15am at various ovals
Senior: Saturday mornings from 8.15am at various ovals

If your child is interested, please contact me ASAP as games start in Week 3 (next week!)

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR UNDER 12 SAPSASA CRICKET TRIALS**

Players must be born in 2003, 2004 or 2005 to nominate. Any player at an affiliated SA school (which is most) can attend the trials.

Nominations close on Friday March 13th.

Go to the SAPSASA website, locate the 'Interstate' heading and click on ‘Nomination Form’. Fill out the form and submit.

Players should receive a confirmation email from SAPSASA.

**TANIA KRAWCZYK**

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

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**MODBURY JETS in 2013?**

**Under 13 Junior Premier League Team** (players born 2000)

**Under 15 Junior State League Team** (players born 1998)

If you are interested or require further information, please contact
Keith Levett on 0405 299 583
Email: juniorjetsmodburysc.org.au
www.modburyjsc.org.au

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**AEROBICS AND CHEER AUDITIONS**

**When:** Week 2 - Friday, 6th February at lunchtime

**Where:** Xavier Hall

**Ages:** Year 3-7 only

**Skills required:** High kicks, push ups, splits and good fitness level

**Attire:** PE uniform/sneakers required

**Pre-requisite:** Some dance/gymnastic background

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*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.*
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most children. SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au
CASUAL DAY: This Friday, 6th February
Donations of a small item are sought for PRIZES that can be used on the LUCKY DARTS STALL at the Fair.
Students can give their donations to their class teacher on Friday.
Ideas for donations: candles, chocolates, beauty products, caps, socks, small sporting items, toys, jewellery, books, magazines, non-perishable luxury food items
All donations are very much appreciated and we thank you or your support!

PARENT HELP REQUIRED ON STALLS
This week a letter was sent home asking for parents to help on the stalls which their child’s classroom has been allocated. The success of the stalls very much relies on the help of parents. You don’t have to be registered volunteer to help on the day.
I didn’t know the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities did all that!

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities is many things for many people!

Our core business is to be the voice of parents who have chosen a Catholic school for their child. We advocate for affordable Catholic schools that are accessible to all (choice), access to excellent educational experiences as the right of all children (quality and equity) and the right of parents to be collaborators in their child’s learning and schooling (voice).

How do we do this?

We advocate for a greater public investment in education for all children and an equitable share of public funds for students in Catholic schools. Politicians and policy makers listen to us.

Consult with parents on key education issues and represent Catholic school parents in decision making and advisory forums in relation to national, state and Catholic education policy and initiatives. We listen to parents.

We affiliate with and contribute to the work of Australian Parents Council (APC) and Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) to ensure a voice at the national level. We have national political clout.

Communicate and connect with parent groups and parents in SA Catholic schools. We empower parent communities.

Develop and share information and resources that empower parents with the knowledge and skills to support their child’s learning, capabilities and wellbeing. We support parents and families.

Lead and support parent and family engagement in learning and schooling. We support school leaders, teachers and school communities through:

- Practical and individualised consultancy for school communities
- Professional learning and training for school leaders, educators and parent leaders
- Parents Initiatives in Education (PIE) grant funding to Catholic schools in South Australia
- Sharing evidence of leading practice in family engagement in learning.

Check out our website
Join our Facebook page
Check out our e-newsletters
Tell us what’s important to you so we can be the voice for choice, quality and equity
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<td>Wk 2</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of Our Lord</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opening School Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 5 Excursion —“Paper Planes” movie</strong></td>
<td><strong>Newsletter</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMF Casual Day</strong></td>
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<td>Mass 2pm</td>
<td>Middle School Parent Info Evening 6.30pm</td>
<td>PCC Meeting 6.30pm</td>
<td>Sports Committee Meeting 3.40pm</td>
<td>(donations for Lucky Darts Stall)</td>
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<td>Reception Parent Info</td>
<td>Evening 7pm</td>
<td>Finance Meeting 5pm</td>
<td>MMF Executive Committee Mtg 6.30pm</td>
<td>MMF Stallholders Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Wk 3</td>
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<td><strong>Ash Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Newsletter</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chinese New Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 3 Surf Education excursion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Shrove Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 7 Camp returns</strong></td>
<td><strong>SAPSASA Softball Carnival</strong></td>
<td><strong>New Reception Parent Reading Workshop Sessions: 6.30pm—7pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Valentine’s Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Uniform Committee Meeting 9am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 2 Marine Discovery Excursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMF Executive Committee Meeting 7pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Whole School Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Yr 7 Camp</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 7 Camp returns</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMF Executive Committee Meeting 7pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMF Stallholders Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Principal’s Tour 9.30—10.30am</strong></td>
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**March**

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<td><strong>Annunciation of Our Lord</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUPIL FREE DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>MMF Casual Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Capital Development Mtg 7pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finance Mtg 5pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NESCPA Regional Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adelaide Cup Public Holiday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 6 Camp</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SAPSASA Swimming Carnival</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 7</td>
<td><strong>Catholic Swimming Carnival (TBC)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>St Joseph’s Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bully Busting Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OISHC Leukemia Fundraising Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Harmony Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mad March Fair 10am—4pm School oval</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 8</td>
<td><strong>Yr 6 Mass 2pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Annunciation of Our Lord</strong></td>
<td><strong>Palm Sunday Liturgy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>End of Term 1 Whole School Assembly 9am (run by Rms 22 &amp; 15)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HOLY WEEK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Holy Thursday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>STUDENTS DISMISSED @ 12.30PM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Saturday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
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**April**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 11</td>
<td><strong>Easter Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>St Francis Xavier’s Birthday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 4 Camp</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 4 Camp</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yr 4 Camp Returns</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>End of Term 1 Whole School Assembly 9am (run by Rms 22 &amp; 15)</strong></td>
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Term 2 begins on Tuesday, 28th April, 2014 (Students to wear Winter Uniform)
(Monday, 27th April is a PUPIL FREE DAY)
Special Uniform Shop Opening: Saturday, 18th April 9am—12 noon
To contact Vacation Care, please ring: 8251 9560

Please note that some dates/times may be subject to change. These changes will be advised via the Newsletter.