Wow! What an exciting way to start the new school year with Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Carnevale all occurring within days of each other. We are very lucky to live in a country where our children have the opportunity to experience the culture and language of so many countries. All three of these celebrations, while culturally different, also have some similarities, in that all three follow the lunar calendar. Hence, they are close together every year and they all have a special food dedicated to them.

For Chinese New Year, many students learnt to make dumplings (饺子 jiaozi) using playdough and then were lucky enough to eat the real dumplings, as this is the dish that is usually served on the first day of Chinese New Year. Some students even attempted to use chopsticks to eat their dumplings! Having had several of our teachers visit China over the past few years, they were able to bring to life an authentic experience of dumpling making for the students. This year for the Chinese culture is the year of the Monkey.

For Shrove Tuesday, students ate pancakes and celebrated the tradition of using up all the rich foods used for making sweets before one of the most important times in the Catholic calendar, Lent. This time is devoted to praying, giving up something you enjoy and doing things for others in preparation for Easter Sunday.

For Carnevale, students had the opportunity to dress-up in costumes, make and wear masks, tell jokes and eat special Italian sweets called crostoli. Carnevale marks the end of the Christmas celebrations where everyone is able to laugh and joke around and eat rich foods. It also marks the beginning of Lent.
Dear Parents & SFX Community,

Last week seemed a true sense of celebration at SFX. We enjoyed welcoming our new students at assembly, which was based around the theme of ‘Firsts’! Our new Receptions have settled in well to their classes and are thoroughly enjoying their new learning experiences. We continued with our celebration with the Beginning of Year Mass last Friday, where our Year 7 students were presented with their Leadership badges. We are all very proud of their achievements throughout their years at SFX and look forward to working together throughout the year. A special congratulations to our six new student leaders; Alana Fitzsimmons, Emily Richter, Cooper Warren, Sophie Jamal, Angus Braendler and Ethan Hubbard.

These students have begun their role by organising our Student Leadership groups for 2016. The Student Representative Council now has a new name, ‘Voices make Choices’. The three Student Committees are ‘Mission St Francis’ (Alana Fitzsimmons and Emily Richter), ‘Extreme Green Team’ (Cooper Warren and Sophie Jamal) and ‘Free Choice Learning’ (Angus Braendler and Ethan Hubbard). The committees will involve students from Years 4-7 and we look forward to hearing more about their activities and plans for the year. The voice of the student in decision making and leadership is very important at our school and is reflected in their active participation in student led committees.

Last week, workshops for new parents were held for the Jolly Phonics programme that was initiated a couple of years ago. We were thrilled by the interest of many families, keen to know more and support their child at home. We will continue with other workshops throughout the year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have a suggestion for a session on any topic for us to organise.

As the term progresses, our parent committees will begin to meet and form their goals for the year. Recently our PCC met and amongst other planning, are keen to welcome others to their group. Their next meeting, on Wednesday, 9th March at 6.30pm, will be a wine and cheese evening, so I encourage you to come along and meet others and hear about plans for building community at SFX. Next month our Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday, 30th March at 7pm and is an opportunity to become officially involved in how we operate and manage our school. We are in need of parent representation and I encourage anyone with an interest in this area of involvement to consider it. We have included the nomination form today (Page 9) and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or thoughts around considering nominating. We are particularly in need of any parents who are able to offer financial expertise.

Thank you to the parents who have nominated for Parent Ambassadors in 2016. The nominations close at the end of next week. Please find attached (Page 9) the information/nomination form, if you are still considering nominating for Parent Ambassador.

Last week I received a letter from Gail Wilkey stating her wish to resign at the end of this term. Gail has been the Director of our OSHC service for 24 years. As a valued and long term member of staff, and on behalf of our school community, I wish Gail well as she begins a new chapter in her life and that she enjoys her final weeks with us.

Communication is an element of improvement identified last year. On the following page, I have included the decision and information we circulated to the community last year.

Are you keeping in touch with our latest news? Our Facebook Page celebrates latest school events and reminders to help you to keep in touch with the happenings at SFX. Some of our latest photos have been full of the fun and exciting happenings at SFX. We have also installed a television in our Front Office to capture the events that we offer and enjoy at SFX.

Congratulations to our former students, highlighted on Page 7 of the newsletter this week, for their achievements at Gleeson College.

This Saturday morning, 27th February, a tour of our school will take place at 9.30am. If at any stage you happen to speak to a prospective family regarding our School Tours, or you know anyone who may be interested in attending, please direct them to our website http://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/2016-open-day-and-principal-tours where they are able to book in for a tour of their choice.

Regards,

Leonie De Garis
Principal
**Home – School Communication**

**Rationale:**

Successful communication is central to the SFX community being informed about all that happens in and about our school. The many different forms of communication used in today’s schools and society encourages everyone to become fully informed.

At SFX we understand that successful communication is a two way process and needs to be regular, relevant and timely so all concerned staff, students and parents acquire details as needed.

As a Catholic school, we believe that communication from both the school and parents, at all times, should be respectful, measured, amicable and sensitive. By adhering to these principles we aim to strengthen the goodwill and the positive partnership between parents and the school, to enhance the well-being of students and to provide quality educational outcomes.

**Implementation:**

St Francis Xavier’s will meet its commitment to engaging in successful communication by providing information promptly and conveniently.

Therefore for 2016:

- **Staff at SFX continue to provide home-school communication in electronic formats**

- **Reception to Year 3:** to use ‘See-Saw’, as well as email, as a means of regularly communicating with parents regarding homework tasks, student learning progress and events taking place in the class, year level and school.

- **Years 4 – 7:** to use ‘Edmodo’, as well as email, as a means of regularly communicating with parents regarding homework tasks, student learning progress and events taking place in the class, year level and school.

- **That the community of SFX receive a fortnightly school newsletter via email which contains a wealth of information and encourage the community to access Facebook, twitter and the website for further information.**
Our Opening Mass last Friday was a wonderful celebration for the start of the New Year. Our Reception students truly welcomed us into our sacred space through their actions and leading of the opening song, “Come Gather!” Their art work – a painted portrait of themselves - provided a beautiful backdrop and focal point highlighting themselves as the new students starting school. Many parents were able to join with us, which added immensely to the community feel of the celebration.

The Stational Mass held at Para Hills Modbury, was another significant event that the Harding and Carter families were able to attend with me. Jessica and James Harding, and Leandra Carter, along with other youth from the Northern region, received a special blessing from Archbishop Philip Wilson. They were then able to speak personally with the Archbishop over supper that concluded this event.

St David’s Sacramental Program
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received for the first time by students enrolled in the St David’s Sacramental Program on Wednesday, 9th March, at 7.00pm at St David’s Church. Please keep the following students and their families in your prayers, as they take this next step on their journey to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith: Ava Aistrope, Jade Amos, Mia Attick, James Attick, Eloise Chapman, Caitlyn Grech, Adaeze Igbokwe, Holly Kosir, Chelsea La Rosa, Ashlee Lemmer, Tess Marusic, Rhys Mucci, James Potuszynski, Finn Russian, Alexander Sellmann, Kahlea Skurray, Sawyer Smith, Carla Vannetiello and Sienna Walker.

Para Hills Modbury Sacramental Program
Workshop 5 – Reconciliation: 4.00pm on Saturday, March 12th at St John XXIII Church. Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea. All families are invited to stay for Mass at 6.00pm.

Important Dates
Wednesday, 9th March: First Reconciliation, 7.00pm at St David’s Church
Saturday, 12th March: Workshop 5—Para Hills Modbury Sacramental Program 4pm at St John XXIII Church

“Voices Make Choices” Student Council
At our recent assembly, our Year 7 Student Leaders announced the name and goals of the new student run committee – “Voices Make Choices.” This will compromise of representatives from Years 4 – 7, replacing what was previously known as the SRC. The “Voices Make Choices” group of students will rotate and lead the school over the year in the following three focus areas:

♦  Mission St Francis – focus on social justice initiatives
♦  Extreme Green Team – focus on environmental and sustainability issues
♦  Free Choice Learning – focus on organising and providing student run activities at lunch time

Years 4 – 7 will be selecting one class representative for the year over the following weeks. Activities to promote and develop leadership skills in students from Reception to Year 3 are being organised. In the younger classes, students will be rotated over the year to enable more students to experience a leadership role.

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”
– Pope Francis

Angela Coon
APRIM – Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission
acoon@sfx.catholic.edu.au
**DIARY DATES—TERM 1, 2016**

- **Week 5**  
  Friday, 4th March  
  TTG SAPSASA Swimming Carnival
- **Week 6**  
  Wednesday, 9th March  
  TTG SAPSASA Softball Carnival
- **Week 7**  
  Tuesday, 15th March  
  Catholic Swimming Carnival
- **Week 9**  
  Fri day, 1st April  
  TTG SAPSASA Athletics Carnival

If your child is interested in playing an after school sport for SFX please follow the link to the Registration of Interest form: [http://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/sports-team-registration](http://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/sports-team-registration)

**2016 AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS**

**REGISTRATION OF INTEREST IS OPEN FOR TERMS 2 & 3 (2016)**

- **SATURDAY BASKETBALL** - U8, U10 & U12
- **SATURDAY FOOTBALL** — 2/3, 4/5, 6/7

If your child is interested in playing either of the above sports, the new season/s will commence in Term 2, nominations are open, please complete the registration form and return to the Sports Coordinator as soon as possible. If your child is interested please complete the Registration of Interest form attached [http://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/sports-team-registration](http://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/sports-team-registration)

**SAPSASA District and State Events/Trial**

Our School is a member of the Tea Tree Gully South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA) District. SFX will participate in a number of carnivals throughout 2016. Students in Year 6 and 7 are eligible to trial for these teams and will be advised when trials will be held from the coach. Sports include basketball; netball; cricket; football; tennis; soccer and touch footy.  

As stated in the SFX Sports Policy, “it is the aim of the school to put forward a competitive school representation. Students may be selected from Year 6 and Year 7 with Year 7 students given priority where students are of equal ability, in accordance with SAPSASA guidelines.”

SFX also send squads for swimming, athletics and cross country. Children in Years 4-7 and who are turning 10 in 2016 are eligible to trial for these teams.

Tea Tree Gully District SAPSASA holds trials for District SAPSASA teams. The successful players will play for the TTG District Team and compete during school hours in the state carnival.

If your child* is interested in trialing for a team please download the new TTG District SAPSASA App (below) To keep up to date with State SAPSASA events and trials please go to: [http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/sport/pages/sapsasa/sapsasa/](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/sport/pages/sapsasa/sapsasa/)

**TANIA KRAWCZYK**

Sports Coordinator

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

"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."
Volunteers needed for LAP (Learning Assistance Program)

LAP (Learning Assistance Program) has been a big part of St Francis Xavier’s School for more than 30 years. The LAP program is for students who benefit from one on one time with a volunteer to support their learning here at SFX. LAP helps with self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing, which in turn supports students learning at school. Friendships and trust are formed in LAP and it is a very special program to be part of.

LAP is a one on one program, student/volunteer (mentor), and is held outside the class for 30—60 minutes once a week. The time does depend on the time a volunteer (mentor) can spare, or the time the teacher has recommended for the session.

To be a volunteer you do not have to have any qualifications other than a caring heart and the willingness to listen and have fun. If you have a spare ½hr to 1hr once a week and looking to fill some time into part of your day, I am sure the children I have on the waiting list would love to see you. I would also love to see mums, dads, aunties, uncles and grandparents become be part of this wonderful program.

Before I took on the role as the Coordinator of the LAP program I was a volunteer. This program is a privilege to be part of and the connection you have with your LAP students is something special. I have shared many fun times with children and seen them grow as young adults and move onto high school. The friendships that you gain from LAP can continue for a life time. My first LAP student has gone through high school gained his electrical licence and has just become engaged. I am so very proud of him.

If you would like to be a volunteer, please fill in the return slip, come and see me, or ring the school and arrange to meet. I will be in the LAP Room on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (Inclusive Learning Centre which is across from the Green Room)

I will be holding an information afternoon on Wednesday, 2nd March at 2pm in the LAP room which is at the end of the Inclusive Learning Centre.

SHARON FREETH
LAP Coordinator

Information Afternoon for LAP
Wednesday, 2nd March 2pm
Inclusive Learning Centre

Name: .................................................................
Eldest Child’s Room
Contact #: ..........................................................
Number attending..........................................

Please return by Tuesday, 1st March to Sharon Freeth or via the Front Office.
GLEESON COLLEGE YEAR 12 RESULTS 2015
St Francis Xavier’s Regional Catholic School Old Scholars

We congratulate the following St Francis Xavier’s Regional Catholic School Old Scholars on their outstanding Year 12 results in 2015:

2015 PROXIME ACCESSIT:
Liam Parker, with an ATAR of 98.90

85+ ATAR ACHIEVEMENT:
Liam Parker 98.90
Matthew Turner 96.40
Evangelos Toskas 96.10
Jacob Dalgleish 95.75
Sophie Mullen 95.50
Hayley Fieldhouse 93.75
Serena Martino-Williams 93.65
Georgina Mullen 91.25

Amelia Dixon 90.15
Tylah Platt 89.15
Alexandra Kay 88.85
Caitlin Prescott 88.20
Sasha Baumann 86.25
Jonathon Craggs 85.15
Tina Stazic 85.15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE MERIT AWARD (Perfect Score):
Victoria Darzanos Information Processing & Publishing

VET OUTSTANDING EFFORT AWARD:
Madison Glover Certificate II in Construction & Certificate III in Carpentry

2015 DUX OF SUBJECTS:
English Communications Evangelos Toskas
English Pathways Hayley Fieldhouse
Food & Hospitality Tylah Platt
Information Processing & Publishing Victoria Darzanos
Japanese Liam Parker
Legal Studies Evangelos Toskas
Material Products II Jonathon Craggs
Mathematical Methods Matthew Turner
Modern History Evangelos Toskas
Music - Ensemble Performance Serena Martino-Williams
Music - Individual Study Serena Martino-Williams
Outdoor Education Jessica Jenkin
Physics Liam Parker
Specialist Mathematics Liam Parker

Discover what Glesson College can offer your child in their academic, personal and spiritual development.

34 Year 12 students achieved an ATAR score of 85 or above

16 students achieved an A+ final grade

98% of all results were an A, B or C grade

www.glesson.sa.edu.au
When can my child start school?

Policy changes within Catholic Education now allows us the option of two intakes a year for children starting school.

Therefore, your child may be eligible to start their schooling in either Term 1 or Term 3, depending on their date of birth.

If your child turns 5 before the end of April, they are eligible to start school in Term 1 of that year.

If your child turns 5 between 1st May and 31st October, they are eligible to start in Term 3.

Should you have any queries, please contact Sonya, our School Secretary, on 8251 9555.

2016 TOUR DATES

PRINCIPAL TOURS

Saturday, 27th February
9.30am—10.30am

Wednesday, 23rd March
4.30pm—5.30pm

Tuesday, 17th May
9.30am—10.30am

Thursday, 30th June
9.30am—10.30am

Monday, 15th August
9.30am—10.30am

Thursday, 22nd September
9.30am—10.30am

OPEN MORNING

Friday, 11th November
9.30am—10.30am

Followed by Remembrance Day Service commencing at 10.45am

How do I register my attendance?

Bookings are essential for the tours and can be made via the School's website www.sfx.catholic.edu.au

or by telephoning Sonya, our School Secretary, on 8251 9555

TERM DATES 2016

Term 1
Monday, 1st February—Friday, 15th April

Term 2
Tuesday, 3rd May—Friday, 8th July

Term 3
Tuesday, 26th July—Friday, 30th September

Term 4
Monday, 17th October—Thursday, 15th December

ADVANCE NOTICE DATES

Good Friday, 25th March
Easter Sunday, 27th March
Easter Monday, 28th March

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Friday, 11th March
(Adelaide Cup: Monday, 14th March)
Monday, 2nd May
Monday, 25th July
School Board Nominations

The School Board provides policy direction for the school to develop educational programs, accounts for and administers finance, plans for the future development of the school, pastorally cares for all members of the community, and evaluates the effectiveness of policy decisions made by the Board.

Please consider nominating for the School Board, by completing the form below. Nomination forms must be completed and returned to the Front Office by Friday, 18th March, 2016 and voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Regards,
Leonie De Garis
Principal

School Board Nomination Form

Nomination

Signature of Nominee

Nominated By

Signature of Nominator

February, 2016

PARENT AMBASSADOR

Duties & Responsibilities
- To build and maintain communication links with the parents & caregivers of the students in the class for which you are carrying out the required duties.
- Responsibilities of each Parent Ambassador may include, but not be limited to, the following activities:
  - Attend Induction sessions (1 x term)
  - Welcome parents & caregivers to the role and activities of the PCC within the school
  - Invite parents & caregivers to support and attend school functions and activities, as asked by teachers/PCC
  - Assist the class teacher/s in the organisation of class events which include parents (e.g. excursions), as required
  - Communicate regularly with the Parent Ambassador Coordinator
  - Distribute your phone number to parents

Nominations Required:
Early Years – 2 x Parent Ambassador’s per Class
Primary Years – 2 x Parent Ambassador’s per Year Level

Please return to Leonie De Garis via the Front Office by Thursday, 3rd March (Week 5)

I would like to nominate myself, ______________________, for the Parent Ambassador role in Room ______.

☐ I have read the Role Description and understand the requirements of this role.

Signed _______________________________ Date _____________
SFX Masquerade Gala Dinner
SAVE THE DATE Reminder

SFX - MASQUERADE GALA DINNER - SFERA'S FUNCTION CENTRE MODBURY

Save the Date
Saturday June 25 2016

The PCC is looking forward to our

SFX - Masquerade Gala Dinner

to be held at
Sfera’s Function Centre, Modbury
on June 25th, 2016

More information regarding details of the event and the purchasing of tickets will be forwarded as we get closer to the function.

If there are members of our community that have any items that would be suitable and can be donated for the ‘Silent Auction’ that will be held on the night, could you please let the school know through Sue in the Front Office.

We are looking forward to an exciting and fun night, filled with a great community spirit.

The Parent Community Committee.