

From our Principal, Jason Mittiga.



Dear Families

Thank you for a wonderful school term and for all your support. The children are working extremely hard, and your Parent Teacher Interviews would have reflected this.

Role of Parents in our School

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's education, both inside and outside the classroom. By fostering a positive learning environment at home, they encourage academic growth and emotional well-being. Parents who are actively involved in their child's education, whether through helping with homework, attending parent-teacher conferences, or simply showing interest in their child's day-to-day experiences, provide a foundation for success. Their involvement not only boosts a child's motivation but also reinforces the importance of education, demonstrating that learning is a priority in their family's values.

Moreover, parents contribute significantly to the school community by participating in various activities and supporting the school's goals. Volunteering for school events, fundraising efforts, and joining parent associations helps schools enhance resources, organise programs, and build a strong, supportive environment for all students. When parents collaborate with educators, it strengthens the bond between home and school, creating a cohesive support system that benefits students. Through their active participation, parents ensure that schools have the resources and engagement needed to create enriching educational experiences.

Attached to this e-News is an article from the Parents Federation for your information.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for Tuesday, 13th May at 6:00pm for our Real Schools Parent Information evening. Led by Jemma Rust, the evening will provide information about how Real Schools is supporting students, staff and families through restorative practices and strong relationships.

School Board Elections

We are excited to welcome our new Board Members; Frank Allan, Adrian Ploksts and Rohan Tedmanson, who bring a wealth of experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to the mission of our school. Their diverse backgrounds span various industries, from finance and technology to education, ensuring a dynamic and well-rounded board. With their leadership, strategic vision, and passion for making a positive impact, we are confident that they will help guide our school towards continued growth and success. We look forward to the valuable contributions they will make as we work together to achieve our goals and drive meaningful change.

New Transportable Classrooms

If you have been anywhere near our school oval in the last few days, you will have noticed two new transportable classrooms being delivered. These transportable classrooms will be used by Mid-Year Reception students commencing this July and for future mid-year intakes.

The Pope Francis building, while only five years old was designed to have three Reception Classes in Term One, plus one Mid-Year Reception class and a room for Curious Xaviers. We now have five Reception classes commencing in Term One each year necessitating these new rooms. The transportable classrooms will be moved from their current position, closer to the Pope Francis Building and

commissioned during Term Two in preparation for our new Reception students commencing in Term Three.

Holy Week

Our Palm Sunday liturgy on Monday was a vibrant and meaningful celebration, marking the beginning of Holy Week with a powerful reflection on Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The children gathered, waving palms and singing hymns, symbolising the joy and anticipation of Jesus' journey toward the cross.

Today we moved into a profound and moving Stations of the Cross re-enactment, where each station was brought to life with deep reverence. The dramatic portrayals of Christ's suffering and sacrifice resonated with all present, allowing us to walk alongside Jesus on His path of ultimate love and sacrifice. This combination of joyful celebration and solemn reflection set the tone for the days ahead, inviting us to enter more fully into the mystery of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

Sports Day

Our school's Sports Day was a huge success, filled with excitement and friendly competition. The children participated enthusiastically in every event, showing great sportsmanship and fairness throughout the day. Whether it was the relay races, the sack races, or the tug-of-war, every student gave their best effort while respecting the rules and encouraging their peers. It was heartwarming to see the sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the students, creating an atmosphere where everyone felt included and supported. In the end, it wasn't just about winning but about enjoying the experience and making lasting memories together.

Congratulations to the MacKillop Team who won the Team Chants, Lake Run and the overall Sports Day Trophy.



Term 2 Key Dates

28th April: School Resumes Day 1

30th April: 9:15am: Whole School Easter Mass

5th May: Year 5 Camp

8th May: Mother's Day Stall

9th May: 8:00am- 8:50am: Mother's Day Celebration morning

13th May: 6:00pm Real Schools Parent evening

16th May: 8:00am National Walk to School Day

23rd May: SAPSASA Soccer Carnival -boys and girls

5th June: School Disco (R-2 5:00pm-6:00pm and 3-6: 6:15pm-7:30pm)

6th June: Pupil Free Day

9th June: King's Birthday Public Holiday

13th June: SAPSASA Boys Football Carnival

20th June: 7:00pm Quiz Night

25th June: 9:15am Whole School Mass – Sacramental students

27th June: SAPSASA Girls Football Carnival

1st July: SACPSSA Netball Carnival -boys and girls

4th July: 3:05pm Last Day of Term

Attached to this e-News is a Term 2 calendar.

HAPPY EASTER

As we approach the Easter holidays, we want to take a moment to wish you and your family a joyful and peaceful Easter. May this time bring you moments of rest, renewal, and togetherness. We hope that you enjoy the break and have the opportunity to relax and recharge. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming your children back after the holidays. Happy Easter!

We will see you back at SFX on Monday, 28th April.

Regards

Jason Mittiga

Principal SFX

APRIM Snapshot



The Sacrament of Reconciliation- Tea Tree Gully Parish

Congratulations to the 19 students from St. Francis Xavier's Catholic School who celebrated their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, March 25th, at St. David's Parish Church. This significant sacrament marked an important milestone in their spiritual journey, and we are incredibly proud of them. Our students joined their peers from Our Lady of Hope and St. David's Parish School for this beautiful occasion, fostering a sense of community and shared faith.

For those unfamiliar with the sacrament, Reconciliation, also known as Confession or Penance, is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. It is a deeply personal and spiritual practice where individuals confess their sins to a priest and receive absolution, marking the healing and renewal of their relationship with God. This sacrament is a powerful expression of God's mercy and love, offering the faithful a chance to seek forgiveness, experience spiritual growth, and continue their walk with Christ.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations once again to all the students who participated in this special sacrament. We also recognise the ongoing support of their families, whose prayers, encouragement, and love were integral in guiding them to this point.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the students will next receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion on

Saturday June 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at St. David's Parish Church. These sacraments will mark another important step in their spiritual lives, affirming their commitment to the Catholic faith and deepening their relationship with Christ and the Church.



Palm Sunday Liturgy

This year, our Palm Sunday Liturgy was a truly memorable and heartwarming occasion, hosted by our Year 3 classes. The celebration marked the beginning of Holy Week (which commences this coming Sunday in the Church calendar), as we came together to reflect on the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

The liturgy began with a beautiful and joyful procession. Students, led by the Year 3 classes, waved palms they had made themselves, filling the air with energy and excitement. As the Year 3 students entered the sacred space, the entire school community joined in, waving their palms in unison while singing, "Hosanna! Bless our King," echoing the praises sung by the crowds in Jerusalem as they welcomed Jesus into the city.

Following the procession, the students took on the important task of retelling the gospel story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Their storytelling was both moving and powerful, helping everyone present to reflect on the deep meaning behind the day. We were reminded not only of the celebration and joy that accompanied Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem but also of the journey that would follow, leading us into the solemn observance of Jesus' Passion and the joy of Easter.

This Palm Sunday liturgy was a beautiful way to begin our journey through Holy Week as a school community. It provided us all with a moment to pause and reflect on the message of peace, love, and sacrifice that Jesus brought into the world. We are grateful to our Year 3 students for their thoughtful participation and to all families who joined us for this special liturgical celebration.



Stations of the Cross

Today, our school had the opportunity to come together for a moving and reflective experience as our Year 6 students presented the Stations of the Cross. Over the past few weeks, the Year 6 classes have been working diligently with our Performing Arts teacher, Elisa Chillingworth, to bring the journey of Christ's Passion to life through reenactment. The students' dedication and commitment to this sacred story were evident in their powerful performances.

Each class presented their reenactment during one of the three scheduled sessions, and each performance was deeply moving. The students thoughtfully portrayed the stages of Christ's journey, from His condemnation to His crucifixion, helping us all reflect on His suffering and sacrifice. The heartfelt acting, combined with the relevant nature of the Stations of the Cross, created a reverent atmosphere, inviting all in attendance to pause and reflect on the true meaning of the season.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 students for their hard work and for the respect they showed in presenting this important part of our faith. Their performances provided a powerful opportunity for the entire school community to walk with Jesus on His path to the cross, helping us prepare our hearts for the celebration of His resurrection.

We would also like to extend our thanks to community and parish members who attended the re-enactment today.

As we move forward into the final days of Holy Week, we wish our school community a blessed Easter. May the spirit of reflection, renewal, and hope guide us as we celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life.



Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday, March 4th, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday! This day consisted of our wonderful P&F committee cooking and distributing pancakes to all students. Shrove Tuesday is always a great day, bringing our community together and preparing for the beginning of the Lent season.



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

On Wednesday, March 5th, we gathered as a school community to mark the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Liturgy. The liturgy was hosted by our wonderful Year 4 students!

Lent is a period of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving for Christians. The ashes that we received on our foreheads symbolised repentance and renewal. May this Lent season remind us to be generous, compassionate, self-disciplined, and forgiving.



Clean Up Australia Day

On Monday, March 3rd, SFX commemorated Clean Up Australia Day with a whole school clean up after lunch. It was a huge success

and students did a brilliant job at ensuring our school was spotless.

We also had Blair Boyer MP work with our Year 6's to clean up around the Wynn Vale Dam!



Year 6 News

Year 6 Camp

During Week 6, the Year 6 students were fortunate enough to have amazing weather on their camp to Adare at Victor Harbor. The three-day trip involved lots of active events that they could participate in, starting with mini-golf and a guided tour of Granite Island. On day two, students rotated through activities such as boogie-boarding and raft making at the beach, mountain bike riding and canoeing. That evening was both memorable due to the epic talent show contest showing some clever singers, improv actors, dancers and a battle of the wits between Mr Stagg and Malik to see who knew more capital cities. The last day wrapped up with some time spent at the beach volleyball site and some very tired students.

Camp was such an amazing time! Students were so well-behaved and represented our school well. It was heart-warming to hear the different venues praise their responsibility and manners in the way that they conducted themselves. We had quite a few students who would notice something that would need doing, like carrying extra food or supplies, lifting more kayaks than they used to store, clean off plates and utensils after eating that were not theirs, or comfort their peers who were having a moment. It was beautiful to see their teamwork and lots of happy memories made!

HASS Special Speaker

On Monday, 24th March, Fida Hussain spoke to the Year 6 students about his personal journey to Australia. He shared about how he arrived and the tribulations he encountered to get him to where he is now. It was a thought-provoking first-hand perspective and one that the students have really benefitted from hearing. This ties in with our HASS current topic and had students coming up with questions to ask a primary source about migration to Australia and the motivation of people migrating to Australia since Federation and throughout the 20th century. Thank you Fida for sharing your wisdom with our classes.



Think U Know Presentation

In Week 10, the Year 6 students were visited by three members of SA Police to present some helpful information about online safety. They shared ways that students should protect their personal details and 'red flags' to look for when gaming or on platforms where strangers can communicate with them. Lastly, they spoke about what they can do to get help. Students were really respectful and understood the message of thinking about how much of their personal information can be easily shared in photos and videos online. Hopefully this will help them when the time comes that they are on social media!



Eco Warriors Green Adelaide Excursion

Our Year 6 Eco Warrior Leaders had the incredible opportunity to attend an inspiring event organised by Green Adelaide!

As part of Green Adelaide's exciting new program for students in Years 5–8, our Eco Warriors participated in hands-on learning experiences at Para Wirra Conservation Park. They explored themes of Land, Biodiversity, and Greening, gaining valuable knowledge and skills to help protect and preserve South Australia's natural ecosystems.

This event has sparked their curiosity and leadership as they now bring back their newfound knowledge to share with the whole school community. Our students are more committed than ever to environmental sustainability and making a positive impact on our world!



Year 4 Camp

Year 4 Camp at Glenhaven – An Unforgettable Adventure!

Excitement filled the air as our Year 4 students arrived at Glenhaven, ready for three days of adventure, teamwork, and fun. Greeted by Kevin, one of the camp coordinators, we received a warm welcome and an overview of the thrilling activities ahead.

Over the next few days, the students took on a mix of school-led challenges and Glenhaven's action-packed activities. From testing their problem-solving skills in a scavenger hunt to mastering Frisbee golf and survivor challenges, there was never a dull moment. The Glenhaven staff guided students through exhilarating experiences, including the low ropes course, high ropes, the giant swing, and archery -pushing boundaries and building confidence along the way.

Of course, all this adventure required plenty of delicious food to keep our campers fuelled. Night one's lasagne, followed by a comforting apple crumble with custard, was a perfect start. Mornings began on a sweet note, with pancakes topped with whipped cream, berries, and maple syrup on day two, and French toast with berries on the final morning. The students also enjoyed a fun 'build-your-own' sandwich lunch and a hearty Chicken Maryland dinner before ending their adventure with Glenhaven's famous homemade pizzas.

As our time at camp came to an end, we left with new friendships, unforgettable memories, and a sense of accomplishment. Year 4 camp was more than just a trip—it was an experience that encouraged resilience, teamwork, and a love for adventure!

Botanic Garden Excursion

Throughout Week 7, our Year 1 and 2 classes attended a Botanic Gardens Excursion to the Little Sprouts Kitchen Garden!

Students were taught about the benefits of growing fresh produce and establishing healthy eating habits. They gained hands-on experience in an engaging outdoor learning environment, utilising play and exploration!

Students then spent time with Ray, a wonderful volunteer here at SFX!

Ray works hard at keeping our garden growing and uses his time to work with students across the school to teach them about growing edible plants and supporting a sustainable way of life.

Students planted the zucchini seeds from our excursion at Little Sprouts Kitchen Garden, learnt about composting, aerating soil and picking yummy strawberries to eat. Our zucchini seeds should start sprouting in 8-10 days. How lucky are we to have such a wonderful space at SFX to learn about where our food comes from.



Sport News

School Sport SA – Tea Tree Gully District Softball Carnival

SFX recently attended the School Sport SA – Tea Tree Gully District Softball Carnival

Softball Carnival. It was a fantastic day of good spirit and teamwork. The boys' team, with many players having softball or baseball experience, played incredibly well, showing great teamwork and finishing tied for First Place with two other schools.

The girls' team, with a few players new to the sport, made impressive progress throughout the day. The more experienced girls took the time to teach their teammates the rules, skills, and strategies, leading to significant improvement. By the end of the carnival, the girls had a blast and showed how much they had grown as a team.

A special thankyou to Deanne Roberts and Dallas Peaks for coaching the boys' team and Mr O'Leary for coaching the girls.



Physical Activity Leaders (PALS)

Each year, 12 students from the Year 5 cohort are selected as Physical Activity Leaders, known as PALS. These students have been identified as having leadership potential and the capacity to support junior primary (JP) students' movement competence through physical activity. This leadership role grows in complexity over the year as students develop their ability to lead:

- In Term 1, PALS will support Mr Hughes during JP Physical Education (PE) classes.
- In Term 2, PALS will lead a whole class warmup activity during JP PE.
- In Term 3, PALS will lead plan and lead a small group activity during JP PE.
- In Term 4, PALS will plan and lead whole class daily physical activity with selected JP classes.

In Term 2, students will attend the annual SACPSSA & ACHPER (SA) Student Leadership Program, which will be held here at SFX. Around 60 PALS from CESA schools attend to learn how best to fulfil their role.

The Student Leadership Program aims to create opportunities for our PALS to work together to enhance the physical activity, physical education and R-2 extracurricular sports programs at SFX. The program also focuses on the meaning of effective leadership and strategies to implement student leadership at SFX. Later in the year, our PALS will produce a short video which demonstrates and celebrates how they have used their leadership skills to improve the physical literacy outcomes at SFX.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as PALS for 2025:

Joseph N

Noah F

Annalise B

Asha H

Matilda AI

Darcy M

Ellie C

Mason M

Chiara B

Eva W

Eva D

Taylor M



Absent: Chiara B

Mr Hughes

Swimming Carnival News

Swimming Carnival - Tea Tree Gully District Swimming Carnival

A splashing good time was had at the Tea Tree Gully District Swimming Carnival.

On Monday, 3rd March, the St Francis Xavier's Swimming Squad enjoyed some competitive fun at Waterworld. We were a small, but mighty team and rose to the challenge in every race. In true SFX spirit, the children showed courage, persistence and resilience throughout the day. SFX finished an amazing 3rd overall!

It was fantastic to see all the children cheering each other on and celebrating everyone's achievements. Well done to the other schools and competitors who showed great sportsmanship and experienced success. A big thankyou to all the family members that came along to support and cheer us on.

Shout out to Tania and Mrs Victoria for encouraging the children to do their best and be proud of their efforts.

Harmony Week

Throughout Week, 8 SFX celebrated Harmony Week! This week consisted of celebrating our community's uniqueness and recognising that everyone belongs.

We welcomed Gleeson Youth Ministry students to work with our Year 6 students in creating ornaments that reflected who they are. They were then placed on decorated Jesse Trees. We valued their time at SFX and thank them for their generosity.

On Friday, March 21st, we celebrated Harmony Day, consisting of decorating flags based on our students nationalities and placing them in our front garden. This was a great way of bringing our community together and learning about the different cultures at SFX.



Parent Coffee Mornings

During Term 1, we have hosted coffee mornings for our parent community in the Well-being Centre. It has been a fantastic opportunity for our staff to connect with parents and for parents to meet others in the community! We will be hosting more in Term 2, please refer to our Term 2 calendar for dates.



Finance Reminder

Term 1 School Fees

Thank you to all caregivers who have made payments or set up payment plans for the 2025 school fees.

If you are paying at the lower income rate, please ensure you have applied for School Card via this link [here](#).

For families not on a payment plan, Term 1 instalments are now overdue. A \$20 late fee will be applied to each term's outstanding arrears unless other arrangements have been made.

If you have any queries relating to your account, please contact our Finance Department on 8251 9500 or email accounts@sfx.catholic.edu.au

Music- Tuition Vacancies

Music Tuition Vacancies

Is your child interested in starting Music Lessons?

There are vacancies for the following:

- Guitar
- Drums

Learning an instrument can have an immense impact on cognitive development, social interaction and simply enjoying life!

Here at St Francis Xavier's School, we are dedicated to offering opportunities for learners to participate, be creative and achieve through our music program. Our music tutors are all highly experienced, qualified musicians and teachers. They are dedicated to providing high level music tuition to our entire school community.

Students receive one 30-minute lesson per week.

Please contact the Music Office for more information.

Drakes Community Dollars



In 2025, SFX continues to be proudly supported by the Drakes Community Dollars program. This means that for every \$2 spent at a participating Drakes store in SA, 1c will be accredited to SFX. Although community key tags will still be excepted, we invite all members of the community to download the new *myDrakes* App on your device. This allows customers to have the ability to support SFX without having to bring a key tag along each time they shop. Each time you shop a portion of your shop will automatically be attribute to the SFX community fund, helping to support Breakfast Club and community members in need.

To help our community please follow these simple steps:

1. Simply download the **myDrakes app** on your device
2. Select **Settings** from the main menu
3. Select **Community Dollars**
4. Select **St Francis Xavier Catholic School** from the list provided or find us using the search function
5. Select **Save** to save SFX as your preferred Community Dollars recipient.

Each time you shop, you will be supporting SFX at the same time and help make a difference to make our community. We are grateful for your loyal support and for supporting the SFX community through the Drakes Community Dollars Program.

National Playgroup Week

Celebrating the Power of Playgroups!

View the link below:

[Catholic Education South Australia Celebrates the Power of Playgroups!](#)



Volunteers- update your training

Volunteers to update RRHANEC training

Every 3 years all Volunteers must renew Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care (RRHANEC) training online. If you completed this training in the last few years (which is most of you), the expiry date on the bottom of your current certificate will say 31/12/24 and it is blue in colour. This now must be updated. Please refer to the attached flyer which includes the link and instructions to complete the RRHANEC Fundamentals course. Please forward copies of your new certificate to ndnistri@sfx.catholic.edu.au

The expiry date on this new certificate is 31/12/27 and it is purple in colour. If you have one of these, you are already up to date!

If you wish to continue volunteering you will need to complete this online training.

SFX staff and students value and sincerely thank all volunteers for the time and commitment you provide to our school.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Nicky Dnistriansky

WHS, Risk and Compliance Officer

Lost Property

Please check in at the Front Office if your child has lost any items across this school term.

Various items have been handed in including children's reading glasses and Fitbit watches.

Please remember to have your child's name on all clothing (including school hats), drink bottles and lunch boxes.