Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our Opening School Mass was held last Friday. During this liturgy we welcomed all new students including our preps to our school community. Fr Roger recognised all our year seven students as student leaders, each of whom received a student leader badge. In addition, eight of our year seven students who were elected school leaders (two students per house) at the end of 2012 were presented with a school leader badge. Congratulations to all these students who I know have the capacity to act as role models to our younger students.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to our St Francis Xavier community. I would like specifically to invite you to the P&F Annual General Meeting to be held Monday 25 February at 7pm in the Conference Room, McAuley Centre. This year, our major event will be our School Carnival. As you would be aware our P&F provide funding support for many projects within our school. Specifically, the P&F have very graciously supported major IT purchases utilised by students in the classroom. Without this financial support our school would not be as well resourced.

A reminder from our School Uniform Policy that fingernails must be clean, well trimmed and unpolished. If a student comes to school with nail polish we will contact you and ask that you remove the polish as soon as possible. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Best wishes for the coming week,

Veronica Lawson, Principal
FROM THE DESK OF THE APA  Mrs Michaela Lewis APA

Dear Parents and Caregivers, I hope you are having a good week.

2013 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

The tests are offered on a voluntary basis at parental expense. ICAS provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report. This year, students from Years 5-7 at St Francis Xavier may participate in the Mathematics and English tests. If you would like your child to participate in either/or both of these tests, please ask your child to collect a permission letter from Mrs Lewis, at the office.

Arts Performance On Monday, the children enjoyed a performance by the Queensland Police Pipe and Drum Band. The songs ranged from the traditional to fun favourites. Thank you to Mrs Vassella for organising the concert.

Woolworths Promotion Our school was one of the top point earners in our area for last year’s promotion. We have been able to purchase cushions for reading, musical equipment and sports gear with our points. A big thank you to our community for supporting this endeavour.

Enjoy the week, Michaela
REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers Alan Dobinson, the father of Fiona Greenall who died last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Greenall, her Mum Eileen and the family. May Alan rest in peace.

THE ARTS Sue Vassella

On Monday 18th February, SFX was treated to a performance by the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums Band. The band consisted of bagpipes, snare drums, drum kit, congas, bass drum and bass guitar. The program included traditional Scottish reels, an Australian medley and fun pieces for the students like 'Bob the Builder", "Limbo Rock" and "The Mexican Hat Dance". Some of our students were invited to join in the percussion section of one of the pieces. We look forward to another visit in years to come.

READING TO LEARN NEWS Mrs Monique Wild Reading to Learn Co-ordinator

Dear Parents and Caregivers, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to an exciting year of learning and teaching. This year I have been given the wonderful opportunity to share with teachers my knowledge and experience with the Reading to Learn program. My role will involve providing professional learning opportunities and personalised support to embed Reading to Learn as a school practice. I will model the cycle in classes and teams will be released out of class to plan. Teachers will be supported in their planning and classroom strategies to meet the needs of their students.

Below is a definition that best describes the program.

"Reading to Learn is one of the world's most powerful literacy programs. It is designed to enable all learners at all levels of education to read and write successfully, at levels appropriate to their age, grade and area of study. The Reading to Learn strategies has been independently evaluated to consistently accelerate the learning of all students at twice to more than four times expected rates, across all schools and classes, and among students from all backgrounds and ability ranges."

For more information, please visit the following website: www.readingtolearn.com.au

I look forward to working in this role at Saint Francis Xavier School and sharing more about literacy! Monique

DEADLY JARJUMS Welcome to all our Indigenous families and friends. It's looking like a very busy, exciting new year for us all. We held a very successful Parent Meeting last week, at which the parents came up with many great ideas for cultural activities for this year. We are having our first activity on 26th February and that is a sharing of Aboriginal Art by Vernon Carlo, one of our parents, followed by participation by the children and parents to paint canvasses in readiness for the school Art Show. Parents you are welcome to join us in the morning at about 10.00, and then the children will be working in groups. We also are looking towards establishing Dance groups, so if you have any contacts I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Our next Parent Meeting is on Tuesday 12th March at 9.30 in the Conference room. The more the merrier.

TUCKSHOP Anna Timu, Tuckshop Convenor

Thank you to all those parents who have taken the time to register to Flexi schools Online Ordering. For the parents who need help to log on or to register please contact Flexi schools on 1300 361 769. Flexi schools will be able to talk you through the process of registration. If you have any concerns please call or text me on 0435911247 or phone 38180033. Brown paper bag orders are still available for families who do not have access to a computer. Please write your child's order on a paper bag and take it in to the office. All orders must be in by Thursday. Thank you volunteers for this week Friday 22 February are: Chrissy Peters, Shona Schick, Megan Kinder, Sally Warner, Rachael Grant, Lucia and Kolio Timu. Volunteers for next week 01/03/2013 are: Megan Low, Chrissy Peters, Ina Salapo, Shona Schick, Cameron McCormack, Megan Kinder, Lucia. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help in the tuckshop this year.
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