Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I would like to welcome new staff to our school: Ms Kaylene Forrester is an additional Support Teacher Inclusive Education who is here every Thursday and every second Wednesday; Miss Nadine Pyke in 1 Blue; Miss Emma Cassidy in 2 Red and Mr Liam Bromilow in 7 Red. Please make these new members of staff welcome in our school community.

New school hats are now available from the Uniform Shop. Because of the lack of availability we have allowed students to wear a non-uniform hat. However, from Monday 18 February we will require all students to wear the school hat when on the playground. Our Sun Safe rule is, as always, no hat; no play.

I would like to thank parents for their promptness and patience at pick up in the afternoons. We ask parents to ensure that your child/children is/are picked up by 3.15pm. After this time we will be ringing you to determine how your child will be going home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Best wishes for the coming week

Veronica Lawson

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Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government's Get In the Game initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level. Get Started assists children and young people who can least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club.

Eligible children and young people can apply online for a voucher valued up to $150 online, which can be redeemed at a sport or recreation club registered with Get Started.

The vouchers for eligible children and young people will be available from 9am on 15th January 2013. The funding will be distributed in two rounds each year on a first come, first serve basis. Round one applications close on the 15th April 2012.

Eligible sport and recreation clubs can register for Get Started now.

RE NEWS  Mrs Natalie Tugliach APRE

Last Friday I was fortunate enough to be included in the viewing of Remember the Titans with one of our year 7 classes. The students in 7W have been reflecting on what it means to truly get to know someone and how to live and work together. I have been impressed with the ideas they have expressed. Fortunately for our school community 7W are presenting assembly prayer this Friday to share the powerful message they have learnt with us.

On Friday I am meeting with other APRE’s within Brisbane Catholic Education to learn more about the new Religion curriculum. I look forward to this day and being able to support teachers to use this exciting new resource.

Next week we have two celebrations. On Wednesday we will celebrate Ash Wednesday and National Apology Day. This will be at 8.45am in the hall. On Friday Fr Roger will celebrate Mass in our hall. We will welcome our prep students, new staff and new students and we will commission our Year 7 leaders. I invite all families to this special celebration.

Over the past week I have enjoyed working with staff and students. I welcome Liam Bromilow, Emma Cassidy and Nadine Pyke to our team. They have fitted into the community nicely. I look forward working with them and seeing what time, talent and treasure they have to share with the St Francis Xavier community.

I hope you all have a wonderful week. Take care and God bless. Natalie

FROM THE DESK OF THE APA  Mrs Michaela Lewis APA

Dear Parents and Caregivers, **Teacher Induction**: This week, I have worked with our new teachers: Mr Liam Bromilow, Year 7, Miss Emma Cassidy, Year 2, Miss Nadine Pyke, Year 1 and Ms Kaylene Forrester, Support Teacher, on an induction program to help them find out more about our school and our processes. We welcome these teachers and hope that their time at St Francis Xavier is happy and professionally fulfilling.

**Swimming for 2013**: This year we will be offering a Swimming Program for children from Years P-3. A letter will come home outlining the details of the program. To help parents with forward planning, the basic information is as follows.

**Who**: Years P-3

**Cost**: $88

**Venue**: Waterworx

**Payment method**: Full payment is preferred method. There will be a payment plan available at the start of Term 2. Full payment is required before the commencement of the lesson block. Thank you.

**Format**: Block of 8 lessons, 2 weeks x Mon-Thursday

**Dates**: Term 3: 9th-12th, 16-19th September.

I have been working with Year 2 as part of the Reading to Learn program and it has been great to see the children settling into their work and routines.

Wishing you a safe and happy week with your family,
Michaela

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS  We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of the grandmother of Lara and Ashleigh Goodwin. Please keep the Goodwin family in your prayers at this time.
THE ARTS Sue Vassella

Students are invited to be involved in these extracurricular groups at St Francis Xavier in 2013. All rehearsals are free of charge, and held in the music room. Permission slips will be sent home with students this week, and are to be returned by Friday 15th February.

Junior Choir for years 2-4. Wednesday 11.00-11.20am. The choir hope to perform at school for assembly, cushion concerts, Art Show and the Carnival. Students are invited to trial choir for Term 1. Emphasis on fun and unison singing.

Guitar Group All year levels. Tuesday 11.00-11.20. The guitar group hope to perform at school for assembly, cushion concerts, Art Show and Carnival. Students must have their own acoustic guitar. This group is a club— not lessons; but no prior experience is necessary.

CHORC: Year 5-7. This is a combination of singing and playing instruments. This group will perform outside the school, and so students need to be committed to learning repertoire to a high standard. There is a small cost for bus transport later in the year. Our school hopes to host the Catholic Schools Choral Festival in August, and CHORC will participate in that evening concert. CHORC also perform at school functions such as assembly, cushion concerts, Art Show and the Carnival. This is a non-auditioned group.

Samoan Dance Troupe: Students who have a Samoan/Maori heritage are welcome to join this dance group that will rehearse on Friday at 1.30 with Mrs Anna Timu (parent volunteer). This group hopes to perform at the Art Show in week 8. Practices will be offered in Term 1.

SPORTS NEWS Michael Thomson

Brittany Higgins, Elijah Ventayen, Francesco Ro, Nicholas Rumpf, Benjamin Deutscher, Kiara Ferris will be representing our school at the Central District Swimming Carnival next Tuesday at Bundamba Pool. We wish them the best of luck in this competition. Check out the sports board to learn more about our team.

Health Club has started and will run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8.00am. Join in the fun and enjoy getting fit and healthy with your friends.

LIBRARY NEWS Bernadette Hunt & Debbie Kenny

Students will begin borrowing from Monday 11th February. Each class has a different borrowing day so please check with your child or teacher as to what day they will come to the library. To borrow the students MUST have a waterproof library bag. These are available through the uniform shop and were on their book lists.

Please make sure these bags are clearly named. Please encourage your children to take good care of the books they borrow from school as any books lost or damaged need to be paid for. We hope your children catch the reading bug this year and we encourage them to borrow a variety of books from us.

Book Club News Book club forms were sent home this week. Book club comes twice a term with a variety of books and gift items to buy. We have strict closing dates each time so please keep an eye on the newsletter for these dates. The closing date is Friday 15th February. All monies and order forms need to be returned to the office by that date. Once the books have come in they will be sent to your child’s classroom. If you want to order things from book club that you don’t want sent to the classroom (maybe birthday presents) please put a note on the order form with your contact details & we will let you know when they come in.

TUCKSHOP Anna Timu, Tuckshop Convener

Welcome back to another year. I hope that you and your child/children have had an awesome start to 2013. To all who would like to volunteer in the tuckshop on Friday please come in and see me to update your details. To those parents who would like to help and it’s your first time volunteering, please collect a volunteer pack from the office and then come in and see me in the tuckshop. Details on how to log on to the Flexischools will be attached to the newsletter this week. Good Luck! Please let me know if you are having difficulties logging on. If you do not have access to a computer please send in your child/children's lunch order to the office. ALL orders must be in by THURSDAY thank you for your cooperation.