Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our P&F this week have organised a Disco for our students on Friday 8 March from 6pm to 8pm in McAuley Centre. Hot food and drinks will be available. Please remember that when you are ordering tuckshop there are two ways you can do this: 1. Online at www.flexischools.com.au and 2. Using the paper bag system – writing your order on the paper bag and enclosing the money inside the bag. Please be aware that the deadline for both the above methods is Thursday morning. Paper bags can be purchased from your local supermarket – please endeavour to write the order on the bag prior to dropping it off at the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Federal Government Review of School Funding
The Federal Government is currently reviewing the way schools in Australia are funded (the Gonski Review). As part of this process a new funding model has been proposed, and this is now the subject of discussions between the Federal government and State governments, and the Catholic and Independent schooling sectors. Details of the proposed funding model at this stage remain unknown, and so the funding Catholic school students might receive under any new model is very unclear. However, with a Federal election due later this year, and no new funding arrangements yet confirmed for 2014 and beyond, school funding will continue to be an important issue for all political parties and for public debate. In the lead-up to the review process, Catholic school authorities asked the Federal Government for additional funding to close the funding gap between Catholic schools and government schools. On average, Catholic school students currently receive 20 per cent less government funding than if they attended government schools. Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible so that more families can choose a Catholic school for their children. Even when school fees paid by parents are included, Catholic schools, on average, operate with only about 90 per cent of the income of government schools. If Catholic school funding is frozen, reduced or fails to keep pace with government school funding, Catholic schools may be forced to increase their school fees. If fees go up, the extra cost may lead to parents taking their children out of Catholic schools, and in turn put further pressure on government schools and cost government more money. To make sure this does not happen, it is important that governments fund Catholic schools fairly into the future. Catholic school authorities recognise the vital importance of this situation for families and will provide more information as it becomes available from the National Catholic Education Commission. For further information on Catholic school funding please visit fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au or view a video on Catholic school funding.

Veronica Lawson, Principal

CLASS AWARDS
How children have shown care to each other


KWC

Teimana Goundar, Alanis Tino, Jai Carson, Logan Cheung, Zahra Hair, Thomas Vakauta, Harmony Sims, Nikano Batista, Rhylee-ann Mackel, Cher Deng, Eli Laidlaw, Mary Deng Raeanna Johnson, Antonela Cruz, Taylor Hawkins
**RE NEWS**  Mrs Natalie Tugliach APRE On Monday Mrs Lawson and I met with Paul McQuillan from BCE to discuss our results from the Enhancing Catholic School Identity survey we participated in last year. The results are promising for building a Mercy charism in our school and we look forward to sharing recommendations with the school community throughout the coming year.

Thank you to families who supported the Fish Finger day on Wednesday. What a cooking session it was. Mr Seguna, the Mini Vinnies group and band of helpful staff, cooked, wrapped and bagged many, many fish finger sandwiches. From this event we raised about $600 toward Project Compassion.

As we move into March, we move to a new Christian Behaviour Focus. This month we will be teaching and learning about compassion. Compassion is having kind feelings toward someone who is hurt or troubled. It is caring deeply and wanting to help, even if you don’t know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you.

On Wednesday evening Sr Veronica spent time teaching staff about Catherine McAuley and the journey of the Mercy sisters. It was a very informative evening. To find out more about the Sisters of Mercy and to better understand their mission, was made all the more meaningful coming from Sr Veronica who is a great example of mercy at work. Compassion is a behaviour we all strive for in our daily lives. Through the month of March we will make links to the Mercy Sisters and at St Francis Xavier, follow in their footsteps.

Year 5/6W and Year 6 are presenting assembly prayer tomorrow. All families are welcome at assembly. Because of the art show set up, we will not be having an assembly next week.

A reminder that the school and youth Mass is this Sunday at St Francis Xavier Church at 9am. It would be great to see more school families at this mass. As an offertory we are asking for a can as a donation. If you can bring this to school tomorrow (Friday) that would be great. It would be nice if our school could make a contribution to the St Vincent DePaul society in this small way. Take care and God bless Natalie

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE APA**  Mrs Michaela Lewis APA

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it but that it is too low and we reach it.” Michael Angelo.

**Art Show**  Michael Angelo was a wonderful artist and a great thinker. Our students are currently preparing for our annual Art Show. The show is themed ‘Arty-facts: Art through time’ and the students are aiming high and producing beautiful pieces of art work for the show. We hope you can attend this event on 18th March, 5-7pm in the McAuley Centre.

**Reading To Learn**  Mrs Parker, Mr Bromilow, Miss Knappick and myself will attend our second set of training days in the Reading to Learn Course this week. We will be trying out some strategies with children from local schools. It should be interesting to meet other students and see how the strategies can be implemented in our own context.

**Bug Club**  Has your child caught the Reading Bug yet? Some classes will be participating in a trial of an online Home Reading scheme. The class teacher nominates the levels of reading books for each child per week, and the students read the books online at home and complete the activities. This program will move further through the lower school after the trial period. Thank you to Miss Knappick, Yr 2, for her work in co-ordinating the program. Wishing you a safe and hopefully drier week, Michaela

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**Enrolments for Prep 2014 at St Francis Xavier School**

All families with children to commence either Prep or Year One in 2014 are invited to collect an Enrolment Application Form from the School Office or contact the Office on 3818 0100 to have one posted out. If you know of anyone in the wider community who may be interested in enrolling their child in our school, please ask them to contact the School Office on 3818 0100 for information or for Enrolment Forms. Remember the school website www.stfrancisxavier.qld.edu.au


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**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Your prayerful support is requested for the family of Joseph Basubas. Joseph’s grandmother passed away last week. At this time of sadness and loss we remember those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.
Dear Parents and Caregivers, Choosing the Right Reading Material for Your Child
Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are “just right.” But how do you find a “just right” book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that they cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your child feel successful.

Five Ways to Encourage Reading in Your Home. Sport inspires not only health and fitness, but also reading. Encourage kids to keep track of favourite teams by reading news stories and also by reading and collecting trading cards. Get a new board game for the family and have your child read the instructions then explain to everyone how to play it. Joke books, the funny pages and humorous stories are great for everyday reading. Encourage your child to share the jokes that they read. Songs make great reading text. Encourage kids to read the lyrics of the songs they like. Also, look for books based on songs to read and use for sing-a-longs. It doesn’t have to be a special occasion to cook something interesting and delicious—and to read with purpose. Older kids may be able to help out by fixing family meals or snacks and younger ones can read recipes and follow directions with you. Monique

Sports News – Michael Thomson – Congratulations to the 3 students that represented Central District at last week’s Met West swimming trials. I hope all of you enjoyed the experience. It is a very busy time in our district for sport at the moment. We have a number of students that have been trialling or are nominated to trial for different Central District sports over the next few weeks. I would like to wish them all luck and would like to thanks parents for transporting their children to these trials. At school we currently are running a Year 6 & 7 Basketball competition at lunch times. I can tell you that the standard has been quite good and the support has been even better. Starting next week those girls that nominated for Catholic Schools Netball will start their training during lunch times. Students will be informed of their training times so please make sure you are showing up to your training for your chance to represent the school in such a fantastic event. Training for AFL, Rugby League, and Soccer will begin either late this term or at the start of Term 2. Our school Cross Country is scheduled for Friday March 15 from 9am to 10:30am. Parents are more than welcome to come along and cheer the students along. A timetable is as follows: 9:00 – 12/13yrs (born 2000/01) - 1.4km 9:10 – 11yrs (born 2002) - 1.4 km 9:20 - 10yrs – 1.4km 9:30 – yr 4 (born 2004) – 1.4km 9:45 – yr 3 – 1km 9:55 – yr 2 – 600m 10:05 – yr 1 – 600m 10:15 – Prep – 300m Please remember that a number of year 4 students will be racing in the 10yrs age group.

Upcoming sporting events: Friday March 15 – SFX Cross Country Friday April 26 – Central District Cross Country (Woodcrest State College)
Monday May 20 – Catholic Cup Netball (Downey Park)
Thursday May 23 – Brisbane Lions AFL Cup (Yeronga AFL Club)
Friday May 24, 31, & June 14 – Central District Gala Days for Rugby League, Netball and Soccer
Friday June 21 – SFX Athletics Carnival for years 2-7 (Evan Marginson Oval)

THE ARTS Sue Vassella A note will go home this Friday advising students in the choirs and dance groups at the details of their performances at the Art Show on March 18th. The guitar group will not perform at the Art Show- we require a bit more rehearsal- but hope to perform at an assembly in the near future.

St Peter Claver College We would like to urge parents who seek enrolment for 2014 to lodge their applications by 3 May 2013 as applications received by that date will be considered first and we generally receive more applications than places available. Enrolment applications will still be taken after that date, however priority will be given to applications received by 3 May 2013.

TUCKSHOP Anna Timu, Tuckshop Convenor (Phone 3818 0033) Parents are reminded if your child is ordering via Brown Bag, that all orders are to be into the office on Thursday morning. Having difficulties with registering on Flexischools? Just ring 1300 361 769 and Flexischools will assist you the process. Volunteers are needed to help in the tuckshop so if you feel that you’re up for the challenge come in and see me in the Tuckshop or leave your details in the office and I will contact you. Volunteers for Friday 8/03/2013 are: Shona Schick, Megan Kinder, Lucia Brose, Chrissy Peters, Ina Salapo, Jacinta Anae, Maria Adam and Danielle Bosse, Sally Warner and volunteers for 15/03/2013 are: Megan Low, Megan Kinder, Shona Schick, Chrissy Peters, Rachael Grant, Ina Salapo, Jacinta Anae. Thank you.
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Printed September 2012