Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The media has reported extensively the negotiations that continue between the Federal and State governments and with the Catholic and Independent sectors regarding future school funding. The Gonski funding model remains under negotiation, however the following statement from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission provides an update of the progress being made and as further information comes to hand, we will pass this onto parents. Outcomes of Gonski still unclear for Queensland Catholic Schools.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said: “While the QCEC welcomes the Federal government’s commitment of an additional $1.4billion funding for Australian Catholic schools (indexed over six years), there are still a number of unknowns to be worked through before we can develop a definitive position on the Gonski funding model. QCEC continues to do detailed modelling work to validate the figures provided by the Department (DEEWR) and assess the impact for the Queensland Catholic sector share of the additional funds. The funding position of Catholic schools comparative to other schooling sectors is also critical to assessing the model, and we are not yet aware of the details of modelling carried out by the Independent and Government schooling sectors. In this respect, I commend Premier Campbell Newman for forming a group comprising the Catholic, State and Independent schooling sectors and senior government officials, that will review the proposed funding model and help inform the State Government prior to the 30 June decision deadline. The final outcome that the Gonski model would deliver for Catholic schools in Queensland is also dependant on a significant injection of funding from the State Government.”

QCEC is committed to ongoing negotiations with both State and Federal governments to achieve an equitable funding outcome for Catholic schools.

I would like to remind you that the car park adjacent to the Administration Building is reserved for staff and parish only. Parking is available on Church Street and Mercy Lane. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

We are excited to inform you that we are taking a new approach to the way we communicate with parents. We will now offer interactive, graphically rich, full colour electronic newsletters, delivered directly to your inbox. We have partnered with Austnews to produce this service free of charge to the school, with the kind support of our local businesses. A link to our newsletter will be emailed to you each Thursday morning. Please ensure that we have your current email address. For those parents with no internet access copies of our newsletter will be available from the school office after 2pm each Thursday.

Finally we do have access to an SMS service. We will utilise this service on the occasion when there is a need to send urgent/important information to you.

Best wishes for the coming week

Veronica Lawson, Principal

UNIFORM SHOP
Friday mornings
8.00am to 9.30am
sfx.uniformshop@hotmail.com

CLASS AWARDS How children have shown care to each other

KWC
Abbie Oestreich, Taylor –Rose Dau, Jay Clark, Marisa Saengrat, Jara Carlo, Drucilla Jimenez, Charlize Hoang, Emma Beer, Riva Hansen, Codie Fuller, Lola Cochrane, Kristin Benn, Kelly Chong-Nee, Marcus Hawkins, Bayleigh Busby, Reagan Garner

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RE NEWS  Mrs Natalie Tugliach APRE SFX St Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal: Care, Comfort, Compassion and Commitment = The Face Of Jesus Winter is a time where rain and cold make life uncomfortable for many in our community. Luckily for us during the cold days at school we have a jumper, scarf, stockings, beanies, socks, slippers and gloves to wear. We have a nice house with heaters and blankets. Most importantly we will have warm food and drinks. Unfortunately for many people in our local community these things are not accessible. These are the people that we can help this winter through St Vincent De Paul’s Winter Appeal. Our mission this term is to show care, comfort, compassion and commitment to being the face of Jesus by praying and donating canned foods, drinks and blankets. Each class will have a Henry Hamper Box to put donations into. Mr Seguna and the Mini Vinnies Team will be facilitating the Winter Appeal. As they created a symbol for Project Compassion they will be building the Face of God with a special message each week. Students may bring in donations at any time.

Mother’s Day is this Sunday. We wish all our Mothers a wonderful day. We pray: God, please bless our mothers; They give life and they give love to every happy child you grant them from above. Their lot is not an easy one. They must be patient, wise and kind; And they must often “do without”, and never seem to mind. A good mum is very near a saint. She is worthy of our praise. Lord, bless and keep our mothers: They demonstrate God’s ways. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen. Year 1 will be presenting Mother’s Day prayer assembly. All families are invited to attend. A reminder also of the mother’s day stall being held in the hall tomorrow. There is nothing over $5 and there are some great gifts for the children to choose from. All classes will go on a roster throughout the day. Natalie

Happy Mother’s Day!

FROM THE DESK OF THE APA Mrs Michaela Lewis
Dear Parents and Caregivers, I hope your week has been going well. Our school offers the children an interesting variety of activities. As well as the many sporting events that are currently happening, the children participate in cultural events also. Just recently, the Year 2 classes have visited our local war memorial, Year 5 and 6 have seen the musical ‘Oliver’ at St Laurence’s College and Year 3 have entertained the residents of Riverview Gardens. On Tuesday, all children viewed a presentation from Queensland Rail on ‘Railway Safety’. Thank you to the teachers for organising these events for the students. NAPLAN: On Tuesday, 14th, Wednesday, 15th and Thursday, 16th May, the children in Years 3, 5 and 7 will participate in the NAPLAN tests. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their children have a good night’s sleep and a nourishing breakfast before the tests. It is very important that the children arrive at school on time on the test days and that they have a lead pencil (2B if possible) and an eraser. Year 7 students need a calculator for part of the Maths test. Promoting Safe Behaviours: Due to the large section on curriculum this week, I will continue the safe behaviours information next week. Curriculum News: With Term 2 well underway, it is time to see what is happening in the classes in terms of curriculum. Thank you to the teachers for writing the paragraphs that follow my section. I like to read the signs outside churches and schools and this one caught my eye: “Don’t count the days, make the days count!”

Curriculum News: Term 2. Year 1 In Year 1 this term we are working very hard to write our own recounts of events and stories which we have experienced. We are using these skills to help sequence events in our own lives and to order objects and events into past and present for our History unit. In science, we have all become scientists who look at and study the sky to make predictions about the weather. We are also learning about the importance of the sun and how the Earth moves to create day and night. We are practising our counting all the time and can count in 1’s, 10’s, 5’s and 2’s. Our adding and subtraction is getting better as we learn about adding on and making groups of numbers. We are learning about the different shapes we can see around us and that there are 2D and 3D shapes everywhere! We are learning about making predictions and whether an event is likely, unlikely, certain or impossible to happen. We really enjoy listening to scriptures from the Bible because they teach us how to be more like Jesus. Our days are so full it is hard to imagine how we fit it all in, but we are all such hard workers we even find time to learn how to become better readers, writers, counters, listeners and speakers.

Year 2 This term in Year 2 we are discovering the different uses of water in the home and at school. Our genre focus is descriptive writing. We will be using characters from different movies and stories as our stimulus. We are continuing to work on our addition and subtraction strategies as well as extending our knowledge of numbers beyond 100. In History we are exploring a local site of significance – the Goodna War Memorial. In Religion we are familiarising ourselves with the Bible and learning its significance. We are also looking at the importance of personal hygiene in our Health unit.

Year 3 English: The children will be continuing to practise persuasive writing preparation for NAPLAN. After week 5, students will be exposed to the narrative genre and will be producing a script to accompany their shadow puppet presentations. Maths: This term, children will be continuing to work on word problems in combination with the six strands. We will begin an investigation using concrete materials to become familiar with standard units of measurement of length. History: During History lessons, students will be working in small groups to carry out research regarding styles of transport. Science: Our Science focus will be on the chemical changes caused by heating and cooling. Health: In Health, we are learning about personal health and hygiene.

Year 4 In Year 4 this term, we are excited to be learning about biographies! We will be researching a notable Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and creating a biography about their life and achievements. In Science, we are learning about erosion and how we can help to prevent it in the future. In History we are discussing the relationship between Aboriginal people and the Earth. We will be looking at traditional uses of the land. We are learning lots of fun things in Maths! We’ve been working on a measurement unit and are about to begin chance and data. We’re also continuing to learn our basic facts and getting faster with our multiplication. In the Arts we are looking at drama and media, using our new class cameras to capture images of erosion in our local community. In Religion we are continuing to go to Mass on a Thursday, and studying the parts of the Mass in class. We will also be looking at making moral choices and how to choose between right and wrong. Finally, in Health we are discussing personal safety and factors that impact upon this. We are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable term!
FROM THE DESK OF THE APA

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FROM THE DESK OF THE APA continued

Year Five In Year 5 this term we will be completing our journey towards NAPLAN and beginning new units of work. In English, we will be working through the genre of historical recounts, and this aligns well with our History focus of early settlement in Australia – from the First Fleet’s arrival through to the Gold Rush. Science sees us finishing up our chemical sciences unit, which focused on reversible and irreversible changes as well as the structure and functions of plants. We will then be moving on to discovering the way that plants are able to adapt their structures to the hot conditions of deserts around the world. In Religion we will be exploring the Ten Commandments and their meaning in our lives today; we will also look at Jesus’ eleventh commandment of compassion, which he taught to us through his ministry. In Health we will be looking at safe and unsafe behaviours, with particular emphasis placed on how we react to situations that we face in our own lives. The focus for The Arts this term is drama – the children will explore how to convey a character through vocal and facial expression, and gesture and movement.

Year 5/6 and Year 6 This term the students will have the opportunity to explore the language features used by famous children’s author Paul Jennings. Students will demonstrate their understanding about the work done by Paul through an individual text response and a scripted drama task outlining what elements of writing he would want in a scripted performance. In History we will explore reasons why focus groups migrated to Australia after the Second World War. Emphasis will be on the Chinese during the Eureka Stockade. Students will look at the Church’s mission and how that mission is portrayed through belief statements located in the Apostle’s and the Nicene Creeds. The students will also grow in their understanding and acceptance of a multicultural society by exploring different religions from around the world. In science the focus is on biological sciences with a focus on native Australian flora and introduced plant species. Learning will also centre round how plants may need to adapt to new environments. The inquiry question in health studies will be, “How can we make the right choices to keep ourselves safe?” We will delve into sun, water, road, bike, alcohol/medicines and internet safety.

This term, Year 7 will extend our History discovery into Ancient Egypt. In Science we will be using our science inquiry skills to investigate mixtures and solutions and separating these using a range of techniques. In Mathematics we will continue our quest to find the equivalence between decimals, fractions, percentage and explore the ‘best buy’ with money. We will be exploring Carole Wilkinson’s novel ‘Ramose: Prince in Exile’ in English, creating a character description and writing the book’s missing chapters.

In Religion we will investigate ‘how can something written so long ago still matter today?’ Enjoy the week, Michaela

Little Bytes from eMouse If you’re a parent in Year 1-3, you might have noticed that home reading is looking a bit different lately! These children are using Bug Club, an online, interactive home reading system. Bug Club is an engaging way to help your children read at home. They can read the story aloud, or have the computer read it to them if they are unsure. There are also interactive activities which your child can complete to show their understanding of the story.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS You are asked to remember in your prayers the paternal grandmother of Amber, Bronson and Alani Bateman who died recently. Prayer is a wonderful way of supporting families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

The P&F Executive are pleased to announce that Sonya Nordling was voted in as Treasurer at the last P&F Meeting. If you would like to keep informed of what is happening with the P&F, please email sfxpfc@hotmail.com requesting that you be added to the email address list.

Our Multicultural Spring Fair is on Sunday, 15 September and we would like to ask various cultural groups to become involved. If you know of any cultural groups who might be interested, please email sfxpfc@hotmail.com. There is also a request for assistance form on the Parents and Friends section of the school’s website for parents to complete.

Reminder Mother’s Day stall on Friday 10 May

TUCKSHOP Anna Timu, Tuckshop Convenor (Phone 3818 0033) 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. Volunteers for Friday 10th May 2013 are: Megan Low, Jacinta Anae, Shona Schick, Megan Kinder, Natalie Nona Ottila Timu and Sally Warner. Thank you.

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 Children ready for Prep in 2014 must be born between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009. Enrolments close on 10 May 2013.