Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank You

Firstly, I begin with a very big thank you to Ms Gaviglio for stepping in at such short notice to ensure pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) and our Ash Wednesday liturgy went without issue. Both ran very smoothly and big thank you must go to the parents who cooked our pancakes and to the Year 6 children who set up the hall for the last minute venue change for our liturgy.

New Member of Our St Francis Xavier Family

And so why did Karen have to step in, some of you might ask? Amanda, our APRE went early and delivered a beautiful little baby girl named Mia. As she is premature, she will need to stay in hospital for a few weeks. But both mum and bub are doing well. We wish Mandy and husband Griff, joy, happiness and peaceful nights with baby Mia.

New Acting APRE

This then means that Karen will take on the position of Acting APRE while Mandy is on maternity leave. This is a role that Karen has done a number of times in her career. We are very grateful to Karen for so graciously accepting this position.

P & F 2018

Last week, we had our P & F AGM and first meeting for the year. Congratulations to Tracy Anderson who was once again voted in as President, Tracey Steindl, who returns to the position of Treasurer, Michelle King, also returning as Vice President and Krysten Butcher who accepted the position of Secretary as Odette Langham stood down from the role this year. We thank these wonderful people for accepting these roles and the responsibilities that accompany them. Thank you also to Melissa Figlia who accepted the position of events co-ordinator.

TERM ONE WEEK 4
Friday 16 February, 2018
Senior Playground
You may have noticed that our senior playground is finally underway. This will be for the Year 4 – 6 children and there is growing excitement around it.

Respecting Our Neighbours
You may have been in the school this week when we paged over on two separate occasions for cars to be moved from blocking our neighbours’ driveways in Holland Street. As a school, we work hard at maintaining a positive harmonious relationship with our neighbours. One of the ways in which we ask parents/carers to support us is to respect our neighbour’s by ensuring that we never block or partially block their driveways. I understand that parking can sometimes be a challenge around the school but there is no excuse to park in or across our neighbour’s driveway.

Teacher Availability Times
Teachers’ time before school is extremely limited as they are involved in supervision from 8.15am, therefore an interview at this time is inappropriate. If you are simply explaining a change in who picks up your child or a brief message, this is fine. Teachers are always open to meeting with parents, however, an interview time which mutually suits both parents and teacher needs to be arranged. Please email the class teacher directly to organise any meetings so that full attention can be given to those concerned.

Have a wonderful weekend,

God Bless.

Olivia Rostirolla

FROM the Acting Assistant Principal
APRE
Karen Gaviglio

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 14 February was Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent—a season in the Church year that focuses on reflection, prayer and service as we prepare for Easter. The Church prepares for Easter by inviting all people to examine their hearts carefully by praying, fasting and giving to others during Lent. At St Francis Xavier, the children attended a liturgy for Ash Wednesday where they received the ashes (from the palm leaves used last year in Palm Sunday celebrations) and have discussed how they are going to prepare for Easter through prayer and giving to others during Lent.

Staff Car Park – Near Miss!!!
This week one of our staff received a terrible fright when backing into a space in the Staff Car Park behind the library. As she was reversing (quite a large vehicle), a parent and her child walked behind the car to access the school through the car park. This left our staff member with a racing heart knowing that this decision by the parent could have ended quite badly. I ask that all parents walk a further 15 meters or so and access the side gate to enter the school grounds. This is for the SAFETY of our children. Thank you for your co-operation.

Teacher Availability Times
Teachers’ time before school is extremely limited as they are involved in supervision from 8.15am, therefore an interview at this time is inappropriate. If you are simply explaining a change in who picks up your child or a brief message, this is fine. Teachers are always open to meeting with parents, however, an interview time which mutually suits both parents and teacher needs to be arranged. Please email the class teacher directly to organise any meetings so that full attention can be given to those concerned.

Have a wonderful weekend,

God Bless.

Olivia Rostirolla
As you know, our school participates in the Project Compassion appeal for Caritas. For the Lenten season this year, the whole school will be participating in “Chickens for Caritas!” to raise money to buy chickens for families in need.

The details:
1 Chicken = $15

Each class will be competing against the rest of the school to raise money to go towards the appeal.

The class with the most money will be able to choose from some of our awesome staff volunteers to perform a special “chicken dance” show at the end of term.

There will be a display in the library to show the progress of money raised over Lent.

We ask that instead of simply donating money, the children are to earn the money by doing (age appropriate) jobs around the house. This way, the children can make a connection between how there are children, as young as they are, working hard to survive and support their families.

SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOPS FOR LENT:
Fr. John Daly is a priest of our Diocese and for 48 years ministered in many parishes. He has recently retired as Parish Priest of Bundaberg. Fr. John has studied Spirituality and until recently also been the Director of Clergy Life and Ministry. He has offered to come to Mackay for two weeks from February 26th to lead workshops and talks on two areas of spirituality; a spirituality for the elderly and a spirituality of Lent especially in the light of changes to our parishes. He has tried to make himself available in as many centres as possible and all are welcome to attend any of his sessions at any place they desire. The dates of his sessions are as follows:

Workshop I: “Growing Older Gracefully, the gift of Years.” In this workshop Fr. John will focus on the Spirituality of Ageing, the gifts that come to us during this time of growing older, and the place of prayer and faith. Anyone coming to this workshop is invited to bring photos of their younger days (e.g. as a child or wedding photo) as there will be time for storytelling.

Wednesday Feb 28th  Time: 10am to Midday
Venue: St., Mary’s Parish Centre.
Friday March 2nd  Time: 10am till Midday
Venue: St. Joseph’s North Mackay Parish Centre.

Workshop II: “Lenten Spirituality in the Context of our Individual and Parish Life.” In this workshop Fr John will focus on the pilgrimage we make form Ash Wednesday to Easter and how it connects to what is happening in our faith communities, our families and our lives as individuals.

Thursday March 1st: Time 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: St. John’s, Walkerston.
Tuesday March 6th Time: 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: Holy Rosary Church, Marian.
Wednesday March 7th Time 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: St. Brigid’s Parish.
Thursday March 8th Time 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: St. Michael’s Parish Centre.

An indication of your attendance would be helpful by email at cluster@smky.catholics.org.au

FROM the Assistant Principal
CURRICULUM/PE
Julie-Anne Brieffies

WATCH THIS SPACE

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS for PREP—YEAR 6
Prep—Year 6 teachers will be holding their parent/teacher interviews in weeks 9 & 10, Term 1. All appointment times will be booked through Parent Lounge. Please check to make sure you are able to access Parent Lounge before the interview dates.

Our parish family needs help to clean the outside church windows.
Trestles will be available to use.
When: Saturday 24th March 2018
If you are available to help please leave your name at the school or phone: 49511861.
Enrolments for Prep are currently being taken for the 2019 school year. If you have a child due to commence Prep next year born July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 please complete an enrolment form available from the school office or download from the school’s website. Enrolments for Years 1—6 are also currently being taken for 2019. When returning the enrolment form, please ensure there is a certified copy of your child’s birth certificate, baptismal certificate & immunisation info. It is essential that we have our current families accounted for so that we know the number of places available for new families.

St Francis Xavier has registered for the 2018 Coles Sports for Schools program. Now all you have to do is collect as many vouchers as you can from 7 February to 15 June. This is how it works:

Step 1: For every $10 spent at Coles you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher.

Step 2: Bring your vouchers to school and place them in the collection box in the office.

Step 3: Every voucher received will go towards a tally. St Francis Xavier will then be able to order the sports equipment to the value of the vouchers.

On Monday, the Year 3’s were treated to a highly entertaining and thoroughly professional performance by The Safety Circus. The troupe of circus performers from CQ University, along with Sergeant Nigel Dalton, sang and danced their way to delivering some key safety messages including strategies to handle bullying, the necessity of wearing helmets when riding or skateboarding and who they should include in their safety network.

On Tuesday to help to help our learning of the letter “T”, the Prep students enjoyed a Teddy Bear’s Picnic! We each brought our favourite teddies from home which we shared, laughed and played with. We made Teddy Bear crowns, painted pictures of our teddies, played with them on the playground and ate our lunch with them!

Start collecting Coles Sports for Schools vouchers today!

Start collecting NOW!
**SUPPORTERS POLOS**

We have parent supporter shirts available for purchase for any parents who may be interested. The cost for the shirts will be $43.00. These shirts are available for sizing from the office. The shirt MUST be paid for by cash on ordering. The shirts will be ordered in 10 shirt orders. (There is a 6 week turn around) Thank you.

**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fees were sent out to families this week. If you did not receive your account, please contact Pauline.

Payment due on or before Friday 2 March, 2018.

Payments can be made in Cash, EFTPOS, Cheque, Credit Card, Direct Debit, BPAY or Internet Banking.

Internet Banking details as follows:

- A/C: St Francis Xavier School
- BSB: 034-210
- ACCOUNT: 811093
- REFERENCE: Account code at top right hand corner of invoice.

PROMPT payment would be appreciated.

Pauline Hyde—Finance Secretary

**SCHOOL DISCO**

**DISCO**

**FRIDAY 9 MARCH, 2018**

**Theme:** “FLUORO”

**TIME:** 6.00PM—7.30PM

**ENTRY FEE:** $5.00

**WHERE:** Undercover area

Lucky Door, Raffles, Best Dressed, Food & Drinks & Glow items on sale. Will be preselling tickets the week of the disco in the Undercover area.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

**WEEK FIVE**

Monday 19 Feb: Daniel Doran & Kristelle Lamb
Tuesday 20 Feb: Suzanne Skippen & Leanne Daly
Wednesday 21 Feb: SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Thursday 22 Feb: Haley Molloy
Friday 23 Feb: Michelle Kester
INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL  
Inter-house Swimming Carnival  
Years 1-6  
Wednesday 21 February, 2018

The inter-house swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 21st February at the Pioneer Pool, North Mackay.

Organisation of the students for the swimming carnival will be different this year. Please read the following so you are fully aware of procedures.

ORGANISATION of the day
Students from Years 1-3 (along with the school captains, house captains and SRC representatives from Year 6) will depart the school at 8.45am and marshalling for the kickboard event will begin from 9.00am.

Students in Years 4-6 will depart the school grounds from 10.30am. Events for seniors should begin around 11.30 (please note if we are running ahead of time we will begin events earlier).

It is hoped that this arrangement will assist teachers with getting little people to their events without being too overwhelmed by the fast-paced, noisy atmosphere of the swimming carnival. It will also keep the children out of the sun for as long as possible, as the carnival is a little bit earlier in the year.

Students in Years 1-3 will compete in their year level. Once the Junior 25m events conclude, Year 1-3 students will return to school (approx. 11.15).

Students from Year 4-6 will compete in age groups. Age champions will be awarded to Under 10’s, Under 11’s and Opens (12 and 13 years combined).

Senior students will be transported by bus at 2.15 from the pool back to school.

EARLY DEPARTURE
If you choose to take your child earlier from the carnival you MUST see your child’s classroom teacher prior to departure, so your child can be marked off the role.

FOOD
Children will need to bring along sufficient food and water to see them through the day. Pool canteen will not be accessed until 11.30am.

Please note: The school tuckshop will not be open at school on that day.

WHAT TO WEAR?
Children come to school dressed in their togs and house polo shirt. Please ensure students in years 1-3 have a change of clothing (don’t forget the knickers and the jocks!).

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED, INCLUDING SHOES!

SWIMMING CAPS
These will be handed out to the swimmers before their race. Caps assist the officials in identifying the students while they are in the pool. All caps will be collected at the end of the day.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS
Students in Years 1-3 will be seated on the grassed area under the tents. We ask parents please DO NOT sit in this area as it will be a tight squeeze trying to fit all of the students in the shade. Parents/spectators may sit at the covered tables next to the grand stand. When the years 4-6 students arrive, they will sit on the grand stand in their houses.

WADING AREA
No Children are allowed in the wading pool at any time throughout the day whether school students or younger siblings. Please ensure this is followed as reminders on the day reduces staff capacity needed in other areas.

ORDER OF EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Carnival (YEARS 1-3)</th>
<th>Senior Carnival (YEARS 4-6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25m Kickboard</td>
<td>25m Freestyle (beginning with under 9’s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25m Freestyle</td>
<td>25m Breaststroke</td>
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<td>25m Breaststroke</td>
<td>25m Backstroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>25m Backstroke</td>
<td>25m Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Carnival (YEARS 4-6)</td>
<td>50m Freestyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25m Freestyle (beginning with under 9’s)</td>
<td>50m Breaststroke</td>
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<td>25m Breaststroke</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25m Butterfly</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Senior Boys relay (one boy from each age division for each house)

*Senior Girls relay (one girl from each age division for each house)

*These events will only be run if time permits

TROPHIES will be presented at school on Friday.
Welcome to another school year. Last week we held our AGM and our first P & F meeting for the year. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend and eager to be part of the year ahead.

I am honoured to represent you all as President again this year and would like to welcome our Executive:

Vice President: Michelle King
Treasurer: Tracey Steindl
Secretary: Kirsten Butcher

A huge thank you to our outgoing Secretary Odette Langham, who did a wonderful job. We would also like to welcome Melissa Figlia as Events Coordinator.

We are looking for people to put their hand up to be Class Co-ordinators for your child's class for 2018. Class Co-ordinators would usually organize a social event for their class each term/semester, welcome any new families to your class and help by organizing parent helpers to assist with any fundraiser and report back to the P & F.

Our Year Level Representatives this year are:
Prep: Kelly Walz, Joanne Day
Grade 1: Renee Oliver
Grade 2: Kelly Arnold
Grade 3: Emma Coburn, Kathy Parrish
Grade 4: currently seeking volunteers
Grade 5: currently seeking volunteers
Grade 6: Tanya Peady

If anyone is interested in being a Year Level representative, please contact the office.

This term we will have our first event - a school disco (Friday 9 March) with more information to follow.

I would like to thank you all for your support, and look forward to a great year.
Please feel free to contact me at anytime through email or contact the office.

Thanks,

Tracey Anderson—P & F President ~ SFXM_PandFSecretary@rok.catholic.edu.au
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 2018

MIDDLE ROW:  Nate Faulkner, Aidan Blaney, Luke Finch, Lucy Wiggins, Olivia Kelly, Nate Yates, Virinchi Tak, Nash Rovelli, Travis Benfer
FRONT ROW:  Finn Rushe, Arya Walz, Noah Cousin

BREAK THE RULES DAY
NRL & Mackay Cutters ALL ABILITIES
Come & Try
Come and learn to play rugby league & BB Print Stadium.

10.00am – 11.00am 25/03/18
To Register Click on this link below enter your post code and follow the prompts.
https://membership.sport ata.com/regform.csp?formID=49770&progra mID=40139

Run by NRL Staff & Mackay Cutters.
Contact Jim Lappin for more information- jlappin@nrl.com.au
Or Melinda McLeod mmcleod@nrl.com.au
Please bring own water Bottle, Hat & Sunscreen.

ALL ABILITIES 9s RUGBY LEAGUE
Tag  Competitions

U6 - 16  4.30 – 5.00pm
U17 +  5.15 – 5.45pm

To Register Click on this link below enter your post code and follow the prompts.
https://membership.sport ata.com/regform.csp?formID=237058
pKey=563bf9d5d0d02c0532c2d4d69911662&formID=72471
8 week comp with the following dates – Mondays Field 5
Mackay junior rugby league grounds 16/04/18 first round GF
to be played 18/06/18

Run by NRL Staff.
Contact Jim Lappin for more information- jlappin@nrl.com.au
Or Melinda McLeod mmcleod@nrl.com.au
Please bring own water bottle, sunscreen.