Dear Parents/Carers,

“Don’t ever give up. Don’t ever give in. Don’t ever stop trying. Don’t ever sell out. And if you find yourself succumbing to one of the above for a brief moment, pick yourself up, brush yourself off, whisper a prayer, and start where you left off. But never, ever, ever give up.”

Richelle E. Goodrich, Eena, The Tempter’s Snare

DON’T EVER GIVE UP

How do we teach our children to never give up, especially when things are hard? Often when children find things difficult they don’t have the words to express this feeling. We may hear “I’m bored” or “This is stupid” or “I don’t want to”.

We need to encourage them to persevere, to help them over the hurdle. As children, we know the hurdles are often small. As adults, however, the hurdles can be at times overwhelming and life changing. Children need to have learnt the skills and mindset to approach these challenges with a strong, never ending problem-solving approach before hurdles become larger.

It is now as children approach challenges that they can be encouraged to learn persistence. To finish the swimming race, to keep sounding out and breaking up that hard word, to keep working at improving your spelling, or kick for goal by practising over and over again. It is also important that we teach our children to ask for help and guidance. Asking for help takes courage; it also teaches our children that it is important to be supported by the strength of others in challenging times. Persistence, perseverance, dedication, commitment and diligence among many others all play a part in ‘never giving up’. These skills will support our children through many aspects of life.

ALONG THE LENTEN JOURNEY

The following prayer is taken from a leaflet titled, “A Different Lenten Fast to Try” with suggestions from Pope Francis. Please spend some time reflecting on the blessings we have in this very important lead up to Easter this year.

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words so you can be silent so you can listen.
FURTHER TO THE TEXT SENT HOME THIS WEEK

PICK UP ZONE RULES

Please do not abuse the teachers for doing their jobs. Their responsibility is to ensure the safety of all but most particularly the children.
Please DO NOT turn right from the drive way to try and get in line again.
You MUST turn left and drive the block again if your child is not present.
DO NOT get out of the car morning or afternoon. Children MUST be able to get in and out of the car alone and quickly.
Move along QUICKLY to enable the smooth flow of traffic.
Contact the office for a name plate if yours is missing.

REMEMBER – Please be considerate – many are trying to collect their children.

Have a wonderful weekend,
God Bless.

Olivia Rostirolla ~ PRINCIPAL

FROM the Acting Assistant Principal
APRE
Karen Gaviglio

SACRAMENTS
CONFIRMATION/EUCHARIST

We will soon begin preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation & Eucharist.

Students who made their Reconciliation at the end of 2017 will receive an email outlining the dates for preparation workshops.

Please keep an eye on your emails for this information.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation & Eucharist will be held at St Francis Xavier Church: 9am Sunday 27th May with Bishop Michael McCarthy

CHICKENS FOR CARITAS

We are currently collecting money for the year 5 Caritas fundraiser ‘Chickens for Caritas’.
We were very proud this week as a couple of classes have raised the $15 to purchase a chicken for those communities in need.
It was lovely to hear the stories from the students as to how they raised the money donated. We have many students who are fulfilling their Lenten promises by; giving up something special and donating the money they would have spent and students performing jobs around the house to earn money to donate. Thank you to our families who are preparing themselves for Easter during this season of Lent. Keep an eye on the results board in the library and make sure you are planning which teacher you will vote for to do the ‘chicken dance’ at the end of term.
FROM the Assistant Principal
ADMINISTRATION/WH&S
Mary Oxenham

GRIP LEADERSHIP

Last Tuesday, our School Captains and House Captains attended the GRIP Leadership conference at the MECC. They had an enjoyable and worthwhile day learning new strategies to help them in their roles as leaders.

BOOK SWAP

St Francis Xavier is a school that continually encourages its students to read. This term, we would like to continue with this event—“The St Francis Xavier Book Swap”. Many children have tens and sometimes hundreds of books at home that they have read over and over again. Why not swap them for other books, without having to pay a cent.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to Mia Bradford on her selection in the Capricornia Swimming Squad. She will go on to compete at the state championships in Chandler from the 19th-21st March. WE WISH MIA ALL THE VERY BEST OF LUCK!

FROM THE OFFICE

- Office hours are Monday to Friday 8.15am—3.30pm
- If you have had any recent changes to your personal details, please change through Parent Lounge.
- All medications administered during school hours require a completed medication form from the office.

SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have gone out. 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

DISCO

Friday 9th March
Theme: FLURO!

TIME: 5:30pm—7:00pm
ENTRY FEE: $5.00 per student
WHERE: Undercover Area

Lucky Door, Raffle, Best Dressed Prizes.

Pre-selling tickets
Wed 7th—Fri 9th March at 8:15am in the undercover area
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.

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.

**Supporters Polos**

The race is on to collect vouchers for sports gear!

**P & F Meeting**

Wednesday 7 March

6.00pm

Staffroom

Your continued support is always appreciated.

**Tuckshop Roster**

Monday 26 Feb: Kylie Smith, Joanne Day

Tuesday 27 Feb: Melissa Figlia

Wednesday 28 Feb: Sue Sologinkin

Thursday 1 March: Leah Smith

Friday 2 March: Julie Kay