Dear Parents/Carers,

This year a major focus at St Francis Xavier is our student’s writing. This article has some practical suggestions for parents and what you can do to support your child in developing their writing skills.

Have a wonderful weekend,

God Bless.

Olivia Rostirolla

HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP STRONG WRITING SKILLS

Writing is an important part of our daily lives. It is, however, a difficult skill to learn and master. You can help your child begin to develop their writing skills at an early age. By doing so you will be contributing to their future success as a student and as an adult while teaching them how to express themselves. In this article, we provide some reasons why writing is an important skill for people of all ages, as well as a list of suggestions that will help your child become a stronger writer.

Why is writing important?

Writing is practical. Every day, we need to write in order to complete our tasks, whether we are filling out a form at the doctor’s office or writing an important letter. These tasks require us to write clearly, and organize information effectively.

Writing is an important element of a student’s education. Whether students are writing by hand or typing on the computer, many learning tasks require students to write short answers or longer essays as a way of assessing what they have learned. As students get older, they will be expected to show more sophisticated writing skills, and to complete more sophisticated tasks through their writing.

Writing can be an important element of an employee’s job. Employees in many kinds of jobs are required to write on a daily basis. Perhaps they are taking phone messages and doing administrative work, or writing research reports and newspaper articles. Whatever the task, their ability to do their job well may depend on their ability to write. Many job applicants also must submit a resume and a letter of application when applying to a new job.

Writing is an important form of communication. Writing letters and emails is a common way of keeping in touch with our friends, relatives, and profession-al colleagues. Writing is frequently the final stage in communication when we want to leave no room for doubt, which is why we write and sign contracts, leases, and treaties when we make important decisions.

Writing can be an important outlet. Many people find writing to be therapeutic, and a helpful way to express feelings that cannot be ex-pressed so easily by speaking.
Ideas for Parents: How to Help Your Child Become a Stronger Writer

It's important to remember that writing can be as difficult to teach and assess, as it is to learn. Many students have trouble writing with clarity, coherence, and organization, and this can discourage them from writing if they feel frustrated. That's where parent involvement can make a big difference. Encouraging your child to develop strong writing skills at a young age, and to become a better writer as they get older, can have a lifelong positive impact on their writing, and may make writing an easier and more enjoyable process for them.

Make sure your child sees you writing They will learn about writing by watching you write. Talk with them about your writing so that they begin to understand why writing is important and the many ways it can be used.

Encourage your child to write, even if they're scribbling Give your child opportunities to practise writing by helping them sign birthday cards, write stories, and make lists.

As your child gets older, write together Have your child help you with the writing you do, including writing letters, shopping lists, and messages.

Suggest note-taking Encourage your child to take notes on trips or outings, and to describe what they saw. This could include a description of nature walks, a boat ride, a car trip, or other events that lend themselves to note taking.

Encourage your child to read their stories out loud. As your child gets older, ask them to share their stories with you. Listen carefully without interrupting, and give them positive feedback about their ideas and writing!

Hang a family message board in the kitchen Offer to write notes there for your child. Be sure that they find notes left there for them.

Help your child write emails and texts to relatives and friends These may include thank you notes or just a message to say hello. Be sure to send your child a text or email just so they are reminded how it feels to receive some correspondence.

Encourage keeping a journal This is excellent writing practise as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, about people they like or dislike and why, and about things they want to remember and do. If they want to share the journal with you, read the entries and dis-cuss them together.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Allow time Help your child spend time thinking about a writing project or exercise. Good writers often spend a lot of time thinking, preparing, and re-searching before starting to write. Your child may dawdle, sharpen a pencil, get papers ready, or look up the spelling of a word. Be patient — this may all be part of their preparation.

Respond to your child's writing Respond to the ideas your child expresses verbally or in writing. Make it clear that you are interested in what the writing conveys, which means focusing on “what” the child has written rather than “how” it was written. It’s usually wise to ignore minor errors, particularly at the stage when your child is just getting ideas together.

Praise your child's writing Take a positive approach and find good things to say about your child's writing. Is it accurate? Descriptive? Original? Creative? Thoughtful? Interesting?

Avoid writing for your child Don't write for your child, and don't rewrite your child's work. Meeting a writing deadline, taking responsibility for the finished product, and feeling ownership of it are also important parts of the writing process.

Help your child with their writing as they get older Ask your child questions that will help them clarify the details of their writing as it gets longer, and help them organize their thoughts. Talk about the purpose of their writing.

Provide your child with spelling help when they're ready for it When your child is just learning how to read and write, they may try different ways to write and spell. Our job is to encourage our children's writing so they will enjoy putting their thoughts and ideas on paper. At first, your child may begin to write words the way they hear them. For example, they might write "haf" in stead of "have". This actually is a positive step in developing their phonemic awareness. Keep practising with them, and model the correct spelling of words when you write. As your child gets older and begins to ask more questions about letters and spelling, provide them with the help they need.

Practise, practise, practise Writing well takes lots of practise, so make sure your child doesn't get discouraged too easily. It's not easy! Give them plenty of opportunities to practise so that they have the opportunity to improve.

Read and write together Reading and writing support each other. The more your child does of each, the better they will be at both. Reading can also stimulate your child to write. If your child has a particular favourite story or author, ask them why they think that story or that person's writing is special. As you read and write more with your child, you will be building an important foundation, and taking steps that will help your child to become a better reader, writer, and student. Your
This week, parents involved in the 2017/2018 Sacramental Program received an email outlining the timeline for Confirmation and Eucharist preparation.

If your child made their Reconciliation in 2017 and you did not receive this email, please contact the front office to confirm your email.

Students will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist on Sunday 27th May at 9am.

Please keep these students and their families in your prayers during this special time as they prepare for their Sacraments.

The chickens for Caritas fundraiser is finishing as of Monday Week 7, this will be your last day to donate to the cause if you still wish to do so. We’d like to thank you all for your incredible support and generosity as we have raised over 40 chickens so far. The final total will be calculated and announced at the assembly when our mystery teachers will perform.

Paraphrased and Adapted—Helping Children Develop Strong Writing Skills—Colorín Colorado (2008)
FROM the Assistant Principal
CURRICULUM/PE
Julie-Anne Brieffies

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

It is that time of year again when we hold Parent/Teacher interviews. The purpose of the interview is to inform parents of how their child has settled into the new year and the progress they have made so far. It is a great time to discuss any questions you may have regarding homework, student expectations in the classroom and general achievement and behaviour.

Interviews for students in all classes except Year 5 will begin on Tuesday 13th March. Parent lounge will be open from 8am Friday 2nd March – 5pm Friday 9th March for parents to make bookings with teachers.

Parent lounge will reopen for Year 5 booking times at 9am Monday 19th – 5pm Wednesday 28th March. The interviews will then take place in Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 2.

BOOKCLUB

BOOKCLUB Issue 2 Book Club order forms were handed to students this week. Lots of fun and exciting reading is again available to all our students both old and new from the Scholastic Book Club. Once again, we are glad to offer you the benefits of purchasing resources from Scholastic at reasonable cost. The Book Club has the latest books available and introduces us to new authors throughout the year. The school is awarded bonus points from the total sales and from this I purchase new resources for the library.

Closing date for Issue 2 is Wednesday 7 March, 3.00pm close of school. Sorry no late orders will be accepted.

Please make cheques payable to ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL and NOT to Scholastic. If you would like to place an order after the closing date, this may be done online directly to Scholastic Book Club. Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to visit me in the library.

Mrs Argent—Library Co-ordinator

2018 ANZAC CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS

We will again be sending ANZAC Care packages to our Troops serving overseas. The students will be asked to bring in a non-perishable food item for the package. Please keep in mind that the box is not to exceed 2KG, otherwise we have to pay for the postage and that can be very expensive. Examples of appropriate items could include; lollies, biscuits, muesli bars, chips, coffee sachets, gum and tic-tacs. The best way to donate these items is to purchase a multiple pack and we can then share them amongst the many boxes we have to fill. Any jars for example, peanut butter or vegemite, should not exceed 120 grams in weight. A note or two of thanks from the students is always appreciated, as are the drawings our little ones contribute.

The packages must be posted by the last week of Term 1 in order to reach our Troops by ANZAC Day. The donations will be required by the end of week 8 at the latest to give us time to organise for postage.

Thank you again for your support, we know that those who receive a package are always very appreciative and we have received many letters of thanks from grateful service men and women.

Lainey Argent – Library Co-ordinator

P & F MEETING...

...until further notice. Please keep an eye out in future newsletters or SMS for new date.
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

ARE NOW DUE!

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

SICK STUDENTS

With the high incidence of ill children at this time of year, it’s important to be very clear about responsibilities in regard to care of sick children. Queensland Government Schools Policy stipulates that any student who suffers from the effects of diarrhoea or vomiting must be excluded from school for 24 hours after the symptoms cease. In the case of flu, students MUST be excluded until well.

In the interest of individual students, and our school community, we do call parents to immediately come and collect their children as soon as we reasonable suspect they are unwell. This clearly ensures students get the care they need, and very importantly, the risk of spreading illness to fellow students and staff is immediately and significantly reduced. Parents who both work must make arrangements with their employer, or have made arrangements with another care provider, to be able to collect their children when needed. It’s obviously not acceptable for individuals to be sent to school when they are clearly unwell, or not to have arrangements in place if they become ill while at school. Please make sure you have these arrangements in place, so that your children, and our community, are protected.

DISCO

FRIDAY 9 MARCH, 2018
THEME: “FLUORO”
PREP—YEAR 6

TIME: 6.00pm—7.30pm
ENTRY FEE: $5.00
WHERE: UNDERCOVER AREA

Lucky Door, Raffles, Best Dressed, Food & Drinks & Glow items on sale.

Preselling tickets

Wednesday 7—9 March
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**

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.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5 March</td>
<td>Daniel Doran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6 March</td>
<td>Leanne Daly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7 March</td>
<td>Kelly Collis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 March</td>
<td>Shirley Sorensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9 March</td>
<td>Wayne Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Wednesday, we held the senior section of the St Francis Xavier Swimming Carnival. Students from Years 4-6 delighted spectators with close competition and a wonderful display of sportsmanship. The day was filled with high-energy and enthusiasm and plenty of good lucks and good-on-you-mate’s.

We would like to thank all the students who participated, who encouraged each other on the day, the parents who volunteered their time to assist with various jobs and all of the staff for your hard work with organisation before and during the carnival. It was so great to witness to St Francis Xavier community coming together to create an atmosphere of fun, enjoyment and encouragement for our students.

**Congratulations to the Dingoes for winning overall points and to the following students on winning age champion in their respective age groups.**

- **10 Year Girls:** Sylvia Cahill
- **10 Year Boys:** Adam McSherry and Caleb O’Brien
- **11 Year Girls:** Suzanna Smyth
- **11 Year Boys:** Reuben Saron
- **OPEN Girls:** Mia Bradford
- **OPEN Boys:** Angus Blackburn

---

**Swimming Aggregate**

- **Nunee Dingoes**
- **WarCry Winners**
- **Gumoo Stingers**

**Open Age Champs:** Angus Blackburn & Mia Bradford

**U11 Champs:** Reuben Saron & Suzanna Smyth

**U10 Champs:** Caleb O’Brien, Adam McSherry & Sylvia Cahill
FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 2018
BACK:
Ruby Crouch, Victoria Silman, Xavier Grogan, Nate Paul, Nate Derbin, Hayden Morrow,
Jasmine in t Veen, Izaiah Linwood, Connor Kelly
FRONT:
Klay Ridgway, Samuel Parrish, Lexie O’Brien, Sophie Parrish, Ella Zarb, Lily Newton, Reagan McLaren,
Jet Checuti, Beau McPherson, Eden Smyth, Kate Cameron

FRIDAY 2 MARCH, 2018
BACK:
Maddy Doring, Mackenzie Weekes, Joshua Venz, Trinity Sturdy, Kyra Tatchell, Olivia MacDermott,
Matilda Wiggins, Anesa Brannan, Amelia McDonnell
FRONT:
Arabella Cole, Angus Barns, Kade Coburn, Emmerson Alcorn, Matthijs Van Poelgeest, Zachary Hansen,
Lucy Mansfield, Evelyn Windsor, Pearl Parmar, Raniel Jangil, Nicholas Garcia-Rose, Rory Coburn