Dear Parents,

On Friday, our school held its Catholic Identity Audit. This is the next step in the School Improvement process. The team consisting of Ms Di-Anne Rowan, Assistant to the Director, Mission and Mrs Vicki Heggie, Religious Education Consultant, spent the day at the school looking at all the things that make our school a Catholic school. Following is the outcome of this audit. The next step for the Leadership team and staff is to add these recommendations to our School Improvement Plan to work on over a five year period.

COMMENDATIONS

- The way the Mission Statement has been communicated to students. It is embedded in the life of the school and shapes decisions and actions.
- The development of the “Vision Statement” which complements the mission of the school.
- The steps that have been taken by the Leadership Team to understand the ECSIP report and to incorporate actions to implement the recommendations in the School’s comprehensive Improvement Plan.
- The way the Catholic Identity of the School has been enhanced by the artwork and displays around the school - there are wonderful links between the past and the present.
- The classrooms are stimulating learning environments with many obvious Catholic symbols and spaces such as prayer tables.
- The inclusiveness and the support provided to students and staff of differing faith backgrounds.
- The respectful and harmonious working relationships amongst the staff.
- The warm welcome and hospitality provided by the school to visitors.
- The commitment, enthusiasm and cohesiveness of the Leadership Team.
- The commitment of teachers to professional development and the willingness of teachers to study to gain Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School.
- The prayer celebrations in the church and in classrooms that are very well-prepared, engaging and inspiring.
- The wonderful singing of hymns at such liturgies and prayer celebrations.
- The commitment of the staff to prayer each morning.
- The “bridges that have been built” between the school and the parish strengthening the relationship between the two groups.
- The willingness of the leadership team to be involved in the parish rosters.
- The generosity of staff members involved in the Parish Sacraments Team.
- The inspirational witness provided by the participation of staff members in the parish RCIA process.
- The visits to the school by Fr Sathish and the welcome provided to him.

The involvement of parents in the school in a range of activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It would be good to find ways to incorporate the word “Catholic” in the Mission Statement signage.

Continue to work on your ECSIP report and communicate the recommendations and action plans to the Board and to the staff.

Consider professional development opportunities for the teaching staff to help their understanding of different faiths and the Catholic Church’s commitment to ecumenism and respectful interfaith relations.

Be conscious of ways that information about different faith backgrounds could enhance the classroom teaching of Religion.

Some Religious Education resources could be culled as they would seem to be out-of-date.
When planning days for teachers are arranged, consider ways that they can be supported as they work together on the teaching of Religion
Formalise the integration of the major principles of Catholic social teaching in the curriculum

Have a wonderful weekend,
God Bless

Olivia

Assistant Principal Curriculum
Julie-Anne Briefies

Athletics Carnival

Yes, it is that time of year again when we start preparing for the SFX Athletics Carnival. This year we will run events over two
days, Thursday the 7th June and Friday the 8th June.
Thursday the 7th of June will see students 10 -12 years competing in high jump, long jump and the 1500m. The 1500m is a
new event to primary school competition and if you have a child in this age group, who is interested in participating, we strongly
recommend they start training now. Thursday’s competition will also include the Junior carnival. Students in Years Prep -3 will
participate in modified athletics events and sprint races. The day will conclude with novelty events involving Students, Parents
and Teachers – so bring your running shoes!
On Friday the 8th, students in Years 4-6 will be bused out to Slade Point oval for the senior carnival. Students will participate in
discus, shot put, 800m, 200m, 100m and relays.
Next week nomination/permission forms for the Years 4-6 students will be text to parents. These forms will need to be
completed by Tuesday 15th May, so that timetables for events can be finalised.

ATHLETICS HELPERS

If you are able to assist with the carnival, please complete the form below.

Name: ............................................. Contact phone number: ................................

I can assist on (please circle): THURSDAY FRIDAY

FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY 23 MAY, 2018
St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School Community is pleased to invite

**St Francis Xavier Parents and Friends**

... to the

**Official Blessing and Opening of St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School Kindergarten and Classrooms**

... blessed by

**Most Reverend Michael McCarthy DD**
Bishop of Rockhampton,

... opened by

**Mr George Christensen MP**
Federal Member for Dawson

... and

**Leesa M Jeffcoat AM**
Diocesan Director Catholic Education

... on

**Friday, 25 May 2018**
9:30am

The ceremony will take place in the St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School assembly area with afternoon tea to follow in the Hall.

**RSVP** 14 May, 2018
**Phone** 49 511861
**Book Swap is now on in Week 7**
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!

![Book Swap Image]

**School Photos ~ WEDNESDAY 23 MAY, 2018**
**FORMAL UNIFORM** to be worn on your child/ren’s photo day. To order a sibling photo, please collect a Sibling Order Envelope from the school office. **Please return all photo order forms on or before photo day.**

![School Photos Image]

**Year 6W Visits St Francis Of Assisi Age Care**
On Wednesday our Year 6W class spent some time at St Francis of Assisi Age Care Home to play Hoy with the residents. (As our Year 6 students do each month.) After each visit, the students remark about what a worthwhile experience it is and how much they gain from spending such valuable time with these wise and caring people.

![Year 6W Visits St Francis Of Assisi Age Care Image]
**Student Attendance Registration**

We have updated our student attendance sign in/sign out procedure in the office to a digital *Student Attendance Self Registration* system. It is a digital application connected to our student database system and streamlines the process of student attendance information.

The procedure is very simple with instructions provided at the ASR station in the office, but please ask the office staff for assistance if required. Parents/care-givers need only scan the student’s barcode (kept in alphabetical order in 2 folders at the ASR station), choose the type of absence (Explained Absence Sick or Explained Absence Leave), and confirm the details.

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**NAPLAN ~ Years 3 & 5**

**Day 1:** Did you know that if you eat a bag of popcorn before a test, the answers just “POP” into your head!!! Well that’s what our Year 3 & Year 5 students found out on Tuesday while doing their Naplan tests.

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**Day 2:** On Wednesday, our Year 3 & Year 5 students told us that if they have any testing to do today, they ‘Have Got it’! Because they are all ‘SMARTIES’!!! You have to love their enthusiasm, positivity and confidence.

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**Day 3:** Our Year 3 & Year 5 students are just too clever for words! Did you know that there is such a thing as ‘GENIUS JUICE’?? Apparently, it helps you when you are preparing for tests.
McDonald's Maths Challenge

Next Tuesday 22 May, we have 2 teams entered into the McDonald’s Maths Competition at Whitsunday Anglican School. McDonald’s Maths aims to foster an interest in creative problem solving, stimulate an interest in Maths and provide a day of intellectual fun in a scholarly atmosphere.

We thank Ms Volker for their hard work in preparing the students and we wish the students the best of luck on the day.

CONGRATULATIONS...

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to our Year 4O teacher Ms Anne O’Connell who participated in her Graduation Ceremony last Friday. We officially welcome Anne into the teaching profession and wish her God’s blessings for her future career in helping young people grow into their best version of themselves.

Developing a love of Reading

This week the Premiers Reading Challenge commences. The aim of the challenge is to encourage students to develop a love of reading for life. It is aimed at improving children’s liturgy, cultivating a passion for literature and encouraging children to read widely for pleasure and learning. Students who complete the challenge have their efforts recognised through the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier of Queensland. The challenge finishes on Tuesday 20 June. During this time children Prep to Year 4 are challenged to read 20 books while students in Years 5 & 6 are challenged to read 15 books.

Parents can assist their children to develop a love of reading through some simple strategies.

- Ensure you have a range of books on topics of interest to your child. Children are motivated by choice, and books that are high interest and at their reading ability will be more appealing to them.
- Ensure a variety of text types are available, for example picture books, poetry books, cooking books, magazines, information texts, instructions, comics etc.
- Set a reading routine—the enjoyment that comes from regularly reading a good book with your child will foster a love of reading and sets the foundation for reading success.
- During reading turn off electronic devices and give your child your undivided attention.
- Before reading the selected book talk about the title and illustrations. Discuss any new and unusual words and discuss the characters in the book.
- After reading encourage discussion. Ask about the characters, identify a favourite part, speculate on what might happen next. Ask what they liked or didn’t like about the book. This should be a conversation, not an interrogation.
- Encourage independent reading—let your child read quietly before going to sleep.
- Visit the local library—make it a routine event.
- Be a model reader. If your child sees you enjoying reading they will be inspired to read too.

It would be wonderful to see all students participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge and I look forward to seeing the variety of books that are read by our students.

Kind Regards,
Jodie Benfer—co-ordinator
HELP!!  HELP!!  HELP!!

Library
Could my band of merry helpers please call to the Library. I have many books that need to be covered. If you can assist I would be truly grateful. If you have never covered before I will certainly be able to show you. The books can be taken home to cover.
Thanking you in anticipation,
Lainey Argent—Library Coordinator

Drop off Zone
As we begin another school week, can we please have a candid chat about our Drop-Off Zone in the mornings. We have had a number of parents complain about cars not going to the top of the Drop Off Zone, but parking in the middle of the zone while cars are backing up behind. It is a busy time for everyone, so it is important that we all show courtesy to other parents wanting to drop their children off at school too.
We ask all parents to:-
1. Drive through to a vacant bay at the top of the zone.
2. Remind your children to have their bags ready.
3. Give messages to children before you get to the Drop-Off Zone, to save time.
4. Please drive carefully and keep our students safe!

Thank you for co-operation in this matter and have a great week!

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 1, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Fare Assistance</th>
<th>Students With Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your family spend more than $20/week* on fares to and from school (* $15/week if you hold a concession card)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's travel capability rating as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2018.
Mark this date on your calendar!

Now here’s an opportunity you can’t afford to miss! With all the stress in our world today, it is essential that we give our children strategies to deal with life, in a resilient manner. We hope you are free to come along to our library on Monday 21 May 6.45pm—8.15pm. This should be a most worthwhile presentation by Prof. Matt Sanders.
All families invited!

P & F MEETING
Tuesday 5 June, 2018
6.00pm
Staffroom

Your continued support