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NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

Learn, Love, Live The Gospel, Witness Our Faith & Celebrate Life

Friday 22 May 2026
Week 5

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2026

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, PRIORITIES and GOALS 2026

Dear Families and Friends of our School Community,

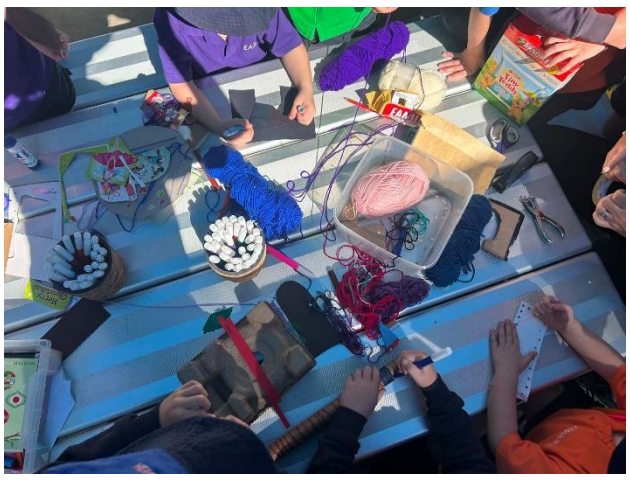
This morning our school was filled with the unmistakable sounds of laughter, curiosity and wide-eyed excitement as we celebrated Under 8's Wee, a cherished opportunity to honour the gift of childhood and the unique joy our youngest learners bring to our community.

Under 8's Week invites us to pause and appreciate the simple but profound truth that childhood is sacred. As a Catholic school, we recognise in every child the face of Christ and this morning reminded us just how blessed we are to walk alongside them as they grow, learn and discover the world.

Under 8's Week is more than a celebration; it is a reminder of the importance of play, imagination and connection in the early years. As a school community, we remain committed to fostering environments where every child can flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

May we continue to cherish the wonder of childhood and support our young learners as they grow into the people God calls them to be.

Amanda Griffin ~ Acting Principal



WHAT'S HAPPENING – TERM 2 Weeks 6 & 7

Term 2 Week 6

National Reconciliation Week

Mon 25 May:
- Assembly ~ 8.30am UCA
- Try It Tucker Day (First Break)
- 4D Home Visit

Tues 26 May:
- CAP Cross Country (10 – 19 years)

Wed 27 May:
- Parish Mass ~ 8.30am
- National Simultaneous Story Time
- State of Origin (students invited to wear State of Origin shirts and sport shorts)

Thurs 28 May:
- St Patrick's Cultural Tour Performance
- CMC ~ visiting Year 1 (Reading)

Fri 29 May:
- Assembly ~ 8.30am ~ UCA
- Pevan & Sarah ~ Prep & Year 1 ~ MECC
- Pastoral Activities ~ Reconciliation

Term 2 Week 7

Mon 1 June: Assembly ~ 8.30am ~ UCA
Wed 3 June: Parish Mass ~ 8.30am
Thurs 4 June: CMC visiting ~ Year 1 (Reading)
Fri 5 June: Assembly ~ 8.30am ~ UCA
Years 3 – 6 Field Events

FROM OUR APRE

In a month that focuses on celebrating and respecting women, the Catholic Church also traditionally celebrates and honours Mary during the month of May.
Mary was the remarkable woman who was tasked with rearing, providing for and looking after the Son of God.
In Mary, we can identify many of the qualities we might attribute to our own mothers or mother figures.
She accepted her invitation with humility and bravery. Her faith in God was vibrant and powerful and served to shield her during the challenging events that poured unexpectedly into her life. She risked shame, abandonment, abuse and even stoning.
She steadfastly raised a child who grew in wisdom, stature and favour with both God and other people. Mary's meek spirit did not mask a weak or timid individual. Instead, Mary was a woman of courage and strength.
Mary lived to see her Son brutally beaten and crucified. She accompanied her son to the end, standing in anguish beside him as he died on the cross - a silent witness to the crucifixion. There is no indication that her faith and trust faltered. Her example of faith is incredible.

<u>The Month of May is also Domestic and Family Violence Month</u>

<u>What is domestic and family violence?</u>

Family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) is a major health, welfare and social issue. It affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds, but mainly women and children.
(Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2025)

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is where one person in a relationship uses violence or abuse to maintain power and control over the other person.

DFV can include behaviours, or a pattern of behaviour, that is physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically, or economically abusive, threatening, coercive or aimed at controlling or dominating a person through fear.
(Queensland Government, 2024)

How does the Catholic Church respond?

- The statement discusses how religious teachings – ***including Catholic teachings***– may be manipulated by perpetrators to excuse violence or to exert control over others.
- Christ's teachings urges the promotion of relationships marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control

(Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, 2022)

As stated in the document by the Australian Catholic Bishops, contrary to popular belief, Canon Law does not encourage or require women to remain in violent or abusive marriages.

Women and men can leave their Catholic marriage and still be in communion with the Catholic church. Women and men can leave their Catholic marriage and be civilly divorced and still be in communion with the church if not in another relationship.

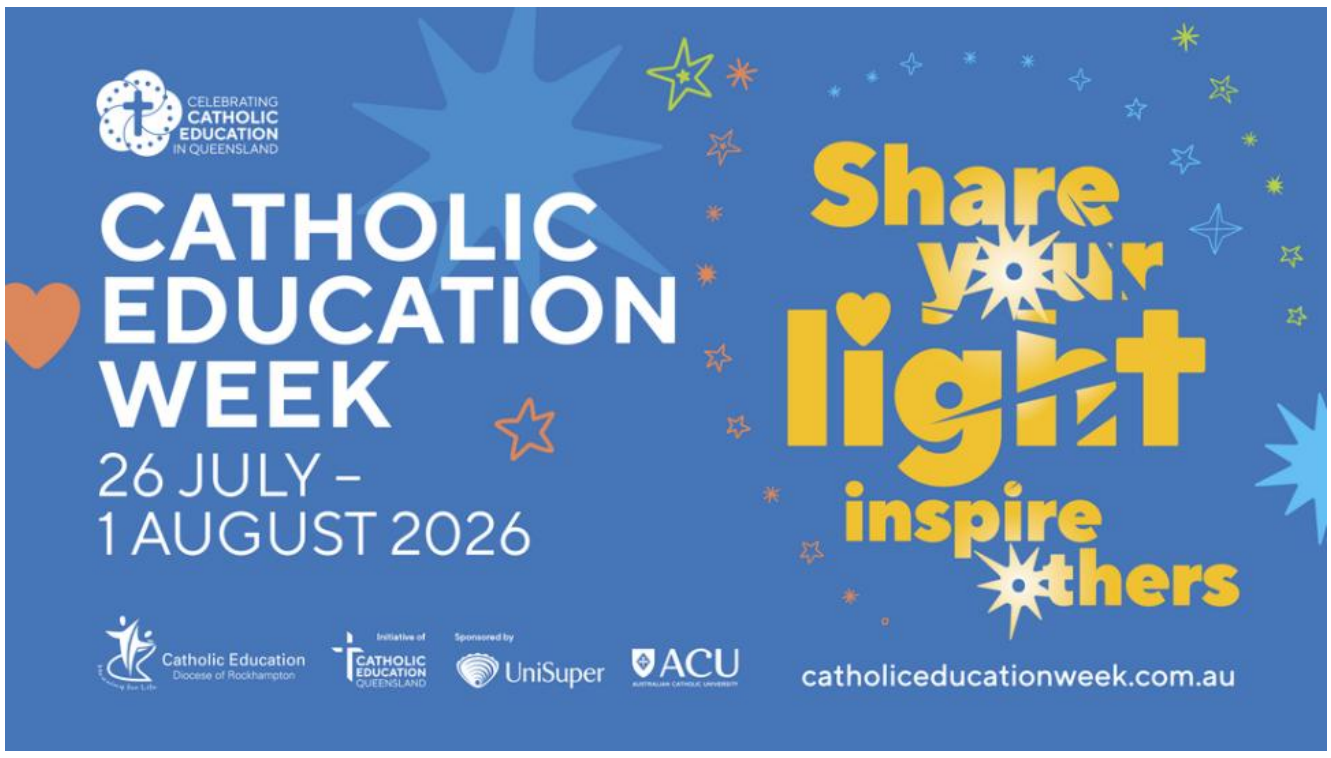
The spouses therefore are NOT required to stay in the marriage.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI HOME VISIT

Our Year 4 and 5 students regularly visit St Francis of Assisi Home, where they assist residents during weekly bingo sessions. This partnership is a valued part of our school's service program, offering meaningful opportunities for connection across generations.

Through these visits, students are developing empathy, growing in confidence, and strengthening their communication skills. Most importantly, they are gaining a deeper appreciation for what it means to be part of a caring community.

We are proud of the kindness and maturity our students show each week, and I know the student's look forward to their visits as much as the residents.



FROM OUR APA

PARENT REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

Our athletics carnivals are a wonderful opportunity for students to participate, have a go and enjoy being part of their House team. Thank you to our families for supporting these events and helping make the day positive for everyone.

To help the carnival run smoothly, please keep the following reminders in mind:

Please encourage positive sportsmanship. Our carnivals are about participation, effort and team spirit. While some students may go on to represent SFX at Southern Suburbs, the main focus is on students improving their skills, trying their best and enjoying the day. Please be kind and respectful to staff and officials at all times.

Students need to remain with their House group in their House tent. This helps staff safely supervise students and marshal them for events. Please do not take your child to sit with you or visit the canteen unless an announcement has been made.

During field events, space is limited. Please avoid approaching students while they are lined up or preparing to compete. You are welcome to see your child while they are waiting in their House tent or after their event has finished.

Photos and videos must only be of your child. Please do not take or share photos or videos that include other students.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We look forward to a great day of SFX spirit!

FROM OUR APC

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

Improvement Plan

The school improvement plan is a response to the school's self-assessment of the four Dimensions of the School Improvement Framework (SIF):

- Catholic Identity
- Effective Teaching & Learning
- Pastoral Support & Wellbeing
- Leadership, Partnerships & Resourcing

A range of school data is utilised to inform the school improvement plan.

1. Catholic Identity

PRIORITY	GOAL	TARGET
To enhance and develop teachers' knowledge, understanding and implementation of the Religious Curriculum.	To provide a variety of assessment modes for all learning cycles in the Religion Curriculum that allow students to demonstrate evidence of learning in ways that align with their strengths.	By the end of 2026, multimodal opportunities will be applied to 50% of the assessment tasks.

2. Effective Teaching and Learning
(SIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8)

PRIORITY	GOAL	TARGET
To create a culture of data informed practices where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways.	To improve achievement and learning in writing.	Decrease % of Year 5 matched students in bottom 2 bands for writing.

3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing
(SIT Domain 3)

PRIORITY	GOAL	TARGET
To implement wellbeing strategies that benefit the whole school community.	To improve the engagement levels of students and their readiness to learn.	By the end of 2026, improve the engagement levels of students to 64% to meet the norm from the "Tell Them From Me" survey.

4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing
(SIT Domains 1,4,9)

PRIORITY	GOAL	TARGET
To promote community partnerships that enhance student learning.	To empower students to actively participate in community-based initiatives through student voice.	By the end of 2026, all students have had the opportunity to engage in community-based initiatives.

GROWING GREAT AUTHORS -CELEBRATING STUDENT WRITING

This year, we are placing a strong focus on nurturing a love of writing across our school and encouraging every student to see themselves as an author with a voice worth sharing. A key part of this initiative is our *"Growing Great Authors"* display wall in the library.

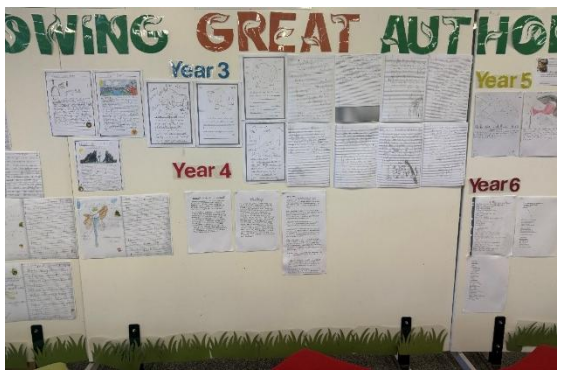
Through this space, we are inviting teachers and students to work together to select and showcase pieces of writing for a wider school audience. It has been wonderful to see a diverse range of genres already on display, reflecting the creativity, effort, and growth of our learners.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this initiative has been the genuine engagement it has fostered. Students and staff alike are spending time reading each other's work, discussing ideas, and celebrating achievements. The pride on students' faces—whether they have independently requested for their work to be displayed or have been selected by a teacher—is truly special to witness.

We warmly invite families to visit the library before school or just prior to home time to explore the *Growing Great Authors* wall. Our students would be delighted for you to read and appreciate what they have been learning and creating.

We also encourage you to check in with your child and ask whether their writing has been featured yet. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their learning journey and to continue fostering a love of writing at home.

Together, we are building a strong community of confident, capable, and proud young authors.

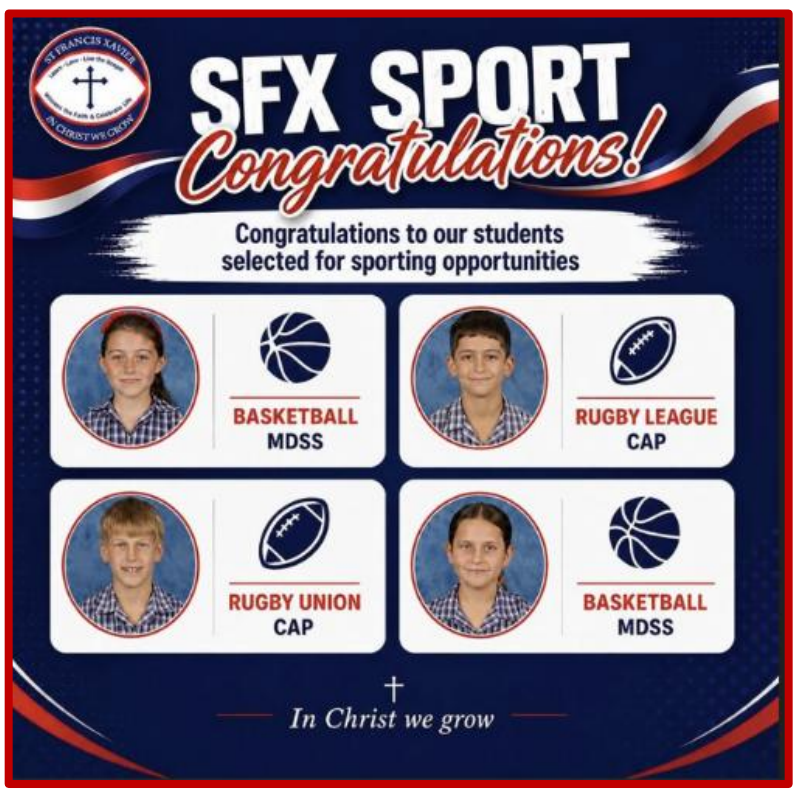


WHAT AN HONOUR...

..... it was to accompany our school captains to the Mackay District Special School. When our leaders heard that the students' classroom had been vandalised, they didn't hesitate and they wanted to help. They chose to use their own fundraising money to purchase new items, and our preps eagerly gathered donations of their own to share with these incredible young people. It is now a privilege to call them our friends and continue supporting a school community that shows such resilience, warmth and gratitude.

CONGRATULATIONS...

We always knew we were special, but we are blown away by the sporting talent we have her at SFX!!! We couldn't be prouder. Good luck to everyone, we will be cheering you on!



1B VISIT FROM GRANDPARENT

Year 1B was very fortunate to welcome Joseph's grandparent Mr O'Riely into our classroom to share what school life, toys and communication were like in the past. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to ask questions and make real-life connections to our learning. This experience was a valuable addition to our HASS unit on past and present, where students are exploring how daily life has changed over time, including how people communicated, the toys they played with and what school was like. The students were amazed that Mr O'Riely had to walk 7kms every day, to and from school....with no shoes!!!

BOOK SWAP

Our Book Swap was a huge success. Students brought in and exchanged countless books, and they couldn't have been more excited about their new reads.

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

HELP NEEDED

Calling on all grandparents, mums, dads, carers, aunties, uncles and friends...our wonderful tuckshop needs volunteers!! Our tuckshop is open Tuesday – Friday, 8.30am – 11.30am. Our busiest days are Wednesday and Friday, but we are grateful for any help or time you can spare. Also, you can earn a tuckshop voucher for your child. You may also need to sign our volunteer induction first; however, we can help you with that!

TERM 1 ~ COLOURFUL DISCO

Last Friday night, we celebrated all things colourful at our St Francis Xavier Term 2 Disco! With the coolest MC, Mrs Benfer, and the absolute best tunes and sound system in town thanks to Sam & Tim. The night was full of dancing and SFX spirit!

The children had an absolute ball and cannot thank everyone enough for making the night such a success. A special thank you to our wonderful Parent Engagement Group for all the time and energy they put into organising such a fun event for our students and families.

Rock on, SFX! We cannot wait to see you all at the next one!

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GROUP

We need volunteers for our Trivia Night on June 20th. Please fill in your details on the following link and it would be greatly appreciated: https://forms.gle/fJpgCJfEdx2Tmux19

Boys Size 12
Boys Size 10
Secondhand Uniform Shop
Open every Friday
in the undercover area
From 8:20am. Cash only.
Most items only $5 each!
PIC•COLLAGE

AUSTRALIA'S
GREATEST
SPORTING RIVALRY
IS COMING UP!!!
STEEDEN
STEEDEN
GET INTO THE SPIRIT!
STUDENTS CAN WEAR
STATE OF ORIGIN
JERSEY'S
WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY
MAROONS
QLD
NSW
BLUES
THE REST OF YOUR UNIFORM IS YOUR USUAL UNIFORM.

Mercy Awards

Love Faith

Mercy Excellence

AWARDEES: Term 2 Week 4 & Week 5

House Point Winners

COMMUNITY NEWS