



Friday 25 February, 2022
Week 5

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

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

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2022

Catholic Social Teaching, Mercy Charism, Spelling, Reading, Wellbeing and Sustainability

Dear Parents/Care Givers,



In just a few days we begin what is the most important time in the Catholic faith. We begin our 'spiritual' and 'transformative' journey to Easter. We commence this journey on Ash Wednesday (2nd March).

Wondering why a small dusty cross anoints the foreheads of Christians once a year? Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a 40-day period of penance for Christians around the world. It always falls on the Wednesday six and a half weeks before Easter, which, as Christians, we believe is the day Jesus was resurrected to new life.

The origins of Lent trace to 325 CE, when it was more commonly used as a preparation phase for baptisms. Lent is an homage to Jesus Christ's 40-day fast as he travelled through the wilderness after being baptized and before he began his ministry. This period is considered by Christians to be God's test of Jesus's spirituality and ability to withstand temptation.

Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

The placing of ashes on the forehead is a tradition with roots in the **Old Testament**.

"I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."
(Daniel 9:3).

Ashes are a sign of repentance, of wanting forgiveness for our wrong doings, of wanting to change our hearts and be a better person.

We are all aware of the events that are currently unfolding in the Ukraine. Let us pray together for peace.

Together we pray:

*God of Gentleness and Hope,
The events in Ukraine have shaken and unsettled our global community,
Bringing uncertainty and tragic hardship to many.
May the gifts of these times be renewed care for one another,
attention to the needs of those around us;
and prayerful listening to your still, small voice.
AMEN*

Have a wonderful weekend.
God Bless,
Olivia

WHAT'S IN THIS WEEK'S NEWSLETTER?

- **Catholic Identity Survey** – please participate, see below for what to do and how to earn your child a free Zooper Dooper and a chance in the raffle.
- **What's Happening**
- **Shrove Tuesday** – Pancake Day. Orders online from the Tuckshop
- **Covid Restrictions update**
- **Volunteers in the School**
- **Prep enrolments 2023**
- **Mercy Awardees**
- **Read to Rover** – calling for volunteers
- **School Bags** – have arrived sooner than expected. For sale in the office for **\$50**
- **Free Prep vision testing**
- **Wanderer's & Bulldogs JRL sign on dates**
- **School Dental Service**

We Need Your Input Our School's Catholic Identity Survey

From the APRE – Mrs Amanda Griffin



One of the most important things about being a Catholic school in the 21st century is knowing who we are and what purpose we serve. We need to have a clear understanding of our role as a Catholic school. To assist with this and as an important part of our School Improvement process, St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School will shortly be participating in a Catholic Identity survey which is conducted by Leuven University in Belgium. The research project is aimed at assisting us with understanding how our Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice as well as supporting plans to further enhance our Catholic Identity for the future.

All staff and students from Year 5 & 6 will participate in the survey at school. We would also like to give parents a voice by inviting and encouraging you to take part in the survey, which will be conducted online and is not identifiable.

It is important that we get as many parents to participate in this survey as possible, therefore we have some family incentives. At the completion of the survey, you will get a certificate to say it has been completed. You will need to bring this printed certificate into the office, or send it to school via your child. Each child in the family will then receive a zooper dooper from the tuckshop and a raffle ticket in our \$500 sports prize pack.



The survey opens Monday 28th February 2022 and will close at the end of this term. The \$500 sports prize pack will be drawn on the last day of this term, Thursday 30th March.

www.ecsi.site/au/user/

password **Ghj654** and our school code is X4GTsm

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS TERM?

March 1	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day.
March 2	Ash Wednesday – each class will have their own liturgy in their classrooms
March 4	Prep Teddy Bears' picnic
March 7-11	Volunteer in-service for parents each morning at 8:30am
March 11	Badge Ceremony for elected leaders of the school @ 9:00am Prep Pyjama Party
Week 8/9	Let's Talk About It talks for Years 5 & 6 - dates to be confirmed
March 18	National Day Against Bullying & Violence
Week 9/10	Parent/Teacher interviews. Stay tuned for more information
March 21	Harmony Day
March 22-24	Principals' conference (Rockhampton)
Week 10	Stations of the Cross – date to be confirmed
April 1	PUPIL FREE – Bishop's Inservice Day for all staff

Shrove Tuesday

Why are pancakes traditionally eaten on Shrove Tuesday?

It started **when Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all** forms of meat and animal products during Lent around A.D. 600. ... So, Christians made pancakes to use up their supply of eggs, milk and butter in preparation for Lent. Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day.

We will celebrate this day with a pancake flip off on the Monday by the Year 6 Sports Captains. This will be recorded for the whole school to watch on Tuesday. The winners will receive the most amazing trophy – a mounted gold painted egg flip 😊.

Remember that you can order pancakes up until midnight tonight through Quickcliq. The children will have these as a special afternoon tea.

Covid Restrictions lifted on Friday, 4 March at 6:00pm

Face masks will not be required in most settings, including schools, from 6:00pm on Friday, 4 March 2022.

The changes apply to all workplaces, schools and shops. Hospitality staff and patrons will not be required to wear masks at cafés, pubs or restaurants. Masks are still required on public transport, in hospitals, disability care, prisons, aged care, airports and planes.

The restrictions that were applied as part of the back-to-school plan for Term 1, 2022 will also be removed. Schools are able to lift any current restrictions on large gatherings, assemblies and excursions. All visitors (including contractors) are able to return to schools.

Density limits will be scrapped in indoor settings including gyms and private venues.

Covid-19 statistics will be published each day, but daily press updates will be scrapped from the first weeks of March.

Volunteers in the School



From Mary Oxenham – Assistant Principal Administration

Dear Parents,

We are always so grateful for those of you who are able to volunteer in our school. Without you, we are unable to open our tuckshop, have reading and mathematics groups, go on excursions and camps, have sausage sizzles etc. etc. etc.

This year, we are going to offer ***an in-service to all parents who are able to volunteer, to go through all the necessary procedures and guidelines.***

Beginning Monday 7 March and ending Friday 11 March we will offer a brief inservice session in the library at 8.30am each morning. ***If you wish to volunteer in classrooms, on excursions, in the tuckshop or on camp, please come in for one of these sessions.*** At the end of these sessions, you will be asked to complete a Guidelines for Volunteers form.

Kind Regards,
Mary

Prep 2023

If you are yet to enrol your little one for Prep 2023, I ask you to do so as soon as possible please. **Prep interviews will take place in Term 2.** For the last 3 years we have had up to 110 enrolments for Prep therefore making positions at a premium.

There is no guarantee that your child will receive a place should you enrol later in the year. **Enrolments need to be completed online.** The link can be found on our school website -

www.sfxmrok.catholic.edu.au

Please contact our school's enrolment officer, Mrs Heather Hicks on 49511861 for all enrolment information.

Mercy Awards

Excellence Love

Faith

Mercy



Would You and your Dog like to Volunteer?



There has been a great deal of research done in recent years in regards to the positive effects of children reading to dogs. Dogs are non-judgemental, they don't criticise or correct, they just listen. Generally, the students chosen to participate in 'dog reading sessions' are those with reading difficulties, who struggle when reading aloud in class. Dogs help the children to relax and to build their self-esteem. The children begin to associate reading with something pleasant.

There are many wonderful programs of this nature in operation all around our country and in fact, the world. (Story Dogs, Reading Education Assistance Dogs – R.E.A.D. Reading Dogs, Tail Waggin' Tutors) I encourage you to do your own research on this innovative way to assist children to engage with reading. Sadly, none of these are currently available in Mackay. But we have not let that deter us. We began our own 'reading to dogs' scheme called **READ TO ROVER**.

In 2016, after many months of research, organisation and discussion with our diocesan Workplace Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Mr Mark Byrne, we began our program. We are confident we accommodate all requirements to create a safe environment for all students who participate in this reading program.

We are looking for dogs and their parents, to join our Read to Rover program for 2022!

As a volunteer, you will be asked to supervise a one to one reading session with some of our students who require assistance to build up their reading skills. If you wish to volunteer for this important task, your dog will need to come into school for an 'interview'. We check if the dog is -

- *clean and healthy*
- *placid in nature*
- *familiar and comfortable with children*
- *obedient to the commands of its owner*
- *able to be on a lead at all times*
-

As a parent of a student at our school, you do not need to have a Blue Card to volunteer, any other family members would have to obtain one, in order to work with our students.

We will do anything to assist our students to become the best readers, possible. We are very proud of this program and hope that you will consider joining us. If you would like to volunteer, please ring me on our school number 49511861 or contact me via email –

mary_oxenham@rok.catholic.edu.au

Kind Regards,

Mary Oxenham Assistant Principal - Administration

Enquiries To:
Telephone:
Email:

Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program
Children's Health Queensland
1800 687 372
admin.psnhrp@health.qld.gov.au



Children's Health Queensland
Hospital and Health Service

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Visit by Registered Nurse for Free Prep Vision Screening

Good vision is important for a child's educational, physical and social development. Vision screening checks for common eye conditions that may impact your child's ability to see and therefore impact their learning and development.

A Registered Nurse will be visiting the school **on/between 1st and 2nd March** to conduct vision screening for children in their prep year. Your child does not need a Medicare card in order to participate in screening. Parents do not need to be present for screening, however if you would like to be, please contact the school to arrange this.

If your child's vision is screened, you will be advised of the results in writing. If a vision concern is found, you will receive a phone call from the nurse to discuss referral to an eye health professional for further assessment. If a vision concern is identified and your child requires glasses, eligible health care card holders may be assisted with free basic glasses through the Spectacle Supply Scheme.

Participation in vision screening is not compulsory. If you do not wish for your child to participate in screening, please complete the consent form and indicate that you wish to decline screening.

If you have any questions, please contact the Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program on 1800 687 372.



attn girls!
COME AND JOIN
wanderers jrl

**currently seeking
players for our
u12 & u18 girls teams**

U14 U16 GIRLS REGOS CLOSED

For more info contact

◆ U12 Alex Whippy 0415 819 488

◆ U18 Louise Bowman 0411 695 167

Or registrar.wanderers@outlook.com

www.wanderersjrl.com.au





ATTENTION PLAYERS !
come and join
WANDERERS JRL

currently seeking
players for the following teams
u6 u7 u8 u9 u10 u11 (mixed)
• inquire for boys
u12 u16 u17

INQUIRIES
REGISTRAR.WANDERERS@OUTLOOK.COM
WWW.WANDERERSJRL.COM.AU
U13 U14 U15 REGOS CLOSED



BE PART
OF THE
TEAM!



Currently recruiting Girl & Boy players for
all age groups

Register at <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/>

Contact Andrew Battaia 0423 161 662

Megan Warrenner 0429 919 637

Mackay Oral Health Services – School Dental Service

Dear Parents,

The School Dental Service is now offering services to students enrolled at your school.

A text message will be sent home in the next few weeks for parents to contact the School Dental Service to enrol and make an appointment.

Appointments will be offered at:

**Victoria Park School Dental Clinic
Goldsmith Street**

If you have any enquiries please phone **4885 6444**

A Parent/Guardian must transport and accompany their child to all appointments at this clinic.

For further information on this service, please visit our website:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/services/school.asp>

