



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

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

Friday 4 March, 2022

Week 6

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2022

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

Dear Parents/Care Givers,

During the season of **Lent**, which we are now in, Christians are asked to do 3 things in preparation for Easter.

- Spend time in **prayer**
- **Almsgiving** – giving (financially) if possible, to our less fortunate brothers and sisters
- **Fasting** – **Abstinence on all Fridays outside of Lent** is still the preferred practice among many Catholics, who choose to maintain this tradition rather than substituting an alternative penance. However, we can also consider **acts of kindness** towards others as a way to open our hearts and ready ourselves for Jesus' rising to new life.

This is what your children are being taught in class. Ask them about it.

- How will you help your child decide what they might do during Lent to get ready for Easter?
- What might you do as an example to your children?

Perhaps you could start with a prayer at the dinner table this evening or as you are tucking your children in, about the crisis in the Ukraine and our own flood crisis closer to home in Southeast Queensland and NSW.

Pope Francis calls for world day of "prayer for peace" over Ukraine crisis



Our school gathered via zoom on Ash Wednesday morning to heed the call to pray for the people of Ukraine. You may like to pray the following prayer at home with your family.

Holy and Gracious God,

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia, for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid: that your loving arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose life for all people.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to 'turn swords into ploughshares' and to seek peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace in Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of you blessed Son.

Amen

Have a wonderful weekend.

God bless,

Olivia

What is in this week's Newsletter?

- School Catholic Identity Survey reminder and St Vincent's Appeal for flood victims
- Parent Teacher Interviews P – Year 6
- NAPLAN 2022
- Volunteers in-service
- Lifting Covid restrictions
- Back to normal bell times for afternoon Pick Up
- Correct use of Pick Up Zone
- Sick children procedures
- Absentee Phone Number
- Mercy Awardees
- Advertisements

What's Happening this Term?

March 7-11	Volunteer in-service for parents each morning at 8:30am
March 11	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

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From the APRE's desk



School Catholic Identity Survey reminder - www.ecsi.site/au/user/

The password is **Ghj654** and our school code is **X4GTSm**
Please complete the survey by Wednesday, 30th March and your child will receive a Zooper Dooper and have their name go into a draw for a wonderful prize. See last week's newsletter for details.

St Vincent's Appeal for the Flood Victims Friday 11 March PJ Day

We are going to be holding a fundraising day to support families and communities impacted by the recent flooding in South-East Queensland.

We are asking the students to wear their PJs to school in solidarity with those families who had to flee in the middle of the night from their homes with only the clothes on their backs.

\$100 can supply a family with emergency clothing.

How many families can we support?

**VINNIES QLD
FLOOD APPEAL 2022
ALWAYS THERE**

\$58	Can provide emergency groceries and essential items for a disaster affected family.
\$100	Can supply a fresh set of clothing to a family who've left home with only the clothes on their back.
\$340	Can re-equip a home with furniture when all contents are lost.
\$5,000	Can fund a family's rent while they rebuild a home destroyed by disaster.

From the APC's desk



PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS FOR PREP—YEAR 6

Prep - Year 6 teachers will be holding their Parent/Teacher Interviews in Weeks 9 & 10 of Term 1. The interviews will be 15mins long. All appointment times will be booked through Parent Lounge over a 1 ½ -week period between Weeks 7 and 8.

Please check to make sure you are able to access Parent Lounge before the interview dates. If you are having issues with this, please speak to Tanya Chick in our administration office.

Once you have selected your interview time, I encourage you to record this somewhere important, so you arrive to your child's interview at the correct time. If you need to check the time that you have selected, you are able to log in to Parent Lounge and click on the Parent Teacher Interviews tab and your interview times will be displayed on the screen.

Parent Lounge – Week 7 and 8 Booking Time for Parents:

OPEN to Parents for booking appointment times on Wednesday 9th March at 7:00am

CLOSED to Parents – Friday 18th March at 5:00pm

NAPLAN 2022

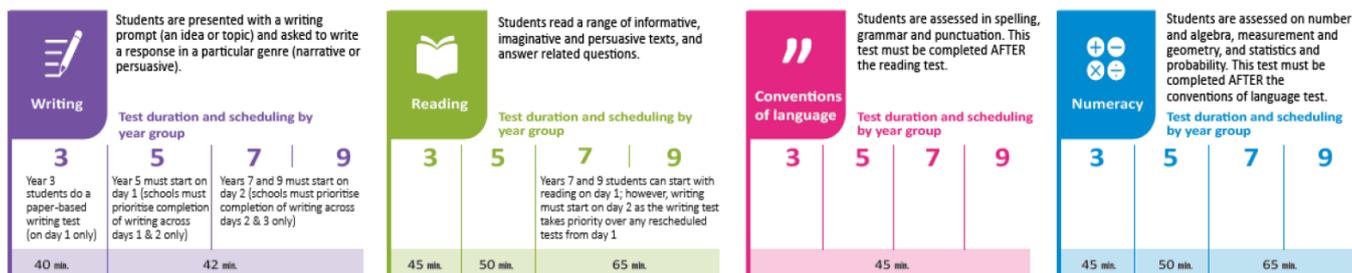
NAPLAN is a nationwide measure through which parents, teachers, schools, education authorities, governments and broader community can determine how well young Australians are developing the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

- NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process. NAPLAN does not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance. A child's teacher will have the best insight into the child's educational progress. NAPLAN results do not measure overall school quality.
- NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Children can prepare for NAPLAN through learning the curriculum. On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for, and students are not expected to do so.
- The assessments allow parents to see how their child is progressing against national standards in literacy and numeracy over time. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN supports parents in discussing with teachers their child's strengths and areas for improvement.
- NAPLAN results can assist teachers by providing additional information to support their professional judgement about students' levels of literacy and numeracy attainment and progress.
- NAPLAN can support school improvement by enabling teachers to monitor their students' progress over time against the national measure, to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- Both paper-based NAPLAN and NAPLAN online test the same range of skills in literacy and numeracy taught through curriculum content. Student results continue to be measured against the one NAPLAN assessment scale, and students answer the same number of questions in both NAPLAN tests – paper and online.
- **Students and parents wishing to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN Online can visit the public demonstration site on the NAP website (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>). Some past NAPLAN papers are also available.**
- The number of adjustments available aim to encourage participation in NAPLAN Online for as many students as possible. **Mr Brendan Clews will be in touch with anyone that requires adjustments to be made.**

Year 3 and 5 students will participate in a Practice Test on Thursday 24th March from 8.30am 10.45am

This will give the students an opportunity to engage in a writing test and an Omnibus Test (mixture of questions from all the other NAPLAN tests). Please notify the classroom teacher if your child will be away on this day. There will be no catch-up tests – you will be directed by the classroom teacher to visit the public demonstration site.

A NAPLAN Schedule will be available early next term. NAPLAN tests will take place from May 10th to May 20th. We are aiming for all tests to be completed in the first week with catch-up tests being set for the second week if a child is absent.



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 in-service 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

LIFTING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS

Face masks will not be required in most settings, including schools, from 6:00pm this evening. 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. It appears that schools are able to lift any current restrictions on large gatherings, assemblies and excursions. All visitors (including contractors) are able to return to schools.

BACK TO NORMAL BELL TIMES FOR AFTERNOON PICK UP

Our Pickup times revert to normal as of Monday 7th. Therefore, the following will occur.

- First bell 3:50 – this is for all bus children and those travelling home via the Pickup Zone
- Second bell 3:55 – this is for the remainder of the children. i.e. children being met in the assembly area, those riding home and those attending OSHC

CORRECT USE OF PICK UP/DROP OFF ZONE

EMAIL FROM A CONCERNED PARENT

For the past few days, I have been behind cars that stop just near the access gate (middle of drop off zone) instead of proceeding to drop off bay number 1 when there are over a dozen cars backed up behind them. There have also been parents getting out of cars and grabbing bags from the back and children out of car seats.

This does not generally bother me as it usually only happens occasionally but seems to be more often lately.

Please remember that when you are picking up or dropping off your child, it is meant to be quick with little hold up to other parents trying to do the same thing. Parents are reminded they are not to get out of their car, morning or afternoon to help your child. If your child is not able to get in or out on their own, then parents need to park to collect them. A good exercise would be to practise doing this at home.

A reminder also, when leaving the Pickup Zone, **do not turn right into Mackenzie Street**. We have signs that tell you to turn left and continue down Mackenzie St in that direction. This is for the safety of both parents and children. Thank you for your cooperation.

SICK CHILDREN

Children have been presenting to school sick and or becoming sick during the day. Regardless of whether it is headaches, sore tummies, coughs, sore throats, Covid related symptoms or other, if they are suffering any of these before school, please do not give them Panadol and send them on their way. They need to be resting at home.

While we understand that you have responsibilities to your employer, our responsibilities are to the 560 children, their parents and our staff to keep them safe. Unfortunately, unwell children unintentionally pass on to those around them the symptoms they are displaying. Our policy has always been, Covid times or not, to call the parents to come and pick up the child when they present to the office unwell.

I ask that you **not** challenge the ladies in the front office for doing their job. I also ask that you please collect your child in a **timely manner**. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

SCHOOL'S ABSENTEE PHONE NUMBER

A number of parents are emailing teachers when their children are unwell. This practice is very much supported. I ask that you also **include the front office in the email** to avoid a text being sent out .

The Absentee Line phone number is **49 948 276**.

Mercy Awards

Excellence Love

Faith Mercy



This week's Awardees.





Outside School Hours Care Coordinator Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay

Applications are invited for this rewarding part time contract position (30hpw) for an immediate commencement until 11 February 2023.

Visit our website and apply today

www.rok.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Education is committed to best practice in student protection policies and procedures.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON



Make time for you in 2022!

What's the cost of another year of feeling overwhelmed, exhausted and lost?

Celebrate Me Retreat & Program

11-13 March, Mackay

Book now - only 6 guests

www.debrae.com.au

Scan Me



MACKAY CRICKET ALL GIRLS POP UP BLAST PROGRAM

START: Tuesday 8th March (4 week program)

WHERE: Harrup Park, Mackay.

TIME: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

AGE: 5 -12

COST: \$35

*Participants receive a program pack

For more information, please contact Bo Saunders on bo.saunders@qldcricket.com.au

TO REGISTER VISIT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU & SEARCH MACKAY CRICKET ASSOCIATION



JOIN WITH FRIENDS
PLAY TOGETHER



Festival of Rugby League

**Mackay Junior
Rugby League
Grounds**

**11th March
4pm-6pm**



**Mackay Junior
Clinics:**

**U6,7s: 4:10pm-
4:40pm**

**U8,9s: 4:50pm-
5:20pm**

**U10-12s: 5:30pm-
6:00pm**

Scan the QR Code to register!

**Come and enjoy a great afternoon of
Community Rugby League!!**

