



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

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

Friday 30 January, 2026

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2026
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, PRIORITIES and GOALS 2026

Dear Students, Families and the community of St Francis Xavier,

It is with heartfelt gratitude and excitement that I write to you as the acting principal of our wonderful Catholic school for 2026. Having served as the APRE for over ten years, I have been blessed to witness firsthand the strength, kindness and faith that define our community. Now, as I step into this new role, I am deeply honoured to continue serving alongside you.

My journey in Catholic education has taught me the importance of nurturing not only the minds of our students, but also their hearts and spirits. I am committed to building on the strong foundation we have established together and to fostering an environment where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to reach their full potential.

This year my focus will be on strengthening relationships with students, families and staff so that together we can continue to grow as a faith filled community. I am especially passionate about promoting the wellbeing for all. Our school is a place where everyone's health matters. We will continue to provide opportunities for students to develop resilience, practice kindness and build positive connections. I encourage open communication and invite you to share your hopes and dreams for our school. Together, we will celebrate our achievements, support one another through challenges and keep Christ at the centre of all we do.

Let us pray for a year filled with learning, laughter and blessings. I am excited to embark on this new journey with you and am ready to make 2026 a successful year for us all.

With warmest regards,

Amanda Griffin

NEW STAFF ~ 2026



Mrs Suzette Windridge APA



Miss Bridie Beatson Yr 6



Miss Bree Davies Yr 4



Mrs Gayle Frank Yr 2



Mrs Tayla Ryan Yr 5



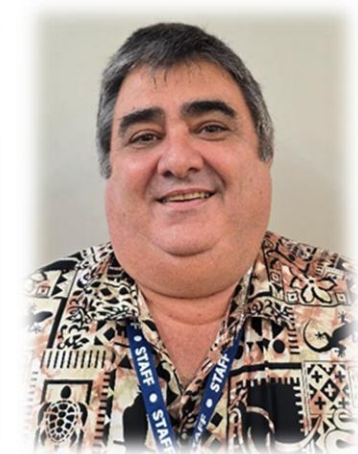
Mrs Nichole Nicholson YR 3



Mrs Leshay Bray Yr 1



Mrs Olivia Drochmann PE



Mr Michael Del Dot IT



Mr Declan Laird TA

WHAT'S HAPPENING - TERM 1 Weeks 2 & 3

Week 2

Monday 2 Feb: Assembly – 8.30am – UCA
 Wednesday 4 Feb: Parish Mass – 8.30am
 Prep – Yr 3 Home Reading Presentation - 3.15pm – Year 1 Classroom
 Thursday 5 Feb: GRIP Leadership – Yr 6 Leaders (formal uniform) -MECC
 Parent/Community Volunteer Induction- 3.30pm - Library
 Friday 6 Feb: OPENING SCHOOL MASS – 9.00am
 Year 6 (formal uniform) to receive their leader's badges.

Week 3

Monday 9 Feb: Assembly – 8.30am
 Term 1 Class Captains to receive their badges
 Tuesday 10 Feb: Bishop Michael visit
 Wednesday 11 Feb: Parish Mass – 8.30am
 Friday 13 Feb: Assembly – 8.30am – Yr 5G Prayer
 HOUSE DAY – wear your house shirts
 Year 6 Retreat Day @ St Pat's Sports uniform

TERM DATES for 2026

Term	Start Date	End Date	Weeks
Term 1	Tuesday 27 January	Thursday 2 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 20 April	Thursday 26 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 13 July	Friday 18 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 6 October	Friday 4 December	9 weeks

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS for 2026

GOOD FRIDAY	Friday 3 April
EASTER MONDAY	Monday 6 April
ANZAC DAY	Saturday 25 April
LABOUR DAY	Monday 4 May
SHOW HOLIDAY	Thursday 18 June
KING'S BIRTHDAY	Monday 5 October

FROM THE APRE



A Prayer for Our Students

I pray for:

Strength - that God gives them the strength to do what they need to do each day.

Courage - that they will be brave as they face the challenges that are before them.

Peace - that their hearts will be calm and peaceful as they go through their day.

Direction - that they will be led to embrace what is good and right.

Protection - that God keeps them safe.

Joy - that God fills them with the kind of bliss joy that can only come from the Divine.

Compassion - that they will show compassion on those in need.

Justice - to give them a sense of justice to stand up for what is right.

Wisdom - that they will grow in knowledge and understanding.

Hope - to give them the hope that comes from above - the kind that far exceeds what we have in the here and now.

Love - that our children are filled with the love of God. That they will know how deeply they are loved, and that love will overflow onto others.

- Offered by Aaron Meis

Sacramental Program 2026

The 2026 Sacramental Program will look a little different this year.

The Southern Cluster Parish (including St Francis Xavier) will offer the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist for students in Year 4, 5 and 6.

The students enrolled in the Sacramental Program will make all 3 Sacraments in the same year.

Sacramental Program Schedule

Reconciliation

To participate, your child must be a **baptised Catholic**. You will need a copy of their baptismal certificate to hand in with their registration forms.

Confirmation and Eucharist – Term 2 and 3

Students must complete Reconciliation in Term 1 to be eligible for participation in Confirmation and Eucharist.

For Confirmation, your child will need to choose a sponsor. A sponsor must be a Baptised Catholic, who has completed all their Sacraments and be over the age of 16.

For Confirmation, your child will need to choose a Saint that they have researched and know something about. Their choice of saint needs to mean something to them in regards how they want to live their life.

Important Notes

- If your child misses any of the sacraments in 2026, they will need to wait until 2027.
- Attendance at Parish workshops is required to complete the sacrament preparation.
- Every candidate needs a parent or family member (over 16) to accompany them to each of the workshops. This is an opportunity to work one on one with your child.

If you have any questions, please contact, Karen Gaviglio: email address: karen_gaviglio@rok.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION / EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION - WORKSHOP 2026		
<i>Please note: Attendance at Workshops is required to complete the program</i>		
St Francis Xavier	St Mary's	St Michael's
Reconciliation Workshops Monday 23/02/2026 Monday 02/03/2026 Enrolment Mass 08/03/2026 Penance Wed 11/03/2026	Reconciliation Workshops Monday 23/02/2026 Monday 02/03/2026 Enrolment Mass 07/03/2026 Penance Thurs 12/03/2026	Reconciliation Workshops Sunday 01/03/26 (after Mass) Sunday 08/03/26 (after Mass) Enrolment Mass 08/03/2026 Penance Sun 15/03/2026
Confirmation Workshop Monday 16/03/2026 Monday 30/03/2026	Confirmation Workshop Monday 16/03/2026 Monday 30/03/2026	Confirmation Workshops Sunday 22/03/26 (after Mass) Sunday 29/03/26 (after Mass)
Communion Workshops Monday 11/05/2026 Monday 18/05/2026	Communion Workshops Monday 11/05/2026 Monday 18/05/2026	Communion Workshops Sunday 17/05/26 (after Mass) Sunday 24/05/26 (after Mass)
Confirmation and Eucharist Sunday 14th June 2026	Confirmation and Eucharist Saturday 13th June 2026	Confirmation and Eucharist Sunday 14th June 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

In 2026, Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) is implementing Respectful Relationships Education (RRE) for all students from Prep to Year 12, as mandated by Australian Education Ministers. Since 2002, CEDR schools have delivered Personal and Social Development Education guidelines, and since 2015 have implemented a Child Safety Curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12.

RRE replaces these programs and continues our commitment to providing holistic, high-quality education for every student. The RRE curriculum is informed by the *Australian Curriculum P-10 Health and Physical Education (HPE) Version 9.0 (2022)* and the Queensland Government's *RESPECT Program (2022)*.

Importantly, the RRE curriculum is enriched with Catholic teachings. We are deeply grateful to Fr Andrew Chase for his valuable advice throughout the curriculum development.

Recognising the role of parents as primary educators of their children and to strengthen relationships between school and home, RRE 'Parent Partnership Sessions' are being offered within school communities in Term 1, 2026. These sessions will provide clarity around the structure, content, and delivery of RRE within CEDR. Please see the *attached* information regarding these sessions which include online and in person opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Education.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCusker
 Diocesan Director Catholic Education

Kellie Jenkinson
 Assistant Director: Mission

27/01/2026

Respectful Relationships Education Partnership Sessions Term 1, 2026

Date	Time	Location	Mode
Monday, 9 February	6:30pm - 8:00pm	St. Patrick's College, Mackay (senior campus)	In person
Wednesday, 11 February	5:00pm - 6:30pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 433 426 839 771 75 Passcode: z95LN2ZU	Online – Microsoft Teams

FROM THE APA



I am so pleased to be joining St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School as Assistant Principal – Administration.

I come from a much smaller Catholic school, where I worked as Assistant Principal – Religious Education. I have extensive experience in both classroom teaching and leadership and I am really looking forward to my time here at SFX.

Since commencing, I have felt genuinely welcomed by staff, students and families. It has been encouraging to see the strong sense of pride and connection within the school community.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School was established in 1935 by the Sisters of Mercy, beginning with just 23 students! Over the years, the school has continued to grow while remaining grounded in its core values of faith, excellence, love and mercy. Our school is named after St Francis Xavier, a missionary who dedicated his life to serving others and sharing his faith. His example continues to guide our community as we work together to support the learning and wellbeing of every child.

I look forward to working in partnership with our staff and families as we continue to build on the strong tradition of St Francis Xavier.

An Important Message for All Parents!

Please do not park in the car parks closest to the Bridge Rd/Mackenzie St corner. Parents move through these parks, as they continue in the traffic line towards the beginning of the Pick up Zone.

(As parents waiting in line will be considered to be temporarily parking, this is within the traffic guidelines. We received police advice on this matter.)

Staff do not park on the school side of Mackenzie St. We ask parents not to park in these parks, to allow the 'through traffic' to be uninterrupted by our parents lining up for the a Pick up Zone.

REMINDER FOR PARENTS!
Children must remember their bus pass or will not be allowed to catch the bus.

Please send bus students to school with a raincoat in their bag if it looks rainy.

STUDENT PROTECTION OFFICERS

All children have the right to feel safe all the time and nothing is ever so awful that they can't talk about it with someone.

Mrs Amanda Griffin, Mrs Jodie Benfer, Ms Karen Gaviglio, Mrs Suzette Windridge, Mr Brendan Clews and Mrs Ninette Nell have special roles as Student Protection Officers to support and protect our children.



Mrs Amanda Griffin



Mrs Jodie Benfer



Ms Karen Gaviglio



Mrs Suzette Windridge



Mr Brendan Clews



Mrs Ninette Nell

PHONE FREE ZONE

To help us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students, our undercover area will now be phone free zone. This means we ask that all mobile phones are kept away and not used while you are in our undercover area. We kindly ask families not to take photos or videos of students during assembly ie: when receiving awards or leading in prayer. This is an important part of protecting the privacy and wellbeing of all children and their families in our school community. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to prioritise student safety.

FROM THE 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 			2. Effective Teaching and Learning (SIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8) 		
PRIORITY To enhance and develop teachers' knowledge, understanding and implementation of the Religious Curriculum.	GOAL 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.	TARGET By the end of 2026, multimodal opportunities will be applied to 50% of the assessment tasks.	PRIORITY To create a culture of data informed practices where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways.	GOAL To improve achievement and learning in writing.	TARGET Decrease % of Year 5 matched students in bottom 2 bands for writing.
3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing (SIT Domain 3) 			4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing (SIT Domains 1,4,9) 		
PRIORITY To implement wellbeing strategies that benefit the whole school community.	GOAL To improve the engagement levels of students and their readiness to learn.	TARGET By the end of 2026, improve the engagement levels of students to 64% to meet the norm from the "Tell Them From Me" survey.	PRIORITY To promote community partnerships that enhance student learning.	GOAL To empower students to actively participate in community-based initiatives through student voice.	TARGET By the end of 2026, all students have had the opportunity to engage in community-based initiatives.

PE UNIFORM – 2026 Term 1 Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3N	NO PE	4P	2W	All classes to wear their PE uniform
5B	These classes have PE on a Friday, so their 2 nd PE uniform day is Tuesday	4D	2C	
PA		6D	2F	PE Lessons
1N	5G	6B	PS	
1C	5RG		4KR	5G
1B	PM		6L	5RG
PREPS TO WEAR RED SPORTS UNIFORM EVERYDAY	3R			PM
	3LS			3R
				3LS

STUDENT GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Our Student Counsellor Ninette Nell provides support to students, staff, and parents. She works at our school each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

While liaising with teachers, parents and the Principal, the Guidance Counsellor provides individual and group sessions to cater for specific needs of children in the following areas:

- Self-Esteem
- Bullying and Teasing
- Co-operation
- Confidence
- Social Skills
- Conflict Management
- Self-Discipline
- Behaviour Modifications



Students with behavioural difficulties are assisted to review their behaviour and attain new skills. The Guidance Counsellor also provides support and a listening ear to students who experience hardship and anxiety as well as operating under the auspices of confidentiality.

FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday – 8.00am to 4.00pm

- **Personal Details** – Do we have your correct personal details, address details & emergency details? Please ensure all residential addresses and other personal details held by the school are up to date and correct. The easiest way for families to check this information is by logging into Parent Lounge account or Parent Orbit by visiting the St Francis Xavier School's website: www.sfxmrok.catholic.edu.au to review what is recorded.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Please ensure your emergency contacts are not the enrolled parent or guardian names. These must be **other contacts** for when the parents cannot be reached.

'BACK TO SCHOOL BOOST'

The Queensland Government has introduced the 'Back to School Boost' from the 2026 school year, which provides \$100 for every primary school student (Prep to Year 6) to assist families with school-related costs.

Catholic Education families will see this \$100 Boost applied to Term 1, 2026 school fees, reducing the school fees payable to the school. No action or application is required by families for this Boost, and there are no means tests or other criteria.

ORBIT APP 2026

The key features of the Parent Orbit App:

- **Instant Notifications:** Stay up to date with the latest announcements and important alerts on your smartphone (be sure to enable Notifications)
- **Events and Payments:** Easily approve excursion attendance or make fee payments
- **Medical Details:** Keep your student's medical details up to date
- **Attendance Tracking:** Easily track attendance and notify the school of your student's absence
- **Event Calendar:** Stay informed about school events, meetings, and important dates
- **Parent Teacher Interviews:** Schedule parent-teacher interviews and receive reminders
- **Academic Reports:** View and download your student's school reports

OR

ABSENTEE PHONE LINE: **49 948 276**



ABSENCES

Please contact the school as early as possible if your child/ren are absent from school. We will require an explanation for any absence of a pupil, and this will be recorded into our student data system, for example, because of illness etc. A call to the office or a brief note to the child's teacher is all that is necessary. If the school has not been advised, you will receive a text message requesting an explanation for the absence of your child.

- Students arriving late to school, **MUST** sign in at the school Office.
- Students leaving before 2.50pm, **MUST** be collected from the school office.
- **Student Medication** – All medications administered during school hours require a completed medication form signed by a parent. These are available from the school office. All medications need to be labelled by the pharmacist with your student's name and dosage. Please inform the office staff of any student allergies. If you have indicated your child/ren has an illness and requires medication and haven't brought in their medication, please do so ASAP so we can set them up on the register.

NEWS FROM THE TUCKSHOP



Fiona Horsfall Heather Fortescue Hayley Butt

Welcome to the 2026 school year, I am Fiona Horsfall (Tuckshop Convenor) and with Heather Fortescue we have over 30 years in catering and along with Hayley Butt we are the paid employees for the Tuckshop. We operate Tuesday to Friday for the lunch break.

Wednesday and Fridays are our busiest days, and we are always in need of Volunteers on these days. We happily have mums, dads, grandmas, grandads or even cool Aunties so long as you have completed the Training and have a blue card and can make a sandwich or just even wash up or stock a fridge, everyone is a welcomed volunteer. We operate 8 am to 11.30am so even if just for an hour or 2, it will be appreciated.

We use Flexischool App for all ordering and in Term 1 Prep Students can only order from the Special Events.

Upcoming Special Events –

These can be found in the Special Events Section; orders are now open for these events. You must select the date of the event first and then complete your options.

Pancake Tuesday – 17 February (Second Break)

\$2.00 per pancake, these are the size of McDonalds Pancake and there are options to include jam and butter. We will offer Gluten Free Pancakes as well. All profits raised will go to CARITAS.

Ash Wednesday – 18 February (First Break)

We will offer Fish from Vellas on Sydney for this day - Crumbed, Battered or Grilled as a piece or on a burger/wrap/sandwich. All profits raised will go to CARITAS.

St Patrick’s Day – 17 March (Second Break)

We will have green jelly with a coin chocolate or a green lamington. All profits raised will go to Earthcare.

We have a letterbox out the front of the tuckshop for suggestions or just pop in and meet us to organise days you can help.

2026 TERM 1 Parent and Carers Calendar

Term 1 2026 SFX Parents and Carers Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
Week 1 26 – 30 Jan	Australia Day Public Holiday	First day of class	Parish Mass 8.30am		Staff Prayer 8am Assembly 8.30am Parent/community volunteer induction 9:15 am library	
Week 2 2-6 Feb	Assembly 8:30am	Staff Meeting 3.15pm	Parish Mass 8.30am Prep-3 home reading presentation 3:15pm Yr 1 classroom	GRIP Leadership - Yr 6 Leaders MECC Parent/community volunteer induction 3:30pm library	SFX Opening School Mass 9.00am Assembly 'Mercy Awards' 11:30	
Week 3 9 – 13 Feb	Term 1 Class Captain Assembly 8.30am	Staff Meeting 3.15pm Staffroom Bishop Michael visit	Parish Mass 8.30am		Staff prayer 8am Assembly 8.30am (Yr 5G prayer) House Day National Apology Day Yr. 6 Retreat Day St Pats 13/3	Valentine's Day
Week 4 16 - 20 Feb	Assembly 8:30am	Staff Meeting 3.15pm Pancake flip-off	Parish Mass 8.30am Ash Wednesday Liturgy 8.30am parish Mass (Years 4-6)		Bishop's Inservice day - Pupil free day	
Week 5 23 – 27 Feb	Assembly 8:30am Reconciliation Workshop 1 3.15pm	Staff Meeting 3.15pm	Parish Mass 8.30am		Staff prayer 8am Assembly 8.30am (Yr 6D Prayer) Colour Run Launch	
Week 6 2 – 6 March	Assembly 8:30am Reconciliation Workshop 2 3.15pm	Staff Meeting 3.15pm	Parish Mass 8.30am		Staff prayer 8am Assembly 8.30am (Yr 5B prayer) House Day- games in house teams Where is the Green Sheep- Prep show MECC 9:30 am	Reconciliation Enrolment Mass Sunday, 9am Parish Mass
Week 7 9 – 13 March NAPLAN	Assembly 8:30am	Staff Meeting 3.15pm	Parish Mass 8.30am NAPLAN testing begins Sacrament of Reconciliation 6pm St Francis Xavier Church	NAPLAN	Staff prayer 8am NAPLAN Assembly 11:30am 'Mercy Awards' (Yr 5RG prayer)	
Week 8 16 – 20 March NAPLAN Parent/teacher interviews	NAPLAN Assembly 11:30 am Confirmation Workshop 1 3.15pm (yr 4-6 building)	Staff Meeting 3.15pm St Patrick's Day (Green shirts and accessories, school shoes & Green food tuckshop special). Planning and moderation Year 4 Naplan catch up tests	Parish Mass 8.30am Naplan catch up tests	Naplan catch up tests	Staff prayer 8am Cross Country (House shirts) Pastoral Groups Harmony Day Assembly 11:30am 'Mercy Awards' (Yr 4KR prayer) Naplan catch up tests	Harmony Day Sat. 21
Week 9 23 – 27 March Parent/teacher interviews	Assembly 8:30am	Staff Meeting 3.15pm Staffroom	Parish Mass 8.30am		Assembly 8.30am (Yr 4P prayer) Colour Run	
Week 10 2-6 April Parent/teacher interviews	Assembly 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 2 3.15pm (yr 4-6 building)	Stations of the Cross (Church)	Parish Mass 8.30am	Holy Thursday (Last day of Term 1) Easter Bunny Visit	Good Friday	Easter Sunday



CATHERINE
MCAULEY
COLLEGE

YEAR 7
ENROLMENTS 2027
CLOSING FRIDAY 13 MARCH



CATHERINE
MCAULEY
COLLEGE

Reminder that siblings of current students must apply - enrolment is not automatic

<https://cmcmrok.catholic.edu.au/>

Secondhand Uniform Shop
OPEN EVERY FRIDAY
IN THE UNDERCOVER AREA
FROM 8-20AM. CASH ONLY.
MOST ITEMS ONLY \$5 EACH!

<https://form.jotform.com/260248030238045>

Regards, David Serginson ~ SFX Hockey Co-ordinator

\$200
SPORTS VOUCHER

SCAN HERE
FOR UPDATES

**KIDS SPORTS
VOUCHERS
APPLY
NOW!**

Nigel
DALTON MP
MEMBER FOR MACKAY