



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

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

Friday 19 May, 2023

Week 5

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2023

Catholic Social Teaching, Writing, Mathematics, Wellbeing and Regulating

Dear Parents & Care Givers,

10 things your child's teacher wants you to know

This article was written by Sonja Walker (Permission to use was sought)

Kids First founder & teacher © 2022 Kids First Children's Services

The past couple of years has been tricky for many kids (and their families!) We recently asked teachers what they would like you to know as the 2022 school year begins for kids around Australia.

Here are some of the tips they shared ...

1. Build a positive partnership with your child's teacher

Teachers and parents who work together can be a formidable team, but you can really let the side down if you're careless with what you say to and about a teacher in your child's presence. Teachers say that if there's an issue, speak to your child's teacher privately, not in front of your child. It's rarely helpful to let your child hear your criticisms of a teacher, so even if you have your own views about the teacher's personality, skill, judgments, or appearance, remember your child must spend many days and hours in that educator's classroom. Let your child form his own opinions and help your child to respect the teacher's role whenever you can.

2. Create systems and predictability at home

If your child is disorganised at home, teachers tell us there is a fair chance that he'll be disorganised at school too. To avoid messy desks, lost books and forgotten homework, set up a system at home where routine items are easily found. Establish a set spot for backpacks, shoes and notes that need to be signed. Teachers recommend having a centrally located calendar or whiteboard on which upcoming events are noted so that everyone knows what is going on. If your child has a phone, try using the 'memo' or calendar section and teach him how to use this so that he can become accountable for himself and his activities.

3. Give your child your time at the end of the day

Studies show that just 10 minutes of undivided attention each day is all that kids need to feel connected to you. Teachers advise that the time you give to your child before you check phone messages, scan your social media accounts, or start organising dinner is incredibly important. You can help your child to transition from school to home by creating a routine where you listen to your child talk about his day. This will show him that he can count on you and that the experiences and feelings of the day can be managed. This small investment of time will encourage the development of your child's emotional intelligence and maturity.

4. Feed your children so they will succeed

Kids need fuel to ensure that their minds and bodies work properly. Teachers say that a well-balanced diet will maximise your child's learning potential. A healthy breakfast and a lunchbox that's filled with nourishing snacks are very important for kids of all ages. When each meal contains protein, your child will avoid 'sugar highs' that can affect concentration and behaviour. Teachers understand that pre-packaged food is convenient, but they also encourage parents to make good purchasing choices to ensure that the nutritional value of their child's weekly food intake is high.

5. Give your child time to relax

In our busy lives, it's easy to forget that kids do not have the stamina of an adult. Tired kids find it hard to hold it together at school and home. Teachers recommend that you try to maintain a schedule that allows your children to go to school rested. Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings so that they have the energy to concentrate, learn and behave well at school.

6. Remember ... Homework is for them, not you

The only way a teacher can determine what your child knows is by receiving work that is truly his. Encourage, support, and show your child how to answer homework questions by all means, but don't do the work for him! Teachers tell us that they gauge what a child has learned and understood by what they are able to remember and complete independently. Doing homework by themselves also helps children learn to be responsible for the quality of their work and helps teachers to identify any gaps in their learning.

7. Have a Plan B ready to go for sick kids

What happened when you last went to work feeling unwell? Did you have the best day ever? Teachers tell us that it's unfair to ask kids to manage the demands of a challenging classroom when they are ill. Now, more than ever, teachers need families to have a system in place so that sick children can stay home and get better, both for their own sake and the sake of their classmates and teachers. Of course, you'll know how to sensitively and sensibly manage a tummy ache that mysteriously appears on the morning of a spelling test; however, teachers remind us that children can't learn or behave as well as they might when they are sick. And if the teacher catches the bug, the whole class may be interrupted if the teacher has to take sick leave.

8. Balance 'screen time' with 'green time'

The amount of time some children spend on 'screens' alarms many teachers. There's no doubt that computers, iPads, smartphones, and other devices are a great source of information and enjoyment, but teachers also tell us that kids also need to engage in physical activity every day. The number one reason why your children should make the move from 'screen' to 'green' is that it's fun. Plus, your kids are likely to be happier and healthier when they get social with other children (and yes, siblings count!) The bottom line is that getting the balance right between green time and screen time is important for your children's physical and mental health. There is a growing body of research that shows the positive effects of unstructured outdoor play on our kids' lives and studies also show that 'green time' supports kids' resilience, problem-solving, and social skills too.

9. Make it OK to ask questions

Teachers know that some children are sensitive. They are so conscious of looking silly in front of their teachers and peers that they may be afraid to raise their hand and ask a question in class. You can be a good role model for your kids and teach them to believe that no question is a dumb question. Kids do ask silly questions...sometimes repeatedly, but that's part of being a child. When you respect your child's questions and encourage his efforts, teachers tell us that he is likely to be more willing to give unfamiliar things a try at school.

10. Find fun ways to tell your kids you love them

Teachers say that kids who are confident and know that they are loved often find it easy to be kind to others. You can remind your child of your love for him by tucking a note into his lunch box or sending him a text message to let him know that you are thinking of him. As they get older, your children might not want to hold your hand or give you a kiss as they walk through the school gate - but no matter how old they are, they will always need affirmations from you. You may need to be inventive as you find discreet ways to build your child's confidence, but the most important thing to remember is that secure kids are usually happy kids.... and happy kids find it easier to learn and make friends.

Have a great week.

God Bless,
Olivia

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERM 2 WEEK 6?

Monday 22 May: Prep Aboriginal Cultural Session
Wednesday 24 May: National Simultaneous Storytime
Thursday 25 May: Year 2 Water Talk
Friday 26 May: National Sorry Day
Prep Composting Visit
Assembly 8.30am – Year 2 Caritas Chickens
Playgroup – 8.45am – 10.45am
Sunday 28 May: **Rock Pop Mime Practice 10.00am – 11.00am**

Monday 29 May: National Reconciliation Week (Free Dress Day)
Tuesday 30 May: School Photos
Wednesday 31 May: School Photos

ST FRANCIS XAVIER ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Years 3 – 6	Tuesday 13 June	MARC
Prep – Year 2	Friday 16 June	School Grounds

FROM THE APRE



Confirmation Workshops

Yr. 4-6 Classrooms

Workshop One Monday 29 May 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Workshop Two Monday 12 June 3:15pm - 4:15pm

FROM THE APA



WHERE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT OUR SCHOOL.

NEWSLETTER – Upcoming calendar events, Information on a variety of topics involving curriculum, school goals and school events, information on the religious life of the school, advertising of out of school opportunities, advice to parents and acknowledgement of students' achievements etc.

FACEBOOK PAGE – Reminders of upcoming events and acknowledgement of students' achievements. (We are aware that not everyone is on social media so our Facebook page is only there to support the other forms of school communication)

WEBSITE – Calendar of Events for the term and Parent Lounge as well as all information regarding the running of our school.

EMAILS from the SCHOOL – Important specific topics for all families.

TEXTS from the SCHOOL – Urgent information and reminders.

SKOOLBAG – Access to Parent Lounge and the opportunity to notify of student absentees

PARENT CALENDAR – A paper copy of a term calendar of upcoming events for the school is given to parents each term.

SCHOOL SIGN – Reminders of upcoming events.

CLASSROOM TEACHER EMAILS – Emails pertaining to the individual class. It is not the responsibility of classroom teachers to inform parents of whole school events. Their responsibility lies with disseminating information about their own class. Whilst some teachers do mention upcoming events in their class communication, it is not a requirement for them to do so.

We hope this helps you to know where to go to find out what’s going on at SFX!

FROM THE APC



School Improvement Plan School Priorities and Goals 2023

1. Catholic Identity and Ethos 	• Effective Teaching and Learning  (NSIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8)
1.1 To embed and align Catholic Social Teaching and the Mercy charism throughout the Curriculum and the Teaching and Learning Framework. Goal: To continue developing student awareness of Catholic Social Teachings and how they relate them to the opportunities provided by the school.	2.1 That our school has a culture of data informed practice where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways. Goal: To improve student learning outcomes in writing. Goal: To strengthen student learning outcomes in Mathematics.
3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing  (NSIT Domain 3)	4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing  (NSIT Domains 1,4,9)
3.1 Based on the Diocesan Wellbeing Framework implement a student wellbeing program that focuses on each child being the best version of themselves. Goal: To strengthen student ability to regulate their emotions.	4.1 To enhance and develop parent and community partnerships to improve student learning. Goal: To engage parents in the ability to understand and apply strategies to regulate their children’s emotions.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The reading period for Prep to Year 6 students started on Monday, 8th May 2023 and we will conclude the challenge on Friday, 25th August 2023.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ARTS?

We've hit the ground running with our Arts program this term. Lots of exciting things happening!

Preps have been learning to sing and say a variety of nursery rhymes and folk songs with accompanying games and dances. They have also been exploring percussion instruments and how to play them.



Year 1 and 2 have been learning about the orchestra and the instrument families, percussion, strings, brass & woodwind, through the story of 'Peter and the Wolf'. Each character is accompanied by a different instrument.

Years 3 and up have been diving into the wonderful world of Musical Theatre and learning songs from musicals and the different roles people undertake when putting on a show, from the composer, lyricist, director, designers, technical crew, musicians, cast, etc...

Years 2 & 3 have also started learning to play the recorder and Year 4's have just begun the ukulele.

Our grade 5s & 6s have been learning a variety of dramatic skills for theatre sports games which encourage confidence, teamwork, creativity, quick thinking and stage craft.

All grades have also been working on a choral speaking piece and singing choir to enhance their skills of diction, articulation, facial & vocal expression, intonation, discipline and memory.

(From Mrs Leisa Persson and Mrs Maree Poots – The Arts Teachers)



FROM THE PE TEACHER



PE lessons during Term 2, are all about...ATHLETICS! We have been busy learning and practising (being measured too) in events such as Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump & High Jump. All this learning and practising is getting us ready for our Athletics Carnival coming up in week 9 (week 10 for Southern Suburbs).

In a few weeks Mrs Caporn & other volunteers will spray the oval with track lines so we can commence our sprinting/running practise.

This week students have been learning and practising Long Jump. In the photos, the year 3 students are trying their best even with that very hot sun!

Miss Stringer ~ PE Teacher



Mercy Awards



Love Mercy Faith Excellence

TERM 2 WEEK 4 AWARDEES



TERM 2 WEEK 5 AWARDEES



SENIOR AND JUNIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

We need Helpers!

If you are able to assist at the Senior Carnival 13/6 or the Junior Carnival 16/6, please fill out the Google Form by no later than Monday 5th June.

Lunch will be provided by the school.

<https://forms.gle/emnAjua3rpiW9ddd7>

GO PINK FOR NATIONAL BREAST CANCER



GO PINK
Wear it. Shave it. Colour it.

National Breast Cancer Foundation

FRIDAY 9th JUNE 2023

Dress up in PINK Day - Gold Coin Donation

All proceeds will go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation

YEAR 3 STUDENTS & ST VINNIE'S WINTER APPEAL



Winter  Warmers Appeal

OUR YEAR 3 STUDENTS HAVE PARTNERED WITH ST VINCENT DE PAUL TO ASSIST WITH THE VINNIE'S WINTER APPEAL.

HELP US WARM THE HEARTS OF THOSE IN NEED THIS WINTER BY DONATING:

- ♥ New or second hand winter clothing
- ♥ New or second hand blankets
- ♥ Non perishable food items

ITEMS DUE MON 12TH JUNE

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
Christ We Grow

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Caritas Chicken Challenge



Hey Dora, did you hear who won the Caritas Chicken Challenge?

Thank you to all our students and parents who donated towards this fundraiser. We are very proud to announce the total amount raised for the challenge is **\$1664.70**. Such an amazing effort! Congratulations 2H, who are the winners of the Caritas Chicken Challenge. 2H was the class who raised the most money in the school. They now have some tough decisions to make. 2H will pick one lucky staff member to do the chicken dance at the assembly on Friday and will also name our school chickens.

Save the date: Friday 26th May

From the P&F

Uniform Shop

Monday 8:15 am to 9 am in the School Hall (Holland Street side)
Most items sold for \$5 - CASH ONLY (electronic payments not available)

Pie Drive 2023

This year's pie drive will be supplied by Bushman's Pies.
Order forms will be sent out late May. Orders are to be placed using QuickCliq and will close on the 15th of June (Week 9).

2023 P&F Executive Committee

President: Toni O'Connell
SFXM_PandFPresident@rok.catholic.edu.au
Vice President: David Serginson
Treasurer: Caitlin Place
Secretary: Kelly Walz
SFXM_PandFSecretary@rok.catholic.edu.au

Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th July (Term 3, Week 4)
6pm in the Staff Room

Important Dates

Term 2 Disco
Friday 9th June
Pie Drive
Delivery: Thursday 20th July
Father's Day Stall
Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th August
Spring Fair and Market
Friday 8th September
Term 4 Disco
Early Term 4
Christmas Raffle
Drawn at Christmas Carols

TERM 2 DISCO

Friday June 9th
6PM TO 7:30PM

Scan the QR Code if you can help on the night

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2023



WHAT TO WEAR ON PHOTO DAY:

Preps ~ Prep Uniform



Photo Day is nearly here! Queensland School Photography will be taking our school photos on

Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st May 2023

Follow these steps to order:

- Online Orders** – visit www.qldschoolphotography.com.au to order.
School Access Key - 764N49DY
Please Note - if ordering online, we have a record of payment and do not require an envelope to be handed in.
- Complete student details on the order envelope if paying by cash – **please fill in one envelope for each student purchasing**. Please enclose the correct payment (**change will not be given**)
- Sibling Photos** – Please see envelope for time and place.
- Miscellaneous Group Photos** – If your child is involved in School Leaders etc., please collect envelope from school office. N.B. These photos cannot be ordered online.
- Late Orders** for individual and class photos can be placed online for 1 week after photo day.

Years 1 – 5 ~ Formal Uniform



If for any reason you are not satisfied with the photos taken of your child please contact Queensland School Photography directly on **07 3216 6777** or email parents@qldschoolphotography.com.au

Year 6 ~ Leadership Polo



Tuesday 30 May

8.45am	Prep D	9.00am	Prep H	9.15am	Prep M
9.30am	2LP	9.45am	2H	10.00am	2W
10.15am	3J	10.30am	3S	11.40am	3K
11.55am	1N	12.10pm	1M	12.25pm	1C
12.40pm	4K	1.40pm	4C	1.55pm	4D
2.10pm	MJR Leaders	2.20pm	Cultural Club	2.30pm	Reef Guardian

Wednesday 31 May

8.45am	6C	9.00am	6L	9.15am	6P
9.30am	5A	9.45am	5B	10.00am	5M
10.15am	School Captains	10.25	House Captains		

SFX House/Clubs to bring along their shirts for the photos as well.





CATHERINE
MCAULEY
COLLEGE



CASINO NIGHT



FRIDAY | 26 MAY 7-11 PM | 6PM ARRIVAL

VENUE: CATHERINE MCAULEY COLLEGE
TICKET PRICE \$60
INCLUDES: WELCOME DRINK + \$2500 CHIPS +
CANAPES + MUSIC + PRIZES & MORE

PURCHASE TICKETS
HERE!



THEME: GATSBY 18+ EVENT

ASK US ABOUT **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** AVAILABLE!