



Issue #2 - Term 1, 2022

From our Principal, Jason Mittiga



SACRAMENTS

It has been a busy few weeks with children from Years 3-5 making their Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. These are known as the Sacraments of Initiation and are an important step in becoming adult members of the Catholic Church. I ask you to keep all these children in your prayers.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week you would have noticed the school bell linking in with Reconciliation Week. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 is Be a Voice for Generations. The theme encourages all Australians to be a **voice for reconciliation** in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work, and socialise. For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, act today for a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements and to explore how each of us

can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children and their families.

We would particularly like to recognise Mr Simon Kelly, who has spoken with a number of year levels throughout the week about Aboriginal cultures and artefacts. You may also have seen things on our Facebook page with activities students have been doing.



COVID -19

COVID-19 is still very much active in our community and across the state. We therefore remind and ask you not to send your child to school if they are unwell. There is a shortage of temporary teachers, and we are struggling to replace teachers who are sick. The staff generally catch what the children have, so please be vigilant and keep your child at home if they are unwell. Our staff have been in the firing line for the last three years, and we need to protect them and the other children in the class.

From our Leader of Learning, Lisa Karanicolou

OUR CULTURE OF LEARNING

Teachers, in all year levels, are implementing programs to strengthen our students' phonemic awareness and phonic skills.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to understand spoken words that are made up of individual sounds. In phonemic awareness, students are being taught to hear and manipulate the sounds of language. In phonics, students are being taught which letters are associated with the sounds of our language. Both skills are crucial to reading mastery and it is one of the best early predictors for reading success. Our school has a collective passion for improving the reading success of our students.

We have implemented two programs across the school this year. The Reception to Year 3 students participate in the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program, and the Year 4 to 6 students participate in the Kilpatrick Phonological Awareness Activities. These programs are a whole school approach to phonemic awareness and skills teaching and learning. We will keep you informed of our progress throughout the year. It is a **morning, daily practice and arriving to school on time is more important than ever.**

We are refining and sharpening our approaches to resourcing, targeting intervention and extension programs to ensure we optimise learning for all students in our care. We aim to run community literacy workshops to inform and demonstrate our practice as soon as COVID restrictions ease.

We are thriving people, capable learners, leaders for the world God desires.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank those families that attended (via TEAMS), our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, 8th March. The AGM consisted of reports for the 2021 school year, as well as the launch of our Restorative Practices Policy.

As stated in my report, despite COVID, pleasingly, we still managed to host a number of community events including:

- Colour Explosion Fun Run
- Sports Day (third time lucky!)
- STEM Showcases
- Music Cabaret
- School Disco
- Instrumental Concert
- Assemblies
- Masses
- Year 6 performance
- End of year Christmas Concert
- Staff vs Student charity matches and events
- Quiz Night

I can't stress enough how very grateful we are to you, our families, for your support over these difficult and unprecedented times. We have a wonderful community at SFX, and like you, we have been disappointed with the restrictions placed on us during COVID. Your understanding and messages of support have been very much appreciated, and we look forward to having everyone back onsite when we receive the directive from SA Health / Catholic Education SA.

A highlight of the Annual General Meeting was Scott Hughes' presentation of our Restorative Practices Policy. Scott and our Acting APRIM, Rosanna Samarzia, have been collaborating extensively with staff on this Policy. We were delighted to share this with those present at the AGM. The Policy will be uploaded to our website next week.

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart
and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life,
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength
to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference



RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Our students' wellbeing is paramount in all we do here at SFX. In line with this, we have implemented The Resilience Project across all year levels this year, as part of the Wellbeing Curriculum.

Students have received their GEM Journals, and commenced lessons. The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs and provides practical, evidence-based mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Through curriculum and children's GEM (Wellbeing) Journals, the benefits of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness are shared, together with easy ways to practise these in everyday life.

Families are encouraged to explore the "[Parent & Carer Hub](#)".



Welcome "Curious Xavier's"

After a long wait, we were super-excited to commence Curious Xavier's in Week 5. We warmly welcome these children and families to the SFX community.



Hand Sanitiser

We are asking that students please **not** bring their own hand sanitiser to school. There have been allegations of children sharing and ingesting the sanitiser brought from home, which is meant for children's personal use. As you can appreciate, this poses a significant health and wellbeing risk, and stopping children bringing in their own product, enables us to control the brands accessed onsite. Children currently use school provided hand sanitiser under supervision. During

a pandemic, washing our hands with soap and water is not always possible, and this is what has been recommended as the next best substitute.

01.04.22

From our Acting APRIM, Rosanna Samarzia

CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION APPEAL

Thank you to all families who have generously donated to our Project Compassion Appeal. Families are welcome to donate any funds to the project compassion box found in your child's classroom. This year's theme is, 'For All Future Generations' and it reminds us that what we do today will impact the lives of future generations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Easter Raffle

Our Project Compassion Easter raffle commenced this week. Tickets can be purchased from our RE Leaders at the front gate (near the Front Office) each morning. All funds raised will go to this year's Project Compassion appeal. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday in Week 11.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday was celebrated with class liturgies. Students and staff respectfully prayed together and reflected on what we can do during Lent to be more like Jesus.

On the first day of Lent, Pope Francis invited us all to take part in a day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Ukraine. Staff participated in a morning prayer and reflected on the Appeal written by Pope Francis.

FAMILY MASS

Family Mass was celebrated on Saturday, 5th March at 6:00pm at the Para Hills/Modbury church. It was lovely to see families and staff from the SFX community in attendance. The parish was thrilled to have staff and students involved in readings, and to have the opportunity to gather as a community. We look forward to celebrating Mass next term at Holy Trinity Church.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee met for the first time this year to discuss calls for action regarding sustainability at SFX. The committee was able to discuss their role and purpose, and documented several actions that will take place this term. The Sustainability Committee comprises: Erin Agius, Andrew Alikaris, Jessica Alikaris, Melinda Whitford, Jason Mittiga, Tony Thacker, Enza Messina, Rosanna Samarzia and Year 6 leaders.

The Eco Warriors have commenced working with our sustainability team members. Every Friday, the Eco-Warriors will work with parent volunteers in the garden, and to recycle soft plastics. The Eco-warriors have been educating students on what needs to go in the soft plastic bins and are beginning to sort through the soft plastic bins without parent volunteers. We had our first grandparent volunteer on Friday!

CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY

SFX participated in Clean-up Australia Day, with our Year 6 leaders participating in a clean-up along neighbouring Dry Creek and Wynn Vale Dam. We are very grateful to The Hon Blair Boyer MP who supported our school with this initiative. All other students participated in a whole school clean-up.

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone. ORANGE is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day, and students were invited to wear orange to celebrate the day.

As part of Harmony Day, we have been creating an SFX Recipe Book, by collating recipes that represent the different cultures in our school community! Families have been encouraged to share a special cultural recipe that can be incorporated into the book. The recipes are coming in and the book is taking shape. We ask that recipes are pleased emailed to our Teacher of Languages, Roma: rchierag@sfx.catholic.edu.au



Faith Fact

FAITH FACTS

HOW MANY...

Sacraments there are in the Catholic Church?

- a) 2
- b) 7
- c) 5

answer: b) 7



Family Faith Formation Team

MADE IN *Canva*

'Feel the Beat' Dance Competition

'Feel the Beat' Dance Competition commences in Week 2, Term 2 and is open to children in Years 2 - 5. Should your child wish to participate, a permission form must be completed by Wednesday of Week 10. A copy of the Permission Form is available from the Front Office.

St Francis Xavier's Families

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
VIP INFO NIGHT



**ST FRANCIS
XAVIER'S**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

GLEESON



WITH ONE HEART



Wednesday 11 May 2022

5.30pm - 6.30pm

LIMITED PLACES - BOOK ONLINE TODAY

<https://gleeson.college/pps>