



Issue #2 - Term 3, 2022

Important Dates

Day 1 Term 4

Monday 17 October 2022

School Photos

Wednesday 26 October 2022

Family Mass, Modbury

Saturday 29 October 2022

Music Cabaret

Tuesday 1 November 2022

Assembly - Receptions hosting

Monday 7 November 2022

Sports Day

Thursday 17 November 2022

Pupil Free Day

Friday 18 November 2022

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 30 November 2022

St Francis Feast Day & Colour Explosion Fun Run

Friday 2 December 2022

Graduation Mass

Tuesday 13 December 2022

Last day of school

Thursday 15 December 2022

Pupil Free Day

Friday 16 December 2022

Prayer for Queen Elizabeth II

Dear God,

We remember and give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

Thank you for her kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

Thank you for her hard work during her 70 years on the throne.

Thank you for her goodness and her love for you.

Help us to live by the values she showed to us.

We also pray for the Royal family at this time of sadness.

Amen.

From our Principal, Jason Mittiga

Well, what a busy few weeks it has been, with school events in full swing! This is the largest number of consecutive events we have had at SFX since I have been here, and it has been wonderful to see the community involved and the children so happy. I am very proud of all we provide at SFX for the children, parents, and the community. Onwards and upwards!

The major events we have celebrated over the last three weeks have been:

- Book Week
- Principal Tour
- Quiz Night
- Coffee van
- Father's Day Stall
- Reception Father's Day Liturgy & Breakfast
- Grandparents (or Special Friends) Day
- Religious Leaders day for CESA staff
- School Disco

I would like to thank Grace and the PCC for all their hard work, and also acknowledge the behind the scenes work of our staff who have been instrumental in the success of all these events. We are blessed to have such dedicated people in our community.

Please enjoy this edition of our eNews!

Class Placements

All families received an email from Sonya on 31st August with 2023 Class Placement request criteria. A reminder that any requests must be sent directly to Sonya **via return email by 30th September, 2022** to ensure that they are included for consideration as we formulate classes for next year.

Planning for 2023

Further to our recent email, a reminder that to assist us with class and staffing arrangements, it would be appreciated if you could please email Sonya if your child WILL NOT be returning in 2023. Required in your advice for reporting purposes is their destination school, as well as the reason for leaving, please.

Your assistance in advising us **by Friday, 30th September, 2022** would be greatly appreciated.

For Year 6 families, please advise your child's destination school.

Please note: In line with our school Fee Policy, families must give one terms notice in writing of their intention to withdraw their child/ren. Where this is not adhered to, the school reserves the right to charge a full term's school fees.

Family Mass

As you are all aware, we have one Family Mass a term at our Modbury / Para Hills Parish. The parish thoroughly enjoys these occasions, and in particular, the children assisting in the Mass readings and singing. Fr Manu and Carolyn (Parish Board representative) are very appreciative of our commitment. Next term the Family Mass will be at John XXIII at 6:00pm on Saturday, 29th October, 2022, and we hope to see you there!

Catholic Schools Open Week

Two weeks ago we celebrated Catholic Schools Open Week. During that week we had a School Tour as well as our Quiz Night.

We had approximately 180 people at the Quiz Night, and everybody had a great time at this community event. We even managed to raise \$5,500 which will go toward paying for the newly erected playground. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way, but in particular, our major sponsors - Smith Partners Real Estate and Smith Partners Financial Solutions.

The School Tour attracted 37 families! We are in a really strong position with enrolments, with our ultimate goal being 3 streams in each year level across the school.

Next term I will provide you with more information around staffing and class structures for 2023.

Pandemic

As we start to "improve" in the COVID space, I would like to acknowledge the resilience of our students and staff. The last three years have been tough to say the least, and the staff have been at the forefront of all that has gone on. Their acceptance of the ever-changing guidelines and restrictions has ensured the continuity of learning for all students at SFX.

A number of our staff have had to forego seeing vulnerable family members for weeks on end, as they have been deemed close or classroom contacts. Sometimes we forget about the toll this can take on families. I would also like to acknowledge all front line workers who have been in similar situations during the Pandemic. Your dedication and resilience during a time of great uncertainty is nothing short of heroic.

The school has carried on as normal as was possible, and the staff and children have been amazing. This is my way of saying thank you to our wonderful community.

Smith Partners Financial Solutions

Don't miss the opportunity for your chance to win a well overdue holiday on us, as well as being able to save hundreds on your home or personal loans!

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT **before 30th September, 2022** for your chance to win...

For those of you that were at the Quiz Night, you would be aware that Smith Partners Real Estate and Smith Partners Financial Solutions were the major sponsor for the evening. Families that were at the event had the opportunity to enter the draw for a holiday to Palm Cove**, so now, we are opening this up to all SFX families.

With interest rates on the rise and lenders offering cash incentives to win your business, now is a perfect time to review your lending!

Our service is at no cost, no obligation, private and confidential, and we can even come and see you after hours in the comfort of your own home. 15 minutes is all it could take to literally save you money and put cash into your account!

**Every appointment with Smith Partners Financial Solutions not only puts you into the draw to win a holiday to Palm Cove, but will also contribute \$50 to the playground at SFX – and after all, who doesn't want to do it for the kids!

Contact Matt Barnes today on 0412 314 314 or email: matt.barnes@spartners.com.au



A promotional banner for a holiday accommodation prize. The background shows a tropical outdoor setting with a swimming pool, lounge chairs, and a building. The text reads: 'MAKE AN APPOINTMENT before 30th September 2022 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN... 5 nights luxury accommodation in tropical Palm Cove QLD for up to 8 people + a \$500 flight voucher to help you get there!*'. A circular badge on the left says 'Total prize valued at \$5,000'. The Smith Partners logo is in the top left corner. A large orange arrow points to the right. The text '*T&C's apply' is in the bottom right corner.

From our Leader of Learning, Lisa Karanicolou

Culture of Learning

Our school has embarked on a new project. It is a national pen pal program fostering connection and community, with handwritten letters being sent across Australia to people feeling isolated and disconnected. Using the words of Mary Mackillop, "never see a need without doing something about it" and "find happiness in making others happy", we write these letters knowing the joy they will bring, but know that we will never see the impact of our words. This program is a literacy enrichment program, and is only offered to students who have met diagnostic criteria.

This term we ran two interactive Read to Learn Community Workshops. Our community response was exciting with the first session quickly filling to capacity. Wynn Vale Kindy staff were also in attendance. Our focus was to share with you how our staff have been strengthening our teaching and learning capabilities in being literate and effective communicators.

We demonstrated how we have used research and evidence-based practice to improve the reading learning outcomes for the students we teach. Workshop participants were highly engaged in activities and had an opportunity to experience the learning.

The feedback was extremely positive, and we look forward to designing and presenting more interactive workshops in other curricular areas in the future.

A quote from the workshop that really hit home was:

"When a child memorises ten words, the child can only read ten words, whereas if the child learns the sounds of ten letters the child will be able to read 350 three sound words, 4,320 four sound words and 21, 650 five sound words." (Decodable Readers Australia)

16.09.22

Restorative Practices at SFX - Scott Hughes

RP posits that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make and sustain positive changes when those in positions of authority do things *with* them as opposed to *to* them or *for* them. In accepting this, when addressing incidents of harm or conflict, we seek to focus primarily on relationships and secondarily on rules. We give voice to the person harmed, give voice to the person who caused the harm, engage in collaborative problem-solving, encourage and nurture responsibility, empower change and personal growth, and plan for restoration. Our staff are prepared for this because we accept that conflict is a normal by-product of human relationships. By proactively building trusting and supportive classroom communities, and by working restoratively with your children when the need arises, we are fostering an environment where your children feel safe and secure, and are able to be the best versions of themselves.

For more on student wellbeing at SFX, you can visit our website: <https://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/why-our-school/student-wellbeing>

For more on our use of RP at SFX, you can view our policy on our website: https://www.sfx.catholic.edu.au/_files/f/21105/Restorative_Practices_Procedure_Document.pdf

Intercultural Day 2022 - From our Teacher of Languages, Roma Chiera-Garnelli



This year for Intercultural Day, we are celebrating the many cultures of our SFX families through food. Earlier this year we requested recipes from our families and from the families from Wynn Vale Community House Kindergarten, to share in a recipe book to sell to our community.

The recipes are family recipes from all our different cultural backgrounds including Syria, Korea, Russia, China, Italy, Croatia, Poland, Philippines, and many more!

The book is finally complete and will be on sale during Week 10 and until the end of Term 1, 2023. You can purchase an A4 hard copy for \$5, or a PDF online copy for \$3. They will make a great birthday or Christmas gift, as they have wonderful recipes such as traditional Shortbread, Tiramisu, Vereniki, Tabouli, Lasagne, Zeppole and Pierogi, just to name a few!

You can pre-purchase your books in hard copy or PDF online version via the Qkr! App under Fundraising SFX Cultural Recipe Book. There will also be hard copies available from the Front Office in Week 10. All funds raised will go to purchasing resources for Intercultural Day 2023.

Many thanks to all the families and staff members who contributed to this wonderful book.

#1 Ticket - VALO Adelaide 500

In case you missed this... congratulations to Year 6 student, Jake, who was invited by Peter Malinauskas, Premier of South Australia to the launch of the VALO Adelaide 500.

Jake was presented with the #1 ticket by the Premier, and also announced the headline entertainment act for the event - The Killers. A fantastic day for Jake!



Sport News

Coach Mittiga retains his number 1 title!

Just in case you haven't heard (highly unlikely because we are pretty sure Jason has told everyone)... We competed in the TTG District SAPSASA Football Carnival again this year, and the boys were fantastic. A big congratulations on coming away with the win, and a big thank you to all the parents for their support and assistance on the day.

SAPSASA State Soccer Carnival - Tea Tree Gully District Representation

Congratulations to Emilia, Mitchell and Djett who represented the Tea Tree Gully District in the recent SAPSASA State Soccer Carnival held from 22nd - 24th August. The girls team came 6th overall and the boys 5th. A great experience getting to play against the best of those in primary years across the state.

SAPSASA Basketball Championships (8th August)

It was with much anticipation that we returned to the Championships after our results last year. We had the same coaches, Elisa Chillingworth for the girls and old scholar Alex Trzcinski for the boys. Once again, the carnival was held at Lightsview. Both teams were strong competitors and we made it through to the Grand Final of the day, with the winner to progress through to the State Finals – unfortunately both were unsuccessful in progressing through, but a great achievement to get to the final from all 19 students who participated.

SAPSASA TTG District Girls Football Carnival (scheduled for Friday, 12th August)

Unfortunately, the SAPSASA TTG District Girls Football Carnival was cancelled due to the weather, and given the tight timeframes for carnivals in Term 3, this couldn't be rescheduled.

SAPSASA TTG District Tennis Carnival (Friday, 26th August)

SAPSASA TTG District Tennis Carnival was held at the TTG Tennis Club, and a big shout out to the parents who attend this carnival with their students (no teachers attend). It was a great turnout, with 15 students from Years 5 and 6 attending. SFX placed 7th overall.

SAPSASA TTG District Soccer Carnival (Thursday, 8th September)

It was certainly touch and go as to "whether" the "weather" was going to claim its next Carnival victim... thankfully the day proceeded with only a couple of showers, however, it did result in changes on the day to pitch and team sizes. The coaches, Mr G Esposito (boys) and Mrs Samarzia (girls) took it all in their stride. There were some great skills on display, and it came down to the last game of the day for both teams! The girls finished 2nd overall, and the boys 3rd. SFX had 25 students from Year 5/6 participate.

SAPSASA Metro/State Golf Championships (8th - 9th September)

Congratulations to Oliver who represented Tea Tree Gully at the SAPSASA Metro/State Golf Championships. On the Thursday, in the Boys State Metro Golf Final, Oliver finished 19 out of 56. He then had to compete in the State Championship Final on Friday where he finished 55 out of 108. A great achievement!



16.09.22

From our Acting APRIM, Rosanna Samarzia

Beginning of Year Mass-Celebrating 40 Years

During Week 3, we celebrated the new school year with our commissioning Mass. Father Josh encouraged us to create, to build, and to envision a life for our school community that is filled with amazing possibilities, exciting opportunities and great challenges that will enrich and guide us to reach our potential this year. We gave thanks to God for 40 years of St Francis Xavier's Catholic School and trust in our journey ahead.

Our Year 6 students were blessed by Father Josh and the community commissioned them as school leaders for 2023. Our staff were also commissioned as they asked God to grant them the wisdom, strength, and compassion to do their very best for all students at SFX.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making and eating pancakes. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This important feast day in the Catholic faith was the last chance for the people to enjoy their meal before 40 days of fasting.

It was also an opportunity to use up food that could not be eaten during lent, like eggs, butter and milk, which were made in pancakes and eaten on that day. We are so grateful for our fresh chicken eggs at

SFX to make yummy pancakes.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

This week marks the beginning of Lent. The RE committee hosted a Whole School Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Churches season of Lent. The marking of the ashes on our foreheads on this day is a public expression of our faith. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through prayer, we come closer to God so that we are better able to live justly, as Jesus teaches us. Thank you to the RE committee for leading a beautiful and reflective Liturgy. Thank you to those families who were able to join our prayer service.

Sacramental News

Para Hills/Modbury

Reconciliation Saturday 18th March at 3:30pm

TTG Parish

Parent/Student meeting: 20th March at 6pm at St David's Church

Carnevale

Prayer for the New Year

*Good and gracious God,
as a new school year begins,
please fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn about the world you have created,
about themselves and most of all about you.
Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience that they may help students find the truth.
Give our parents generous hearts to encourage and support their daughters and sons.
Help us all work together to form a community of learning that teaches not only skills for success
but all that we need to live our faith fully in the world.
Amen*

2022 Calendar & Parent Handbook

Please remember to continue to refer to our live 2022 Calendar & Parent Handbook to see current information on what is happening at SFX!

[2022 Calendar & Parent Handbook](#)
