

From our Principal, Jason Mittiga.



Dear Families

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the year. It has been a big year and a special one being our school's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. I would like to thank you all for your support and look forward to another successful year in 2024. Our class structures and teachers for 2024 are listed below.

#### **Classes 2024**

##### **Reception**

Room 1: Ashlee McCarthy

Room 2: Victoria Szilassy

Room 3: Malissa Jones

Room 4: Stephanie Maiello

Room 5: Christine Ferguson/ Stephanie Breumelhof

##### **Year 1**

Room 6: Jody Miskov/ Sarah Wildy

Room 7: Julia De Nitto/ Gail Macnamara

Room 8: Vanessa Marusic/ Elaine Amos

##### **Year 2**

Room 9: Anita Gagliardi/ Deb Pickering

Room 10: Daniel Argiro

Room 11: Karen Luhrs/ Malia Kanongata'a

### **Year 3**

Room 12: Anita Doecke./ Olivia Sloan

Room 13: Maria Lupone

### **Year 4**

Room 15: Damien Stagg

Room 16: Michelle Williams/ Emily McGlone

Room 17: Meaghan McCarthy/ Jane Hamdorf

### **Year 5**

Room 18: Emily Pearson

Room 19: Anita Avolio

Room 20: Lauren Johnson

### **Year 6**

Room 21: Jay O'Leary

Room 22: Caitlin Costello

Room 23: Nathan Bruce-Gordon

### **Communication**

As a school, we pride ourselves on communication. You can receive SFX information regularly via Facebook (weekly updates), SEQTA and Seesaw. We also distribute a Term calendar to keep you up to date with current events. Below, I have listed the Pupil Free Days for 2024, Key Term 1 Dates and Key Yearly Dates. Not many schools will provide you with this information in December, so please add the important dates to your calendars. Of course, all of this is subject to change.

### **Pupil Free Days 2024**

Monday, 29th January

Monday, 29th April

Friday, 7th June

Monday, 22nd July

Friday, 6th September

Wednesday, 11th December: last day of 2024 school year

### **Key Dates Term 1**

Tuesday, 23rd January- Parent/ Teacher Conversations (Pre start of school year)

Tuesday, 30th January: School Commences

Tuesday, 6th February: 5:00pm Parent Information Night followed by BBQ

Thursday, 8th February: Beginning of Year School Mass

Tuesday, 13th February: Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, 14th February: Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Monday, 11th March: Adelaide Cup Holiday

Tuesday, 12th March: School AGM

Wednesday, 13th March: NAPLAN commences

Friday, 15th March: Sports Day

Thursday, 28th March: Holy Thursday

Friday, 29th March: Good Friday

Monday, 1st April: Easter Monday

Tuesday, 2nd April: Parent interviews commence

Thursday, 4th April: Easter Mass

Friday, 12th April: Last day of term

**Key Dates for the Year - Term 2- Term 4 (all dates subject to change)**

Friday, 10th May: Mothers Day / significant person Liturgy and Breakfast

Friday, 28th June: Pyjackie/ Vinnies Day

Tuesday, 25th July: Young Performers

Tuesday, 2nd, Wednesday 3rd July: Year 6 Production

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August: Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Friday, 23rd August: Book Week Parade

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August: Father's Day/ significant person Liturgy and Breakfast

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September: School Disco

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September: Grandparents Day

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September: Music Cabaret

Friday, 29th November: St Francis Feast Day and Colour Run

Wednesday, 4th December: End of Year Mass

Tuesday, 10th December: Year 6 Graduation and Dinner

Wednesday, 11th December: Last day of school year

**Wright Volunteer Award 2023**

*Matthew and Joanne Burns*

Matthew and Joanne joined the St Francis Xavier's School community in 2011 with Sienna commencing at SFX and then Kiara in 2014, From the very beginning, both parents became invested in the school community through volunteering, in many different ways.

As the girls progressed through the years Matthew and Joanne's involvement increased at SFX with volunteering at numerous SAPSASA and Catholic Schools sporting events that the girls were selected for including – Netball, Softball, Athletics, Girls Football, Soccer and Cheer Competitions. Their involvement ranged from assisting on the event day, coaching teams and covering marshalling roles. Over the years, Joanne has assisted with photography for many of the school and community events – music concerts, Sports Days, Mad March Fair's, School Masses, Colour Fun Run and the list goes on.

Both Matthew and Joanne have coached the schools After School Sports teams.

Their involvement has extended to local SAPSASA Tea Tree Gully District events with coaching, assistant coaching, marshalling and photography for the TTG Representative teams.

As Sienna was leaving SFX, Levi commenced at the school in 2017, which allowed SFX to continue to appreciate and benefit from the unwavering commitment, involvement and love that Matthew and Joanne have shown for SFX.

Joanne and Matthew, you will be greatly missed now that Levi's primary school years are coming to an end.

Thank you for all the support that you have both extended to St Francis Xavier's School over the past 12 years, you are both most worthy recipients of the Wright Volunteer Service Award for 2023.



### **Farewell Staff and Students**

At our End of Year Mass, we farewelled staff and students.

We have several staff retiring and I would like to thank them for their service to SFX:

Melinda Whitford

Ian Denham

Sue Sumsion

Colin Amos

Rita Buonsanto

We also have staff not returning after their leave:

Michelle Thomas

Celine Barr

Maria Panagiotopoulos

Staff not returning;

Rosemarie Villano

Jane Glasson

Jade Norris

I would also like to farewell students leaving our school and all our Year 6 students who move to their secondary schooling in 2024. We wish you all well.

### **New staff**

We have a number of new staff commencing in 2024.

### **Teachers**

Stephanie Maiello

Daniel Argiro

Malia Kanongata'a (returning)

Deb Pickering (returning)

Emily McGlone

Emily Pearson

Lauren Johnson

Jay O'Leary

### **Educators**

Richard Irmier (will be replacing Colin Amos in Maintenance)

Mel Moss

Jasmine Magnus

Londyn Foreman

James Norton

Michael O'Connor

### **Administration**

Vickie Ivancic will be in the Front Office replacing Sue Sumsion.



### **New position**

In 2024 we will be teaching Performing Arts, which will involve dance, drama and music. Elissa Chillingworth will be our new Performing Arts teacher.





### **Fred's Van Volunteers**

Thank you to our staff who have generously given up their time to support Fred's Van this year. The staff at SFX volunteer every third Wednesday of the month and support the Fred's Van team by helping to prepare and serve food. The staff will continue to support Fred's Van through the Christmas holidays and into 2024.

### **St Francis Xavier's Feast Day**

On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December we celebrated St Francis Xavier's Feast Day with a Whole School Liturgy. We gathered to celebrate St Francis Xavier who preached the Gospel in many lands and to give thanks for the blessings of our school year. Thank you to our SRC leaders who led the Mass. Thank you to the Liturgical Choir for singing to the song, *These Hands* with Mr Mittiga playing the guitar and to Father Josh for portraying the role of St Francis Xavier.

As part of our celebration, R-3 students participated in an obstacle course inflatable and Year 3-6 students and staff participated in rock climbing and games on the oval. Like St Francis Xavier, students demonstrated the value of persistence and never giving up! Students feeling apprehensive to commence the activity, left the rock-climbing wall feeling very proud of themselves with a great sense of achievement.

## Feast day



### Vinnies Christmas Appeal

St Francis Xavier was a great missionary, showing service to those in need. Inspired by St Francis Xavier, we have demonstrated the value of service by giving non-perishable items to Vinnies.

A big thank you to everyone who has sent in donations for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We have had an abundance of wonderful items that will be gratefully accepted next week by Michael Bone, Vinnies President at Modbury. They will be used to make up hampers for people in our local community.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us to help others.





## End of Year Mass

A wonderful End of Year Mass was celebrated by Fr Kym, where we gave thanks and reflected on the past year at SFX. We celebrated by giving thanks to God for all that has been. During our celebration we remembered the message that was given to us at the Beginning of the Year Mass. That challenge was to *rise up* and become people of compassion, people of service and people of love. We gave thanks to those who have inspired us, challenged us, and encouraged us to be better people in 2023.

We farewelled children and families leaving, with our Year 6's formally passing over student leadership to the Year 5's. We wish the children, staff and families leaving our community this year all the very best.







### Christmas Blessing

Merry Christmas to everyone in our wonderful community! We are so happy to rejoice in the miracle of Christmas – this advent journey that we are all on together.

We thank you for your kind support of all those in need in our community through your generous donations for Vinnie's Christmas Appeal.

We know that we have made many families so very grateful. Christmas is a season of joy, of love, a time for forgiveness and a chance to reconnect. May you experience many blessings this Christmas season.



*Merry Christmas*

May your days be  
merry and bright with  
the light of God's love.



# Christmas Concert

Deck Xavier Hall with sounds of jolly!

The students of SFX sang their hearts out! The spirit of Christmas sure was alive and thank you to everyone who was able to join us despite the woolly weather we experienced that day.

Well done to the CSMF Choir, Junior Choir and Liturgical Choir for sharing your angelic voices with us through special performances.

We thanks Rosemarie Villano for working with all year levels on their performances and coordinating the concert. We also thank, Ian Denham for being an entertaining MC.

The student and staff of SFX are very grateful that the concert was a success and that we could share the magic of the festive season with our community.







## Para Hills/Modbury Parish Newsletter

Please take a look at the December newsletter issue from **Para Hills/Modbury Catholic Parish** by clicking the link below.

[Para\\_Hills\\_Modbury\\_Parish\\_Newsletter\\_Dec\\_2023.](#)

## From the Library

### Important End of Year Information for the Library

To assist Library staff to complete our end of year process, please note the following...

All library borrowing has now closed for the year and we request your assistance to ensure that all items held in your child's name are returned to the library as a matter of urgency.

Please note, while we will continue make every effort to contact families to advise of any resources held by their child/ren, **families will have been invoiced** for any resources not returned to the library. Please ensure you check your email SPAM/JUNK folders and add [lireiss@sfx.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lireiss@sfx.catholic.edu.au) to your safe list so you receive these email reminders/overdue notices directly to your INBOX.

Your support & cooperation is very much appreciated.

Library Staff

## Music Department

Congratulations to Scarlett on completing 40 pieces on the piano this year!



Congratulations to Christina on completing 40 pieces on the piano this year!



Congratulations to Darcy on completing 40 pieces on the piano this year!



Congratulations to Alejandra on completing 40 pieces on the piano this year!



Thank you to Mary, our Piano Tutor, for supporting and encouraging your students to succeed in their learning.

## Lighthouse Books

A reminder to all families to place your booklist orders before **15th, December 2023** to avoid the additional service fee of \$12.95 which covers the cost of additional ordering, packaging and distribution in this peak period.

# The Golden Child Challenge

## The Golden Child Challenge

*By Catherine*

This year, the Room 18 Year 5 class has competed against a team of parents and carers in the Golden Child Challenge.

Early in the morning, on the first Friday of each term, a group of parents joined their children to fight for the championship! We all wanted to have our names put on the trophy that Mrs Glasson had made with baby sneakers painted gold. The names of the winners each term were added to the bottom of the trophy.

In the game, each team takes turns to either shoot or to run around the court. To decide who does what, we did a coin toss before each game. The team shooting take in turns to have a shot at goal. If they get it in the hoop, the person running around the court has to freeze and the next person starts running. The last runner, the 'Golden Child', can collect all the frozen people who stopped along the way unless the shooters get them out by scoring a basket. The winner is the team with the most people home at the end of the game.

The games were fun and exciting, but also nerve wracking as we waited to see who won each game. Our Room 18 team were very competitive with some people from our class grabbing their parents shirts when they were running to try and slow them down!

The parents won the first challenge in Term 1, but the students took out Term 2's challenge. Term 3 ended in a draw, so it was a showdown in the final round in Term 4 to decide the overall winner – we all wanted to win! The students won!

At the end of the last game, Mrs Glasson bought all of us Quelch ice blocks and we had a game of Fantasy Island with parents and carers to celebrate our win. It was lots of fun playing against our parents and working together as a class team.



## Year 6 Graduation Liturgy

Let your Light Shine!

On Tuesday, 11th December, we celebrated the SFX Year 6 students of 2023 with a Graduation Liturgy surrounded by family, friends and staff members.

We prayed as a community for God's guidance and blessings as these children embark on their next educational chapter. Some brave students took the stage and shared heart-felt and humorous reflections and memories of their time here with us.

The liturgy was a beautiful opportunity to honour these students for their growth, friendships, hard work, resilience, and all they have achieved.

Thank you to all who attended, may there be love and light in your family's life always.







## SFX Uniform Shop Christmas Hours

### SFX Uniform Shop Christmas Trading Hours



Please find the Campbelltown Uniform Shop trading hours over the festive season below.

Please note all visits require an appointment.

[\\_\\_Uniform Shop Christmas Trading Hours](#)

[\\_\\_Uniform Shop Welcome letter](#)

Merry  
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the Christmas season fill your  
home with joy, your heart with love,  
and your life with laughter

From all the staff at  
STX



Advent

at

Tea Tree Gully Parish

Friday 8th December

Feast of Immaculate Conception

9:15am Mass at St David's, Tea Tree Gully

6:30pm Mass at St Pius X, Dernancourt

Light Supper to Follow

Saturday 9th December



Anointing of the Sick Mass

9:15am at St David's, Tea Tree Gully







Sunday 10th December  
Second Sunday of Advent  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil at St David's  
7am and 10:30am at St David's  
9:00am at Our Lady of Hope



Thursday 14th December  
Second Rite of Reconciliation  
7:00pm at St Pius X, Dernancourt



Sunday 17th December  
Third Sunday of Advent  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil at St David's  
7am and 10:30am at St David's  
9:00am at Our Lady of Hope



Thursday 21st December  
Widow/ers Mass  
11:00am at St David's, Tea Tree Gully  
Light Lunch to follow



Sunday 24th December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil at St David's  
7am and 10:30am at St David's  
9:00am at Our Lady of Hope

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# Christmas

at

Tea Tree Gully Parish



Sunday 24th December  
Christmas Eve Masses  
6:00pm at Our Lady of Hope Chapel, Greenwith  
6:00pm, 8:00pm and 12 midnight  
at St David's, Tea Tree Gully  
Carols preceding Midnight Mass at 11:30pm



Monday 25th December  
Christmas Day Masses  
9:00am at Our Lady of Hope Chapel, Greenwith  
10:00am at St David's, Tea Tree Gully



Tuesday 26th December  
St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)  
9:15am Mass at St David's, Tea Tree Gully



Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th December  
9:15am Mass at St David's, Tea Tree Gully

Sunday 31st December  
Feast of the Holy Family  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil at St David's  
7am and 10:30am at St David's  
9:00am at Our Lady of Hope



Monday 1st January  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
9:15am Mass at St David's, Tea Tree Gully



