

From our Principal, Jason Mittiga.



Dear Families

It is hard to believe we are in the last week of the school year. It has been another busy year with the children.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

A class placement letter was emailed to all families on Tuesday, 3rd December and I thank you for supporting the judgment of our teachers and where they think your child is best placed.

COMMUNITY PORTAL

A FINAL REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES ABOUT REGISTERING AND ACCESSING THE CESA COMMUNITY PORTAL

The Community Portal allows families to check contact details, pay fees, access **Student Academic Reports** and check school fee balances in real-time. In line with our school's ongoing sustainability focus School Fee Statements and Academic Reports will be delivered via the Portal going forward. Please save this link to your device for easy access <https://cesa-portal-auth.civicaed.com.au/>. If you need your invitation to the portal resent, or you have forgotten your login details, please contact the school as soon as possible at accounts@sfx.catholic.edu.au.

Please Note: The End of Year student reports will be released to the Portal on Monday Afternoon, 9th December.

SCHOOL BOARD

As Mikal Howard- Board Chair mentioned last week at the Christmas concert, we are seeking new Board Members next year. I will send out information on how to nominate for these positions early in the new school year.

I would like to thank two members who are stepping down from SFX School Board at the end of this year. Ben Glover and Adele Whiting have served on the School Board for a number of years and have provided great service to our school. I would like to thank them and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all members of our school community who joined us for this year's magical Christmas Concert. Despite the unpredictable weather, which had us all on edge, we were determined to make it happen – and what a beautiful evening it turned out to be! The event was filled with joy, music, and the true spirit of Christmas as our students brought the story of the Nativity to life. It was a heartwarming experience, and I am so proud of every child who took part.

A special thank you goes to our wonderful Performing Arts teacher, Chilli, whose dedication and expertise were the driving force behind this beautiful production. Chilli worked tirelessly to ensure that every detail came together perfectly, and the result was amazing.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our amazing teaching staff. The teachers worked closely with Chilli to help students prepare for their performances. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank our school community once again for your ongoing support. Your presence at the concert and your encouragement throughout the year make all the difference, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong, supportive group of families and friends.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas season, filled with peace and happiness.



STAFF FAREWELLS

As always, staff move on to different schools or retire when the time is right. This year we have 6 staff departing SFX and we thank them for their service.

Gail Macnamara has been at SFX since its inception in 1983. Gail was one of the original teachers. After 41 years Gail is retiring and looking forward to spending time with her family and particularly her grandchildren. I would like to thank Gail for her service and dedication to our school over the 41 years. Gail you will be missed as you have been such a big part of SFX for the past 41 years.

Lisa Karanicolou has worked at SFX for 27 years and has moved to Catholic Education SA to be a System Coach. Lisa was instrumental in setting up our Quality Performance team and analyzing data to better inform student outcomes. We wish Lisa all the best in her role at CESA

Chris Whalan has been at SFX for 25 years and has ensured our ICT is up to speed and is always there when a staff member needs him to set something up or fix something. Nothing is ever too much for Chris and we wish him well in his retirement and quality time with his family.

Meaghan McCarthy departs after 2 years at SFX. Meaghan has been teaching in the Year 4 unit and will be teaching at St Joseph's, Tranmere in 2025. All the best Meaghan.

Jasmine and Leila Magnus are moving onto new roles, and they have both been here for 1 and 2 years respectively. Leila is moving onto Gleeson College in a marketing role and Jasmine is spending more time on her tertiary studies. All the best Leila and Jasmine.

NEW STAFF

We have new staff commencing in 2025 and I will introduce the new teachers, as we are still finalising Administration and Educators.

Our new teachers for 2025 are:

Reception: Melissah Kowal and Emma Pertini

Year 1: Kylie Hook

Year 5: Mark Roberts

Leader for Well Being and Inclusion: Leah Anno

KEY DATES FOR 2025

Please see below for the 2025 key dates. This is to help you plan and take time to attend events. The dates are subject to change, and we will inform you if anything does change. As always, keep referring to the school calendar on our website, for updated information and dates.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Tuesday, 28th January

Friday, 7th March

Friday, 6th June

Monday, 21st July

Friday, 5th September

KEY EVENTS

TERM 1

29th January, 2025- school year commences

11th February 6:00pm: Wine and Cheese Night hosted by the SFX Parents and Friends committee (new committee)

5th March: Ash Wednesday

12th- 21st March: NAPLAN

4th April: Sports Day

11th April: Last day of Term 1, 3:05pm dismissal

TERM 2

28th April: Term 2 commences

16th May: Walk to School Day

5th June: School Disco R-2 5:00pm Years 3 - 6 - 6:15pm

24th June: Young Performers Concert

27th June: Pyjacke Day

1st - 2nd July: Year 6 Production

4th July : Last day of Term 2, 3:05pm dismissal

TERM 3

22nd July: Term 3 commences

22nd August: Book Week Parade 9:00am

12th September: Grandparents Day 9:00am-11:00am

16th September: Music Cabaret

26th September: Last day of Term 3, 3:05pm dismissal

TERM 4

13th October: Term 4 commences

24th October: St Francis Feast Day celebrations

25th November: School Christmas Concert

4th December: End of Year Mass

9th December: Graduation Mass

10th December: Last day of Term 4– 3:05pm dismissal

WRIGHT VOLUNTEER AWARD 2024

Mr Ray Gardner

On Wednesday, 4th December the Wright Volunteer Award was proudly presented by Mr Blair Boyer MP- Member for Wright.

Ray Gardner joined the St Francis Xavier's Catholic School community in 2022, and his journey began with a simple question from our Principal Jason Mittiga: "Are you a gardener?" Little did we know then that this question would lead to a transformative partnership between Ray and our students.

Since that day, Ray has worked tirelessly with small groups of children, particularly those in years 4 to 6, fostering their connection with nature and teaching them invaluable lessons about gardening and sustainability. Through his guidance, our students have not only learned about the importance of gardening, but they've also developed a deeper understanding of where our food comes from.

One of Ray's notable achievements has been his work in establishing our composting system. He has empowered students to see the value in waste and how we can turn it into something beneficial for our garden. This hands-on experience has been instrumental in nurturing their sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Additionally, Ray has led efforts to plant a variety of fruit trees, transforming our garden into a vibrant space of growth and learning. Each tree represents not just food, but the hard work and dedication Ray has invested in teaching our children about patience, nurturing, and the rewards of cultivating our own food.

Thank you Ray for your wonderful contribution to the SFX community



APRIM Snapshot



Celebrating St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day

On Friday, 29th November, our school came together to celebrate a special Liturgy in honour of St. Francis Xavier, whose feast day is on 3rd December. St. Francis Xavier was a Jesuit priest known for his missionary work, traveling across the world to spread God's love and

help those in need.

During the Liturgy, we reflected on St. Francis' life of service, compassion, and respect—values that are at the heart of our school community. His dedication to helping others and sharing kindness inspires us to live out these core values every day. Through prayers, songs, and readings, we remembered how St. Francis showed us the importance of serving others, respecting all people, and being compassionate towards everyone we meet.

It was a wonderful way to come together as a school, and a reminder of how we can live out our own values of service, compassion, and respect in our daily lives. Thank you to the RE leaders, the Liturgical Choir, teacher and student readers and the families who helped make this celebration so special.



Season of Advent: First Sunday of Advent – 1st December, 2024

As we enter the season of Advent, we are invited to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Advent provides a special opportunity for both students and staff to embrace the virtues of waiting, patience, anticipation, and hope. It is a time for us to reflect on how we can more fully receive the gift of Emmanuel – God with us – and how we can live out our school values of **service, compassion, and respect**.

In the Catholic tradition, the Advent Wreath is a central symbol of this season. Its circle of evergreen branches represents eternal life, while the four candles symbolize the light of Christ entering the world. Each candle holds particular significance:

- **Candle 1: Purple – Hope**

The first candle, known as the **Hope Candle** or the **Prophet's Candle**, reminds us of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who called the people to live in hope as they awaited the coming of the Messiah. The purple color represents the season of penance and preparation, inviting us to reflect on how we are living in hope as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth.

As we light this first candle, we are reminded of the importance of **hope** not only in our personal faith but in our interactions with others. In this season of Advent, let us practice **service** by reaching out to those in need, showing **compassion** to those who are struggling, and extending **respect** to all people as we wait with anticipation for the arrival of Christ.

This candle calls us to reflect on how we are waiting for Christ—not just during this season, but in our daily lives, through our actions, prayers, and relationships. Let us embrace the spirit of hope by living out our values of service, compassion, and respect, knowing that Christ's light will guide us toward peace, joy, and love. May this Advent season deepen our faith and bring us closer to the true meaning of Christmas, as we grow in our commitment to one another and to our community.



Christmas Family Advent Calendar

The annual [Christmas Family Advent Calendar](#) is now available. Catholic School Parents SA are so proud to be able to share this with you all.

We invite you to share this beautiful resource with your community. It is our hope that families will embrace the joy of the Christmas season and the spirit of giving through this meaningful Family Christmas Advent Calendar.

End of Year Mass: A Time to Reflect, Celebrate, and Say Goodbye

At the end of each school year, our school comes together for the End of Year Mass Celebration, a special time to reflect on the year, celebrate our achievements, and an opportunity to say farewell to those students and staff moving on to new adventures.

This year's Mass was a moment to celebrate both the highs and lows of 2024. We recognized the growth and challenges of the year and reflected on how we've supported each other through it all. A special part of the Mass was the farewell to our Year 6 students, who are moving on to high school. They passed the school candle to the Year 5 students, symbolizing the transfer of leadership for 2025.

The Year 5 students were acknowledged as the new leaders of the school, ready to take on the responsibility with service, compassion and respect.

We would like to thank Father Kym for guiding us through the ceremony with thoughtful prayers and reflections. A big thank you also goes to our liturgical choir for their beautiful music, and to the Year 6 readers for leading us in the prayers and readings during the Mass.

It was a time to celebrate our community, give thanks for the year, and look forward to the future with hope and excitement. To our Year 6 students, we wish you all the best in high school. And to the Year 5 students, we're excited for you to step into your leadership roles in 2025.

Thank you to all for making this year special. Wishing everyone a joyful and restful holiday season!

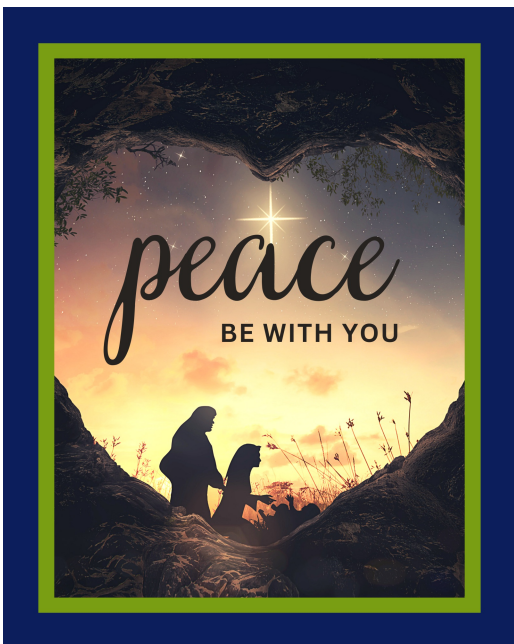


Merry Christmas to Our Wonderful School Community

As we approach the close of another wonderful year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest thanks to each of you for your unwavering support. Your generosity in raising funds for various charitable causes has made a significant impact, and your consistent presence at Masses, liturgies, and Community Prayers has been a powerful reflection of our shared commitment to one another and to our Core Christian values that unite us as a school community.

I am so very grateful for your continued support for our dedicated teachers and staff as we work together to nurture and educate the children entrusted to us to become thriving people, capable learners, leaders for the world God desires.

As we enter this festive season, I wish you all a Christmas filled with peace, love, and joy. May your holidays be rich with precious moments spent with loved ones, and may the New Year bring abundant blessings to you and your family.



SFX Volunteers

Important note for all Volunteers

Every 3 years all staff and volunteers must complete the Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care (RRHANEC) online training. If you completed this training in the last few years (which is most of you), the expiry date on the bottom of your certificate will say 31/12/24. It is time for you to update this training. Please refer to the attached instruction flyer with the link included to the plink website, and forward copies of your new certificates to ndnistri@sfx.catholic.edu.au

If you have completed this RRHANEC training this year (during 2024) and the expiry date on your certificate is 31/12/27, you do not need to do anything.

If you wish to continue volunteering beyond 2024 you will need to complete this online training.

[How_to_access_RRHAN-EC_training_for_volunteers.](#)

SFX staff and students value and sincerely thank all volunteers for the time and commitment you provide to our school.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Nicky Dnistriansky

WHS, Risk and Compliance Officer

OSHC Reminder

The December 2024 and January 2025 Vacation Care and Pupil Free Bookings are NOW OPEN! Bookings can be made via the app.

OSHC enrolled families have had the program emailed to the account holder, you can also view and download the program from the app.

For non OSHC enrolled families who are interested in the program, the program is displayed at OSHC or available on request by emailing oshc@sfx.catholic.edu.au

[DECEMBER_2024_JANUARY_2025_Vacation Information](#)

Reconciliation Action Plan

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) – Actions and Achievements in 2024

The St. Francis Xavier's Catholic School Reconciliation Action Plan (SFX RAP) is a formal commitment to Reconciliation, which documents how we will strengthen relationships, respect and opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the classroom, around the school, and within the community. This plan symbolizes SFX's commitment to forging a future where Reconciliation, respect, and recognition are at the heart of everything we do.

In November 2023, we began developing our RAP and in Term 2 we were delighted to welcome Uncle John Lochowiak to SFX for the launch. As the whole school gathered facing toward the Balturro-Parri Kaurna Garden, we watched Uncle John perform a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to officially launch the SFX RAP to our students, staff, and parents.

This year, some of our notable actions include:

- Invited Kaurna Elders Uncle John and Uncle Tamaru to perform a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony
- Celebrated NAIDOC Week
- Celebrated Nunga Screen 2024; which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures, stories, and languages through film
- Commemorated National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week
- Celebrated Indigenous Literacy Day
- Participated in First Nations Bedtime Stories Week

- Wrote a personalised Acknowledgment of Country for SFX and provided students with the opportunity to learn and deliver an Acknowledgement of Country in the Kaurna Language
- Incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the SFX Out of School Hours Care program (our Director, Tasharni Nienaber, has also regularly attended Professional Development with Uncle Tamaru and Gowrie SA)
- Installed an Acknowledgement of Country plaque from Kinya Lerrk, which is located outside of the Administration Building featuring a design by Aboriginal visual artists Emma Bamblett and Megan Van Den Berg
- Incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander games into the SFX Sports Day tabloid games, and also as a part of the R-6 Physical Education curriculum
- Added Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art around the school
- Erected signs at the Office Entrance and Kiss'n'Drop Gate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates of National Significance
- Acquired new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags (presented by Tony Zappia, MP) to be flown on new flagpoles (which will be installed once our plans for building works are finalised)
- Distributed curriculum materials to teachers to support the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives
- Added a collection of books written by Aboriginal authors to the school library
- Established a RAP Support Group to support school and curriculum-level initiatives

If you would like to join the RAP Working Group for 2025, please speak to a member of the RAP Working Group (listed below). Establishing a diverse RAP Working Group will ensure a shared and sustainable approach to developing, implementing and maintaining our school RAP. A collaborative approach will also ensure our RAP reflects a range of perspectives and represents the diversity of the SFX community.

We would like to acknowledge the following members of our school community who have been instrumental in the development of the SFX RAP and supporting our vision of Reconciliation:

Kaurna Aboriginal Elders

Uncle John Lochiwiak and Uncle Tamaru Smith

Founding RAP Working Group

Jason Mittiga, Greg Esposito, Simon Kelly, Lynda Reiss, Melanie Attard, Melinda Whitford, Lisa Karanicolou, and Scott Hughes

RAP Support Group

Steph Breumelhof, Steph Maiello, Jay O'Leary, Tasharni Nienaber, Daphne Vassilou.



Sport News

2024 Sports Report

What a wonderful year 2024 has been, with so many great results in the sporting arena for both Catholic (SACPSSA) and SAPSASA Carnivals. Several students went on to be selected to represent Tea Tree Gully for School Sports State Carnivals.

Thank you to all the volunteers that have assisted with these carnivals throughout the year.

We were Champion school for the following carnivals:

School Sport SA - TTG SAPSASA District:

- Athletics
- Girls Pool A Soccer
- Boys Australian Rules Football
- Girls Australian Rules Football
- Boys Div 1 Netball
- Girls Div 1 Netball
- Boys T20 Blast Cricket
- Boys Softball

State Wide Catholic Schools (SACPSSA):

- Year 5 boys Athletics
- Year 4 girls Athletics

School Sport SA - State Wide Knockout:

- Year 5/6 boys Knockout Basketball Champions

We also participated in:

- SACPSSA Netball (over 185 students attending), Hotshots Tennis Carnival and Touch Football
- School Sports SA – Swimming, Cross Country and Tennis.

Looking ahead to 2025, our first trials / carnivals in Term 1 are:

- TTG District Softball trials – Week 2
- TTG District Boys Football trials – Week 6
- TTG Swimming Carnival – Week 6
- TTG Athletics Carnival – Week 9
- TTG District Netball trials – week 9

After School Sports Program

Over the year we have fielded a number of teams from U7's through to U12's in Netball, Basketball and Futsal as part of our ongoing After School Sports program that runs over two terms per season. This program could not function without our volunteer coaches and we thank you for your time, knowledge and skills to develop the children's skills and ability in your team.

Short R-2 Extracurricular sporting programs

The following programs were offered over the course of 2024 for all R-Yr 2 students - Hots Shots Tennis, Auskick, Simply Soccer, New Ball Cricket, Netstarted Netball, Jumpstart Basketball

Year 3 - 6 Running Club

This is a new addition to the calendar which commenced this term.

Students have been running each Monday morning on the school oval. Each week they try different types of running such as intervals, Fartlek and The Coopers Run to name a few. Well done to all of our participants in the Running Club for your commitment and desire to improve your fitness.

We are looking forward to 2025 and to continue with our sporting achievements.

Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun

Well, what a brilliant school community event the bi-annual Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun was, held on Friday, 29th November. We couldn't have asked for a nicer day, with the sun shining and students, staff and volunteers decked out to undertake the obstacle course

including the foam. The run was a wonderful way to finish the year and celebrate the successful fundraising effort from our whole community. An outstanding \$48,366.85 was raised towards a new playground.



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