19 October 2015

Principal

Dear Parent/Carers,

I have been impressed with the way the students have quickly settled into their work this term. Teachers are commenting on how the students have got their heads down so quickly and are demonstrating an eagerness to learn. As this is a short term and there are many things that need to be completed this positive start is greatly appreciated.

Our term and academic year will be coming to a close on Friday 4th December. School will finish on Friday 4th December at 12noon. Students who are enrolled at OSHC will be able to access the service from 12noon, please contact Sonia directly on 4037 9950 or at oshc.manunda@ccelc.catholic.org.au for more information. Those who are not registered, and might be interested in using the service on this day, please also contact Sonia for more information.

Next Friday night we have the P&F Halloween Disco on here at the school. This is a fun night and is greatly supported by the parents of the school. All students are welcome to attend – it will be a great night.

On Monday night we attempted to hold the AGM for the P&F Association. Unfortunately there were not enough parents present to form a quorum as per the constitution to elect a new executive, therefore, we are going to postpone the AGM to the same date as next month’s general November meeting. Please feel free to come along and be part of the group that supports the school so well.

This week at Assembly I spoke to the children about friendship and what being a good friend is about. I used a backpack to demonstrate this to the students and it had various objects inside which were to give the students visual reminders of the characteristics of being a good friend. Mrs. Gubiani wrote about the backpack last week so I won’t rehash that same information, other than to say we will be working with the students to see how they are using these simple tools to become better friends.

As the term moves into full swing, I would like to make the usual reminders for all the parents of the school. The Kiss and Drop Zones are a very important part of moving students safely off the campus each day. Please use them correctly. Also we greatly appreciate volunteers in many parts of school life, this includes the Tuckshop, Library and reading. If you can help out please do not hesitate to contact the Office to let us know you are available.

I know I have put this out there a few times already, but one more time won’t hurt, if you have a younger child who is of Prep age for 2016 (born between 1 July, 2010 to 30 June 2011), please make sure you have completed an enrolment form for this child. Please don’t assume that we will know that you have another child ready for school next year. Our Prep 2016 Parent Information Session will be held on Wednesday 11 November.

Term 4 School Fee Statements were emailed out this week. Please be sure to check your email account as advised to the school for this statement, and that all school fees for 2015 must be finalised prior to 4th December. Families that have direct debits in place would have also received a statement, this is a normal procedure and is to keep you informed on how you are travelling with your payments and again, to ensure they are paid in full by the end of the school year. A reminder that any outstanding accounts that have not been addressed with me, will result in your child/ren’s report cards being held in the School Office until the matter is resolved.

Next week there is further Protected Industrial Action planned, once more information comes to hand parents will be informed of any changes to normal school operations.

May Jesus be with you in all that you do this week.

Brendon

Assistant Principal Administration (APA)

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life! In you we are one family, one body.
Bless each and every member of our family.
Amen

It has been great to see that the students have settled well and back into routine. This term is a short term and it is vital that students are in attendance. Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to be a friend this week by demonstrating something from our friendship bag that was written about last week. Remember our ‘friendship backpack’ is to help us to learn about what it means to be a kind, honest and reliable friend to others.

Backpack contents

Rock; a friend is as solid as a rock, they stand by you during joy and sadness.
Eraser; for rubbing out our mistakes and starting over.
Friends are forgiving.
Toothpick; a friend is easy going and not too picky, they accept you for who you are.
Rubberband; a friend stretches and challenges you to be the best person you can be.
Packet of Lifesavers; a friend is there to talk to you, to listen, to be your lifesaver.

Leaving St Francis Xavier’s School at the End of this Year
If your child/ren are not returning to St Francis Xavier’s School in 2016, could you please let our Office know either through a phone message (4037 9900) or via email at secretary.manunda@cns.catholic.edu.au. This of course does not apply for our Year 6 children who will be finishing their primary education at the end of this year. Although, all school fees for Yr 6 students must be paid in full. We have a number of families who are keen to enrol in our school. By letting us know now we are able to more effectively plan for classes, resourcing and staffing for the future. Thank you for your anticipated help with this matter.

Lost Property
We have a large number of unclaimed named and unnamed clothing, shoes, jumpers, water bottles etc in the lost property. If your child has misplaced something please ask them to visit the property box. This will be cleared out in the coming weeks.

Student Leadership 2016
Over the next few weeks of Term 4, the Year 6 students will begin the Leadership process here at St Francis Xavier’s for School Leaders and House Leaders. This will entail completing nomination forms which require two signatures from teachers and parent endorsement. As the process continues and students are shortlisted, the next stage will involve attending interviews and delivering speeches in front of leadership, and their fellow students with the aim of being a part of the 2016 School Leaders or House Leaders team. We wish our students all the best and look forward to the coming weeks. Many of our students have fantastic qualities to be valuable leaders of the school.

Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE)

Last Friday our Year 5 students attended a Leadership Day at the Seville Mercy Centre in Earlville. We were privileged to learn about the qualities of good leaders from Mr Lionel Williamson from St. Augustine’s. We were also very thankful for the support and guidance of Mr and Mrs Barber who provided team building activities, Ms Maggie Shephard-King from N-QADA who helped us develop our public speaking skills through dramatic arts, Mr Brendon Alexander spoke of Christian Leadership and student leaders from St. Monica’s and St. Augustine’s spoke of their personal leadership experiences. It was an incredible day. On Wednesday some of our Year 5 students collected the Tier 1 application packs and are now pondering the criteria and responsibilities as they consider leadership pathways. However, it is crucial to remember that our seniors are all Leaders! Each and every senior is a Leader, a Role Model and a Mentor. As one of our 2015 School Reps said, we are all equal.

On Thursday we began our Granfriends program. A huge thank you to Bev, Jenny and Dorothea (our Grandma’s) who kicked off this weekly project. We had an OVERWHELMING MASSIVE response from our students and unfortunately I was not able to increase our students from 15. If you would like to be involved, please pop in and see me (or call) as many hands make light work. And if the interest is there from our volunteers for 2016 we would dearly love to offer it again.

Crazy Sock Day
St Francis Xavier’s has had lots of fun with Crazy Sock Day today. The idea is a fun way to raise awareness of Children’s Catholic Missions. It was great to see so many students and staff members get into the spirit of the day and come to school in the most colourful and crazy socks you would ever hope to see. Thank you all for your support, and to the Year 2’s for organising this fundraising initiative.

The Yr 3 iPad Parent Information Session which was scheduled for Tuesday 20th October has been postponed until the Tuesday 3rd November, at 5:30pm in the Staffroom. In preparation for this information session I urge Yr 3 Parents to consider attending the Cybersafety Seminar on Wednesday 28th October as your children will be participating in the iPad program in 2016.

Please don’t forget about our Cybersafety Seminar for Mums and Dads on Wednesday 28th October from 6pm – 7.30pm here at St. Frannies. This is a particularly valuable opportunity for parents to learn about keeping our children safe, I strongly encourage you to attend, particularly those parents with a child from Years 3 through to Year 6.

Baby News
On Monday 12th October, Dakota in 4C welcomed a new baby brother “Phoenix Thomas”

God bless,

Donna Kitchin

HPE (Week 2 – Term 4)
This term our Year 5 & 6 students will be participating in Interschool Sport. We will travel by bus to various sporting facilities and compete against several other schools in the area. Boys are choosing between Touch Football & Cricket, girls can choose between Basketball & Hockey. A note will be going home with students shortly outlining more information.
This week Saifu Savage is representing SFX in several events at the State Athletics Championships in Townsville. We wish him well.

The T20 Bash Cricket program is on again on Friday nights. It is for both boys and girls. There are limited spaces for the girls to play for FREE. Please see attached notices.

**NetFun Program (formerly NetSetGo)**

Cairns Netball’s School based NetFun program will be back at SFX in Term 4. Commencing on Monday 19th October (3:15 – 4:15pm) in the Multi-Purpose Court. Program will run for 7 Weeks and cost is $90 (with Cairns Netball Pack) or $60 without the pack. To register simply complete the registration form attached in the link below and return to netsetgo@cairnsnetball.net.au

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### Parish News

We have begun our final school term for the year 2015. When there is a busy programme ahead the time goes quickly.

Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. We anticipate the joy of Christmas in the Season of Advent which begins Sunday November 29. On Thursday night December 3 Families are invited to gather together in the school grounds to sing Christmas Carols.

*Father Frank*

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### Tuckshop

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If anyone has any spare time, I could greatly use extra hands on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday to prepare student lunches. Please contact me on 4037 9900.

Kind Regards

*Rita*  
**Tuckshop Convenor**

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### Halloween Disco

Friday 23rd October 6-8pm  
Requesting volunteers to prepare, cook, prepare and sell at the Sausage sizzle.

If you can help, please let us know by returning the Halloween Disco Volunteer form to the P&F box at the front office or emailing us sfx.pandf@cns.catholic.edu.au

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**Uniform Shop**

Wanted a volunteer to help open and operate the Uniform shop.

The Uniform shop open hours can be adjusted to fit your availability.

If you are interested or want more information please see Yaz in the Uniform shop or email us at sfx.pandf@cns.catholic.edu.au

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**P&F AGM POSTPONED**

*Rescheduled to 6pm Monday 2nd November*

Great way to discover the details of what is happening around the school and what we can do to help our children in their education environment.

All welcome. Come, have your say and vote on upcoming events, changes to our by-laws and areas where our funds should be focused.

Tea, coffee, wine & nibbles provided.

**WANTED** volunteers to fill the roles of:

- P&F Executive President
- Executive Secretary

*From my experience in the role of P&F President, I have found it to be very interesting to see the broader aspects of the school community and rewarding to see what can be accomplished to assist our children at their school. I would like to reassure anyone considering the role that the workload is minimal and recommend the position to anyone considering it. I am stepping down as it is time for new ideas and energy.*

Fiona (retiring SFX P&F President)

All those interested in any of these positions please see the P&F website for details or ask any of the serving members for more information.

http://www.stfranniespandf.com/roles.html

See link for nomination form. Please email completed forms to the P&F Secretary prior to the meeting. Email: sfx.pandf@cns.catholic.edu.au

### Calendar of Events for 2015

- **Halloween Disco Friday 23rd October**
- World Teachers Day Friday 30th October
- P&F Meeting Monday 2nd November
Calendar of Events 2016

Monday 8th February P&F Meeting
Ladies Meet’n’Greet TBA
Monday 7th March P&F Meeting
Men’s Golf Day TBA
Monday 9th May P&F Meeting
Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th May Mother’s Day gifts
Monday 6th June P&F Meeting
Monday 1st August P&F Meeting
Friday 5th August Family Night
Friday 2nd Father’s Day Breakfast
Monday 5th September P&F Meeting
Monday 10th October P&F Meeting
Friday 21st October Halloween Disco
Friday 28th October World Teacher’s Day
Monday 7th November P&F Meeting
2017 Prep Information Night TBA

You Can Do It Awards (Issued at Assembly 12/10/15)

1A Matilda Bradshaw 5A Kei Nishikawa
1B All of Class 1B 5C Shrahon Gazmer
1C Georgia Keating 1D Jennifer Monger
2A Joshua Walker 6A Levi Thompson
2B All of Class 2B 6C Jay Howell
2C Mikayla Takai

HPE Class 4A

3A Niamh Hogan 58L HPE Class 4B
3B Vincente Valinoti 3C Tyler Okino

ARTS Class Prep C

Prep A James Stone

4A Marcus Mason 4B Jaime Brockhurst

Prep B

4C Chanel Zaccour/Chandra Silwal 4C Prep C Selina Zhang/Janish Bhattarai

Community News

‘Congratulations goes to Isabel Roestenburg for achieving honours on her Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) exam for cello.

AMEB is the most widely used assessment service in Australia offering syllabuses and graded examinations for a wide range of musical instruments, music theory, singing, speech and drama. Isabel’s examination was conducted by a highly trained examiner and her honours qualification is an outstanding achievement. Well done Isabel.’

Scholastic Book Club

The last Scholastic Book Club Order Form for 2015 went home yesterday with students. Please note the below information and that all orders must be placed on-line. The Office will not be accepting any cash payments for future Scholastic Book Club Orders.