

St Francis Xavier College

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Students and Staff

On Friday of last week we celebrated our Opening Mass for 2017. Father Loi was the main celebrant and he was assisted by Father Gerard from St John's, Father Laurie Foote from ANU and Father Thomas from St Vincent's/St Matthew's. Our religious theme this year is **'Love One Another'** and in the homily Father Loi spoke of the challenge to love your enemies. As I said to the students at the end of Mass we will 'unpack' the theme throughout the year. Love has many expressions and understandings. In the Greek language there are at least six words for love and the hope is that by the end of the year the students understand what Jesus meant when he said 'love one another'. At the end of the Mass I congratulated the students on their reverence and sense of the sacred. As I've said on many occasions one of our responsibilities is to assist them to understand what is appropriate in different contexts. A sporting event is different to a concert which is different to a formal assembly or a Mass.

Last week students in Year 7 received their iPads and the Year 9s their laptops. We have emphasised that the devices are tools and not toys and their purpose is to assist students with their learning.

The Parents and Friends Meet and Greet is on **Monday 6 March, 5:30pm to 6:30pm**, and this will be followed by the Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting. I encourage all parents to come along and to stay for the AGM. Please don't worry that you will get a job!

Just before Christmas I received the news that **Michaela Vergano**, our Inclusive Education Coordinator, had won a scholarship to do a Professional Education Doctorate at the University of Canberra. This is an exciting opportunity for Michaela as she gets to combine two of her great loves, teaching and studying. Michaela's doctorate focuses on teacher's professional knowledge of how and what to teach using technology, and she will bring to bear her wealth of experience in terms of teaching and learning. We wish Michaela well for the future and thank the contribution she has made to SFX.

We have advertised for an Inclusive Education Coordinator. In the interim Joan Harmer is the Acting Coordinator. We are also looking at employing additional staff in this area that is so important to our College.

Newsletter



We think it is time to look at new ways of communicating the information that we normally send in the newsletter. It is always a delicate balance between sending enough or too much information and we certainly don't want to bombard parents with too many emails. In the coming months we will trial a variety of mechanisms to 'share the good news' about all the wonderful things that happen at SFX.

Best Wishes

Angus M Tulley
Principal

Student Wellbeing

Year 7 Immunisation:

The school based immunisation program provides parents with the opportunity to have their child vaccinated for free through school, coordinated by ACT Health.

- ◆ Students CAN wear their sports uniform on the day.
- ◆ Dates for the year are: 28 March, 24 June and 4 December.
- ◆ Your child will receive their consent cards this week. Please return by 27 February.

Tuning in to Teens:

This course is run through Belconnen Community Service. It is a 6 week coaching parenting program which supports parents to help their teenagers build emotional intelligence. It is suitable for parents of children aged 10-25. It will be held at Kippax Health Centre, Kippax Place Holt. Call Matt or Tina for the next course 6264 0200.

ThinkUKnow Presentation:

St Francis Xavier will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on **Tuesday 28th March at 6pm** and all parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend.



ThinkUKnow Australia is a cyber safety education program that educates parents, carers and teachers about how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and offers advice about how to help them overcome these challenges in a safe and ethical way.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank. The program is delivered in collaboration with policing partners New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police, as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation covers issues relating to children and young peoples' privacy and security online, their relationships with other users and their online reputation. It provides insight into the devices young people are using, as well as the popular websites, apps and social networking sites they're accessing.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

For more information, you can visit www.thinkuknow.org.au. Please email the office to RSVP (this assists with catering and providing resources): school.office@sfx.act.edu.au or call on: 6258 1055.



Mrs Dearne Bassett
Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing

SFX Parents and Friends

The AGM for the SFX P&F is coming up and you are invited to come along and get involved.

The meetings are only once a term (and only go for about 90mins) and it's a great opportunity for you be involved in your child's College life. The P&F has always been very well supported by the SFX parents and we would like to keep that going. There are no fund raising roles, so the time commitment is not huge. Being a member of the P&F is about listening to what is happening at SFX and the plans that are being made for its successful future. Your thoughts and opinions on these matters are sought and valued.

The AGM is on Monday 6 March, 5:30pm. We will begin the 'Welcome Meet & Greet' with some light refreshments and then start the business part of the meeting at 6pm.

Please give this some real consideration. I can guarantee that you will not be disappointed by the experience of being involved.

Ursula Jamieson
P&F President

"Love One Another"

Our College liturgical theme for 2017 is *Love One Another*. Love is inclusive. Love all, not just those you know or call friends. Not just the people you like and who like you in return. Not just your family, not just your friends, not just your neighbours. Not just your country. Love the whole world and the people in it. It is a big call. It is sometimes very difficult to love our siblings, parents and other relatives. Sometimes they smell, they are annoying, or they are demanding. They are unlovely. It is sometimes difficult to love those neighbours who have late night parties and untidy houses. It is difficult to love the bully, the loud mouth, and the weird ones. It is difficult to love those from other countries because they are so different to us. It is difficult to love people like Donald Trump but the reality is God loves Donald Trump as much as the rest of us, and it's our job to pray that he comes to realisation for the sake of the whole world.

If we love one another like Christ loves us then this means that we will not gossip about others, we will not be bystanders to bullying, and we will not drop litter for others to pick up. We will listen respectfully, with an open mind, to the views and experiences of others. We will be a servant of others, we will put others ahead of our own interests. This love is an evangelistic love that draws others to Christ because they reason, "Look at how they love one another in such a selfless way...that is real godly love" and so even those searching for love and belonging will know that we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. It's not about religion but about a relationship with the Son of God.

Our Opening Mass readings called us to love. In the first reading, St John tells us:

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

John taps into a universal understanding that God's love lives in us and we are called to find that love and live it out in our lives. Many cultures and faiths recognise that divine love exists in all of us. The Hawaiian greeting, *Aloha*, means God in us; the Hindu greeting *Namaste* also celebrates and acknowledges the divine in each of us. The Hebrew greeting *Shalom* means to be complete, perfect and full. It is also a blessing calling into someone's life the most divine presence. We are celebrating in this Eucharist the divine presence in all its forms, in the sacrifice of the Mass, the presence of Christ, in the memory of Jesus, in the ritual meal, in thanksgiving and finally in the call to act in love in our daily lives and encounters.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus commands us to "Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

And what does Jesus command us? To love - simply love. Lent begins next week. Perhaps you can make your Lenten resolution *to love*. To give of yourself, to do acts of kindness without others knowing about them. Pick up clothes, do the dishes, mow the lawn, do the weeding. Clean the bathroom. Go to Mass. Celebrate God's love for you in a community of God's love, as we are doing today.

I see these acts of love in the corridors of our College very frequently. The joyful Monday morning greetings, the willingness to open doors, to greet others, to make others feel welcome. A simple smile which can make all the difference to someone struggling with anxiety. Last week I was outside B7 waiting for the photocopier to finish. I met with a student who was sitting outside waiting for another teacher to speak to him. Another young man came by and said "Are you ok, mate?" and stood there until he received an answer. The student who was waiting seemed very touched and replied, "Yes, thanks for asking." A simple "Are you ok?" can make all the difference to someone who is struggling.

The Ethics of Love, particularly Christian love, is being explored in all Religious Education units this term. Year 9s are exploring the call to action in their study of Prayer and Eucharist, Year 10s are exploring Church History, Year 11s are looking at the call to love as part of the Search for Meaning and Year 12s are focussed on the call to love when making ethical decisions.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once lamented "***The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.***"

Our College motto is *Truth and Courage*. The truth is that to love can be simple but to live it on a daily basis requires real courage. Courage to ask the hard questions and courage to live out loving responses. **Pedro Arrupe**, the great Jesuit, is said to have given the following great advice:

**Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love,
in a quite absolute, final way.**

**What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect
everything.**

**It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.**

Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

(From *Finding God in All Things: A Marquette Prayer Book* © 2009 Marquette University Press.)

Finally, last week we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. Perhaps you did not know the role of the Catholic Church in the alerting authorities of the Bombing of Darwin. **Father John McGrath, MSC**, who ran the Mission at the Tiwi Islands, was the first to alert authorities of the Japanese planes approaching. Father John's life is an example of one who lived for others in the service of love.

Father John McGrath moved from his hometown in central NSW to work with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on Bathurst Island. Remaining in the Tiwi Islands for several decades, he became fluent in the local language. On 19 February 1942 Fr John radioed a warning to Darwin of the incoming formation of Japanese aircraft. This was the first bombing raid on Darwin. His warning was ignored. When the return radio call finally came, his hut had been destroyed by machine gun fire. Even amid the fear of a Japanese invasion, Fr McGrath remained on the island. By the time he was finally transferred back to NSW in 1948, Fr John McGrath had come to be known as the "Apostle to the Tiwis". His life of dedication and service was marked with a traditional "Pukamuni" burial ceremony on Bathurst Island, that laid him to rest among the people he loved.

You can find more inspirational information on Father John McGrath here:

<https://www.misacor.org.au/index.php/join-us/msc-action-stories/1089-john-mcgrath-msc-missionary-on-bathurst-island>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bathurst_Island_\(Northern_Territory\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bathurst_Island_(Northern_Territory))

SOME MORE WEBSITES FOR YOU THIS WEEK

<https://brightside.me/wonder-people/this-man-has-been-taking-care-of-his-paralyzed-wife-for-56-years-this-is-true-love-268210/>

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/prayers-by-st-ignatius-and-others>

<http://gretchenschmelzer.com/parents-corner/2015/6/23/the-letter-your-teenager-cant-write-you> - The Letter Your Teenager Can't Write You – I thought this was so insightful and moving. It helps put in perspectives all the negative moments you experience with your loud, obnoxious and uncooperative teen!

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/25/why-its-imperative-to-teach-empathy-to-boys/> - Teaching empathy to boys.

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2017/02/14/beyond-sex-ed-how-to-talk-to-teens-about-love/> - How to Talk to teenagers about love – a secular view and worth reading.

<http://cathnews.com/cathnews/28371-how-does-the-church-resolve-new-bioethical-questions>

<http://www.sfxforlife.org/bioethics.htm> This site is called SFX for life – it has a range of articles on bioethics and Church Issues.



Anne Armstrong
Religious Curriculum Coordinator

PERFORMING ARTS

INSTRUMENT RETURN

If you have a school instrument at home please return it to the College immediately. We need all instruments back so that we can complete an inventory before re-loaning them for 2017.

Thank you very much,

The Performing Arts Staff

CHOIR

The SFX Choir is now recruiting new members for 2017.

If you are interested, please come along to the following rehearsals in the Music Room, or see Ms Zimpel for more details:

ODD weeks: Thursday lunch

EVEN weeks: Monday and Wednesday lunch

All students are welcome!



SFX BAND & JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Have you ever wanted to be in a Band? Well now is your chance!!! The Performing Arts Department is pleased to announce that we will be running a Beginner Band and Jazz Ensemble here at SFX!!

All students are welcome to take part.

To register your interest please write your name, pastoral and instrument of choice on the sign-up sheet attached to the music noticeboard outside the theatre. Or see one of your friendly performing arts staff for more information.



Sport Report

Gala days for school sport have still not begun, however, this week there will be a few teams competing.

On Wednesday 22 February, Mr Peter Marrapodi will coach the College Boys' Rugby 7s team and on Friday 24 February Mr Tom Nolan and Mr Brad McCallum will coach the 7/8 and 9/10 Boys' Softball teams at the ACT Gala day held at Hawker. Good luck to all teams competing!



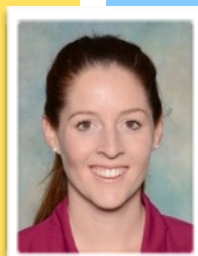
Outside of our school competitions, I would like to congratulate **Alannah Fraser** (left) of Year 12 who has been selected to play in the 2017 Tarsha Gale Cup Squad for Rugby League. This is an U18's competition for Women's Rugby League 9s. We wish Alannah all the best for the season ahead!



Congratulations also to **Lachlan Winterton** (right) of Year 8, who has been selected in the U14 NSW State squad for Water Polo. We wish him good luck for the competition!

Also, here is some exciting sporting news about **James Daniel** of Year 11. James has been selected in the ACT Under 18 Dragon Boat team. This followed a gruelling selection camp with strength, speed and power testing at the AIS, followed by racing and technique testing on Lake Burley Griffin. Conditions were tough with temperatures approaching 40 degrees followed by strong winds and rain, but James's preparation shone through and he performed strongly. James trains five times a week with Komodo Paddle Club and now with the ACT team and will compete for his club and the ACT at the Australian Dragon Boat Championships in April this year. Good luck, James! (pictured right)

A reminder that if your child has accomplished any sporting achievements that you would like recognised in the newsletter, please email me the details at samantha.stevens@sfx.act.edu.au.



Samantha Stevens
Sports Coordinator

Community Announcements

Camp INTERACTiOn 2017

*Rotary District 9710 is pleased to invite Interactors
to our 5 day/4 night training camp!*

***Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd April 2017
at "Eagles Rest" Wee Jasper***

Outdoor teambuilding and high & low ropes courses

Team challenges & projects

Build new Interact friendships

Learn new skills for you & your club

***Plus work towards earning a Certificate II in Active Volunteering:
a nationally recognized qualification!***

Cost is \$200 which includes Accommodation, all meals, activities,
and course costs towards the Certificate II in Active Volunteering (CHC24015).

Kindly subsidized in 2017 by The Snow Foundation

Interactors are encouraged to approach their sponsor Rotary Club
to ask them to help subsidize their cost to attend the camp.

To attend please complete the Application Form – please note that spaces are limited.

Contact District Interact Chair – Natalie Jupe
for more information – nataliejupe@hootmail.com or 0419 161 974

Sponsored by





Dear Interactors, Parents/Caregivers, and Rotarians

The Rotary District 9710's Interact Committee is pleased to be able to offer Interactors the opportunity to attend:

"Camp INTERACTION"

18 to 22 April 2017

Eagles Rest Outdoor Education Centre, Doctors Flat Road, Wee Jasper NSW

Arrival: Tuesday 18th April 2017 no later than 2pm

Depart: Saturday 22nd April 2017 at 11 am

Camp **INTERACTION** is five day training camp for Interactors. Participants will make new friends with Interactors from across the District, participate in challenging and fun teambuilding & leadership activities, and learn new skills and gain ideas that will improve the running of Interact clubs. Participants will engage in these activities whilst undertaking coursework that will lead to the award of a Certificate II in Active Volunteering, a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

Interactors will undertake a wide variety of activities that will be both challenging and rewarding. Outdoor teambuilding activities include high and low ropes courses, abseiling and rock climbing as well as team project challenges. Discussions, tutorials and small group activities will also help the participant fully explore the concept of what it means to be an Interactor, providing wonderful opportunities for personal development in a fun and supportive environment.

Cost for the camp this year is only **\$200** per participant, thanks to the generosity of a grant from The Snow Foundation to subsidise the cost (last year it was \$400pp). This fee covers participant meals, accommodation, activities, workbooks, training materials and administrative fees relating to the Certificate II in Active Volunteering. Interactors will be fully supervised throughout the camp.

To register complete the attached pages and then post to
District Interact Chair Natalie Jupe, 3/78 Crest Park Pde, Queanbeyan West NSW 2620

Applications for the camp must be submitted no later than Friday 24th March 2017.

*****Please note that there are limited spaces for this camp**

and late applications cannot be accepted***

Following successfully applying, participants will receive Joining Instruction via email. This will detail all aspects of the training and participant requirements. This will be sent by email. It is imperative that an active email address be provided for this purpose.

Transport to and from the camp is the parent/caregivers responsibility. We suggest that you contact your sponsoring Rotary Club who may be able to assist with transport. If you have any difficulty, please contact us and we may be able to assist.



**WEST BELCONNEN
JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE**

REGISTRATION DAYS

**FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH
11:00^{AM} – 3:00^{PM}**

**OR REGISTER ONLINE @
PLAYNRL.COM**



SOUTHERN CROSS
CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Experience the world while living like a local

At Southern Cross Cultural Exchange we are pleased to release our selection of student scholarship opportunities for exchange programs departing in 2017.

Scholarships give students from Year 9 to Year 12 the opportunity to live and study overseas, and truly discover a new culture and way of life.

There are a number of categories and destinations to choose from, simply visit www.scce.com.au/scholarships for program information, application closing dates and to download the application kit. For more information contact us on 1800 500 501 or email, scceaust@scce.com.au.



1800 500 501



www.scce.com.au



@scceaust



@scceaust

SCCEID: 00001

EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIPS

2017 Application Details



**SOUTHERN CROSS
CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Scholarship Title	Year Level	Details	Length	Benefit	Application Closing Date
The Classic (Depart Aug/Sep)	Year 9/10	Why do you want to go on exchange? What life experiences do you expect to gain by going on exchange?	Semester or Year	50% Scholarship	February 28
The Betty Lane Scholarship (Depart Aug/Sep)	Year 9/10	As the founder of S.C.C.E., Betty Lane was dedicated to giving young people the opportunity to further themselves by going on experiential, educational exchange programs and learning more about themselves, about culture, languages and furthering international understanding. Demonstrate how these qualities would be beneficial for you.	Semester or Year	\$3500 Scholarship for 10 months \$2500 Scholarship for 5 months	March 10
Digital Media Scholarship (Depart Aug/Sep)	Year 9/10	Is digital media your "thing"? Create a video, no longer than 3 minutes in length, showcasing your local community in a fun and inspiring way. You will also be excited to share your exchange experience with us while overseas via both digital and social media.	Semester or Year	\$3500 Scholarship for 10 months \$2500 Scholarship for 5 months	March 10
Police Scholarship (Depart November)	Year 9/10	For students who have members of their family who work or have worked within the Police Community. How has your family's involvement within the Police Force impacted your life and the local community?	3 Months	25% Scholarship	June 30
Fire & Rescue Services Scholarship (Depart November)	Year 9/10	For students who have members of their family (employed and volunteers) who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. How has your family's involvement within these services impacted your life and the local community?	3 Months	25% Scholarship	June 30
Year 9 Scholarship (Depart January 2018)	Year 9	Why do you want to go on exchange? What life experiences do you expect to gain by going on exchange?	Semester or Year	\$3500 Scholarship for 10 months \$2500 Scholarship for 5 months	August 1
Year 10 Scholarship (Depart November)	Year 10	Why do you want to go on exchange? What life experiences do you expect to gain by going on exchange?	3 Months	25% Scholarship	June 30
Year 11 & 12 Scholarship (Depart December)	Year 11/12	Why do you want to go on exchange? What life experiences do you expect to gain by going on exchange?	2 Months	25% Scholarship	June 30

More Information

For more information, scholarship conditions or to download the application kit visit www.scce.com.au/scholarships, or contact us on 1800 500 501.

Come play AFL with the Belconnen Cats in 2017

Registration now open

Develop skills, coordination, teamwork,
and have fun with your mates.

For age groups 5 to 15 yrs

Information and contact details at

www.belconnencatsafl.com.au

