



St Francis Xavier
College

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Students and Staff

The year has begun well at SFX. Many of the staff commented on how happy the students were to be back on their first day. Hopefully the enthusiasm was there on the second day too!

The Year 7 students are settled and they have been welcomed warmly by the other students. Parents of Year 7 students have even emailed me to say how happy their children are at St Francis Xavier. I was also asked to thank the Senior students for the way they have cared for the students in Year 7.

Lent

Today we start the journey towards Easter with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. We begin the 40 days of Lent which is a time of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

In today's liturgical service the students had the opportunity to receive ashes. The ashes are a reminder of our mortality and call us to repentance, to turn away from selfishness to the promise of new life.

Academic Awards Ceremony

Yesterday we held the Academic Awards Ceremony. Students in Years 8 to 12 received Merit Certificates for

Outstanding Achievement and Effort last semester.

In my opening words I reflected on why particular students 'succeed' in their studies. I'm hoping the 'awardees' will take the time to stop me in the corridor to tell me if I was 'on the money'.

Our guest speaker was Sister Jane Keogh (pictured above), a Brigidine nun who is well known for her passion for social justice and her advocacy on behalf of refugees. Sister Jane challenged the students to make the most of this year and to make their own decisions without being influenced by their friends. In providing examples of the work she does it was obvious that Sister Jane spreads the mercy and love of Jesus.

It was interesting to note the number of awardees who, when receiving their certificates, told Sister Jane that they enjoyed what she had to say.

We have had guest speakers from many walks of life at our Awards' Ceremonies. Sister Jane's voice was very different to most of our guest speakers. She certainly isn't 'politically correct' and at times she has been called a nuisance and a troublemaker.

She did make us all think and it was very clear that in all that she does she tries to live the Gospel.

It takes a village

Last Saturday night I had the privilege of attending a fundraiser for the Arranz family. For parents and students new to the school, Elijah Arranz was the Year 8 student injured in a sky-diving incident near Goulburn in November last year.

I am mindful of Elijah and his family's privacy but suffice it to say that the fundraiser was a wonderful demonstration of love in action. Many have heard the expression 'it takes a village to raise a child'. As Elijah's father said on the night "Elijah is a part of many 'villages' and they were all there offering support on Saturday.

Elijah remains in hospital in Sydney. He has a long road ahead of him but he is up for the fight!

Best wishes,
Angus Tulley
Principal



STUDENT WELLBEING

Welcome to all families to the 2016 school year. The year has started with a rush, with many events keeping us very busy. The Year Co-ordinators and myself are looking forward to working with your sons and daughters this year. We are very excited to welcome Mrs Lee Dwyer and Ms Jessica Cavanagh to the team. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance. The Year Co-ordinators are:

Year 7	Mrs Lee Dwyer (acting Term 1)
Year 8	Mr Anthony Telford
Year 9	Mrs Cathy Barry
Year 10	Ms Jessica Cavanagh
Year 11	Mr Martin Mullin
Year 12	Mr Peter Marrapodi

The Year Coordinators work very closely with their Pastoral Team, and you should have received an email from your respective Year Coordinator introducing their team. In addition, our Pastoral Minister, Sr Sue Hallams, and our Defence Transitions Mentor, Mrs Donna Lambert, liaise with Year Coordinators to ensure maximum support for your child's needs.

In the event that you wish to speak to someone regarding a classroom curriculum issue, the first point of contact should be the classroom teacher or the relevant Studies Coordinator if that is more appropriate. The Studies Coordinators are:

Religious Curriculum	Anne Armstrong
Applied Technology	Rod Crafter
English	Jaime McDevitt
Food & Fabric	Simone Murphy
ICT	Peter Crane
Languages	Natalie Bakonji
Mathematics	Damien Nemeth (Term 1)
Middle School	Danielle Madsen (until Week 5)
Physical Education & Health	Samantha McDonald (Term 1)
Performing Arts	Peter van Rijswijk
Science	Ian Stace-Winkles
Senior Studies	Judy Knight
Social Science	Felicity Hunt
Inclusive Education	Michaela Vergano
Visual Arts	Damien Veal

Catholic Care counsellors at the College are Ms Jo Porter (Mon, Tues, Wed morning, Thurs, Fri) and Mrs Anna Gubler (Wed morning, Thurs, Fri).

Uniform:

Some general reminders regarding uniform:

- Skirts and dresses should be to the knee in length.
- Girls pants should be Scags or Midford brand only – other styles are not permitted. The SFX logo is now on the accepted pant styles.
- Shoes must be black, traditional, lace up, polishable leather for all students. Other styles (such as buckled shoes, ballet flats, sports shoes) are not acceptable. Many thanks to all those families who have made a particular effort to ensure that school shoes are of the accepted style.
- Only plain white t-shirts may be worn under the College shirt. T-shirts should not have logos/ designs and should not be visible below the hem or sleeve line.
- Black socks are not permitted. Juniors should wear white (plus grey for boys) and seniors are required to also wear plain white (plus navy for senior boys).

All students are reminded that **facial piercing of any kind** is not permitted at College. Hairstyles must be neat with natural hair colours. For any questions about uniform expectations, please contact the relevant Year Coordinator.

Absences:

In the event that students are absent due to illness or other reasons, we ask that parents submit an absence form via our College website (<https://www.sfx.act.edu.au/index.php/parents/absent-note>) or phone the College Absence Line (6278 9099) on the day of absence and leave a message regarding the absence. An email from parents is also acceptable as long as it is from the email address we have registered as the parent email. SMS texts will be sent each day to the nominated parent/guardian of absent students. A reply to this text message will be considered as an explanation for the absence. A written note will also be accepted to explain absences.

All students (Years 7 to 12) are required to attend Pastoral each day at 8.28am.

To & From School:

- Students are reminded that underpasses are to be used if possible when crossing busy roads, such as Kingsford Smith Drive.
- While waiting for buses at the College Bus Bay, students are to remain on the **upper level of grass** well away from the buses, not on the footpath in the bus turning circle.
- Senior students using the Senior Car Park are reminded to exercise caution when leaving at the end of the day, and to drive at all times in an appropriate manner. Failure to do so may result in removal of driving privileges by the College.
- Parents are reminded that it is an offence to drop off/pick up students in the Bus Stop on Kingsford Smith Drive. An alternative may be dropping students off/picking up near the Kingsford Smith Drive underpass, in Milford Street Latham.

SFX is also hosting a **ThinkUKnow** cyber safety presentation for parents and carers on **Wednesday 9 March at 6pm** in the College Theatre. Please see below for the details. I look forward to seeing lots of parents there, so that we can support our young people in their safe use of ICT.

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



Sue Sturgiss
AP Student Wellbeing



ThinkUKnow Presentation

<http://www.thinkuknow.org.au>

Wednesday 9 March , 6pm, College Theatre

RSVP: school.office@sfx.act.edu.au

ThinkUKnow is a free, evidence-based cyber safety program that provides accessible cyber safety education to parents, carers and teachers through schools and organisations across Australia. ThinkUKnow uses a network of trained law enforcement members and accredited volunteers from [our program partner organisations](#) to deliver the cyber safety education presentations nationwide.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING TIPS

SFX is a REACHOUT.com School. This means we will regularly circulate information regarding positive mental health and wellbeing via the Newsletter and also by email. If you wish to find out more, visit [REACHOUT.com](https://reachout.com).

“As the school year begins, starting a new school, moving schools, changing classes, finding new friends and meeting new teachers will be top of mind for lots of young people in Australia. It’s normal for young people to feel nervous when beginning a new school and there are many things that young people can do to make the transition easier such as remaining in contact with old friends via emailing, social media or meeting up after school and weekends, finding ways to express how they are feeling like writing a journal, playing sport or talking to someone. ReachOut.com provides fact sheets, stories and forums to help make it easier for young people to adjust to new places, new people and new friends”. (<http://au.reachout.com/>).

[Starting a New School](#) People [change schools all the time](#), and it can be [hard to adjust](#) to a new place. There are a few things you can do to [make it easier](#). It helps to be patient, and to [have someone to talk to](#).

[How to Make Friends](#) Knowing [how to be a good friend](#) is the first step in making friends, followed by thinking about the [places you can go](#) to meet new people. If you're having difficulty, there are also certain [skills you can work on](#) and [people you can speak to](#) for a bit of help.

Once again, Years 9 to 12 Language students will have the opportunity to take part in OzClo – the annual Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad. Last year we had a successful SFX group go through to the National round and also came first in the ACT first round. This year, if we have a lucky group who performs exceptionally well in the National round, they could be selected to attend the International Olympiad in India! So, I encourage our students to give it a go. The students had a wonderful time last year and, to date, this year we have already more than tripled our expression of interest. Please see me TODAY or email me if you are interested in applying. The first round takes place on Wednesday 2 March at the ANU from 3:45-5:45pm. I will need to register the student groups by the end of this week.



Bianca Porcheddu
Italian Teacher

bianca.porcheddu@sfx.act.edu.au

OzCLO 2016

Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad

OzCLO is a language puzzle-solving competition for students in years 9-12.

No linguistic knowledge necessary, however it's great for students who like languages, maths, computers and natural sciences.

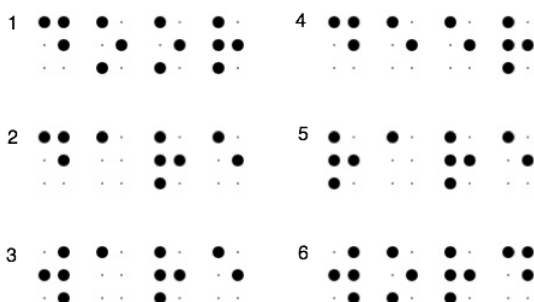
National winners will go to India to compete in the International Olympiad!

Try your hand at a puzzle right now!

Below are some English words written in Braille, an alphabet made of raised dots for blind people to read with their fingers.

We'll tell you what five of the words are:

door, ware, rare, deer, dare



Match the word and the Braille spelling – and then you can figure out what the sixth word is!

If you enjoyed that you'll love OzCLO, try it out in 2016!

Registration is free!

For more information and sample puzzles:

Website: www.ozclo.org.au

Email:

ACT: act@ozclo.org.au NSW: nsw@ozclo.org.au

NT: nt@ozclo.org.au QLD: qld@ozclo.org.au

SA: sa@ozclo.org.au VIC: vic@ozclo.org.au

WA: wa@ozclo.org.au



OzCLO
Australian Computational
and Linguistics Olympiad

Answer: *door* = 1, *ware* = 3, *rare* = 5, *deer* = 4, *dare* = 2. The sixth word = *word*!

Sport Report

Welcome back to school for 2016! Before I get into the exciting things that will be happening in School Sport, I need to sign off a few things that occurred at the end of 2015.

Our final sporting event for 2015 was the Australian School Championships in which our 9/10 Boys' Basketball team competed over 5 days. The boys started with two tough games at the start of the week, losing to Hillcrest and St Joseph's College. The boys won their last round game, which meant they then played in the 7/8 playoff. The boys also won their final game of the week and came 7th overall in Division 1, U17 competition – a great achievement. Congratulations to the team for their sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the week. Also a big thank you to **Mr Damien Nemeth** who coached the team and did a fantastic job!



On Monday 14 December **Maggie Gorham (Year 9)** won an Excellence in School Sport award. The presentation was held at CIT in Reid, and only 2 awards were given to girls in the High School category. This is a great achievement for Maggie who also gained an All-Australian selection for the U15s Girls' AFL team during the year. I was extremely happy to be there to see all of our nominees, **Meg Freeman, Joseph Kenna** and **Ben Flood**, accept a certificate for their contribution to School Sport in 2015.

So with that, we can begin 2016.....

Welcome to Sport at St Francis Xavier College for 2016! My name is Fleur Greaney and I will be the Sports Coordinator for Term 1.

There are many sports coming up in Term 1 and staff are preparing to hold trials and attend events with the teams they are coaching.

Term 1 Sports:

- College Boys' Rugby League 9s
- 7-10 Boys' and Girls' Softball
- 7-10 Boys' Rugby League
- Girls' and Boys' Tennis
- 7-10 Boys' and Girls' Basketball
- College Boys' Rugby 7s
- North side Swimming Carnival



Students are asked to listen to Pastoral Notices each day and refer to the Sports Notice Board (located outside the PE office) for information on signing up for sports, trials and competition details. Trials for sporting teams are held during lunch. Students are to change into their PE uniform and meet their coach in the appropriate area.

Congratulations to **Brittany Thomas (Year 9)** who has been selected to represent Australia in Oz Tag at the 2016 Trans-Tasman Series in Auckland, NZ. Brittany travels to Auckland to compete in March/ April. We wish her good luck at the competition!

If you have any exciting sporting news to share about your son or daughter, the SFX community would love to hear about it so please email me the details at Fleur.Greaney@sfx.act.edu.au.



Fleur Greaney
Sports Coordinator

Resource Centre Rave

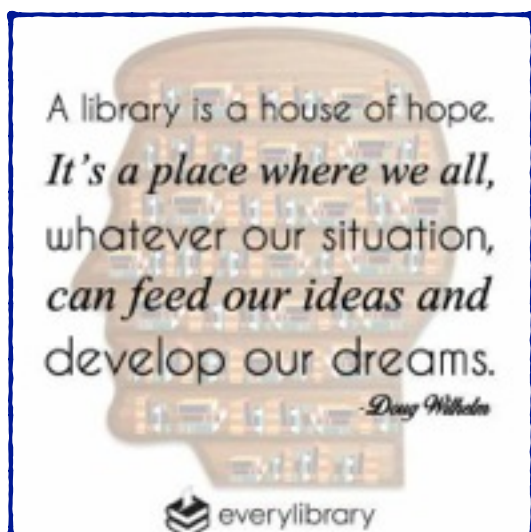
Welcome back!

During the Christmas break there have been a few changes to the Resource Centre (RC). All textbooks have been moved into a new space in the RC. We are hoping that this will make distribution and returns much easier for staff and students.

During Week 1 students came in class groups and collected all their textbooks in one visit. If anyone has missed out or still needs another textbook, please visit the RC.

There are still a number of outstanding loans for 2015. Overdue notices will be sent out very soon. In the meantime it would be appreciated if parents and staff could remind students to return resources that may be sitting around and are no longer needed.

Year 7 Resource Centre Orientation will be underway soon. Each student will receive the RCinfo booklet. This booklet provides an overview of what happens in the RC and outlines the services available. We encourage all students to take a look to remind them of how we can help them. Students in Years 8 – 12 new to SFX in 2016 will also receive a copy of the booklet via their Pastoral class. To view the RC page on the College website go here: <https://www.sfx.act.edu.au/index.php/teaching-learning/resource-centre>



A reminder for Seniors - you can access the Resource Centre at any time during the opening hours. We have a dedicated silent work space for individual uninterrupted work. Students in Years 7 -10 are welcome before and after school and second lunch.

Is your child an ACT Library Member?... if not... Please have them join today.

[Join Here](#)



Some basic information about us:

Opening Times: 8am – 4 pm Monday to Thursday
8am – 3:15pm Friday

Closed: Lunch 1 (1.10pm-1.25pm)

We encourage students to take advantage of the RC being open till 4pm Monday to Thursday. This time provides a great opportunity to work on homework and assignments. The Teacher Librarian can assist you with research and identify and locate the resources that you need. Getting work done at school frees up home time and helps create a better school / home life balance.



Bernadette Bradley
Resource Centre Coordinator

Careers at SFX

Australian School-based Apprenticeships

Celebrating the beginning of 2016 has been exciting with so many students enjoying the opportunities provided by undertaking an Australian School-based Apprenticeship. 24 students have their employers organised and are ready to commence their ASbA. This is the most we have ever had to start a year!

Congratulations to:

Jarrold SMITH	Certificate III in Electrotechnology
Brad CHARLTON	Certificate III in Electrotechnology
Daniel SUBASIC	Certificate III in Electrotechnology
Mitchell BUTLER	Certificate II in Drainage
Matthew CUMMINS	Certificate III in Horticulture
Chris JEFFERYS	Certificate III in Carpentry
Mirna FARAJ	Certificate III in Hairdressing
Erin TORPY	Certificate III in Disability
Olivia HALL	Certificate III in Disability
Zane JONES	Certificate III in Business Administration
Shaun BURKE	Certificate III in Carpentry
Alannah FRASER	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
Madeleine CAGGIANO	Certificate III in Hairdressing
Samantha DAVIES	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
Connor COSTANZO	Certificate II in Information Technology
Lindsey SAVAGE	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
Zoe ALLEN	Certificate II in Sport and Recreation
Caterina PSIHOGIOS	Certificate II in Business Administration
Teigan GLEDHILL	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
Dylan JONES	Certificate III in Landscaping
Hannah ARMSTRONG	Certificate III in Hairdressing
Nyankiir Abuoi	Certificate III in Aged Care
Jo Kerin	Certificate III in Plumbing
Jack McGeechan	Certificate III in Automotive

Employers

We have a number of other students wishing to start an ASbA and are looking for employers. If you are aware of any employer who might be able to give a student in Year 11 or 12 work experience with the possibility of a school-based apprenticeship would you please email me with details. My email is Margaret.stapper@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 12 and GAP Years

I have already spoken to Year 12 students about undertaking GAP years and the importance of starting their planning early. Our Careers website has a list of companies they may choose to investigate. The College does not endorse any of these specifically as it is important for parents and students to carefully investigate what the companies offer and to find a good match with the child's goals and skills. You will find the list of companies at <http://www.careersfx.com.au/?page=gap-year-volunteering>. I look forward to another year supporting our students as they clarify their ideas and investigate new opportunities.



Margaret Stapper
Career Coordinator

THE YEAR OF MERCY

“Prayer is making space for God to love us, for us to hear that and then, through the community of faith, to have the courage to return the compliment. It changes lives.”

Richard Leonard SJ

THE CALL TO PRAYER AND ACTION

Prayer changes us. It calls us to focus on the needs of others and allows us to meditate on how we can be the mercy in the lives of others. As we enter the Season of Lent, we are called to a deeper relationship with God through prayer and through reaching out to others in need. Lent challenges us to become more merciful, to embrace and be embraced by God's love. Many people think of Lent as a time to give up things but I prefer to think of Lent as a time to do things – like pray and participate in social justice. This focus is more communal and less self centred and is more attuned to the spirit of Lenten sacrifice.

Richard Leonard has an inspiring article, *Why Bother Praying?*, which will challenge your thinking about prayer here. http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20130712_1.htm

Recently in the magazine *Eureka Street*, Richard reviewed the recently released film, *Spotlight*. He says

This is one of the angriest films you will ever see.

In the Bible we hear about righteous anger, where God or humanity realises something is so wrong and sinful that 'holy anger' is the first and right response. At its best in the scriptures this anger leads to justice, making things right.

Spotlight is an occasion for holy, righteous anger and every adult Catholic should see it. Not because it is easy watching, but because it is necessary watching. The time to look away has gone.

You can read his review here: <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=45890#.VqqgPk-KAiQ>

Richard brings our attention to issues that, while not palatable, must be addressed. Lent is a time for us to also address issues of social justice. Seeing this movie might be one of your Lenten activities. Next week there is also the opportunity to participate in other social justice activities. Many people have been concerned about the treatment of refugees who are being threatened with being sent back to Nauru, despite ongoing health and medical issues.

Spin & Secrecy - Refugees and the Media

6:30pm Tuesday 16 February

Manning Clark Lecture Theatre, ANU

This free public forum aims to shed light on how the culture of spin and secrecy surrounding this very politicised issue, has impacted on the ability of journalists to provide accurate and impartial information. The forum is organised by the Refugee Action Committee and is co-hosted by The News & Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra.

You can find out more about this event here <http://refugeeaction.org/events/spin-secrecy-refugees-the-media/>

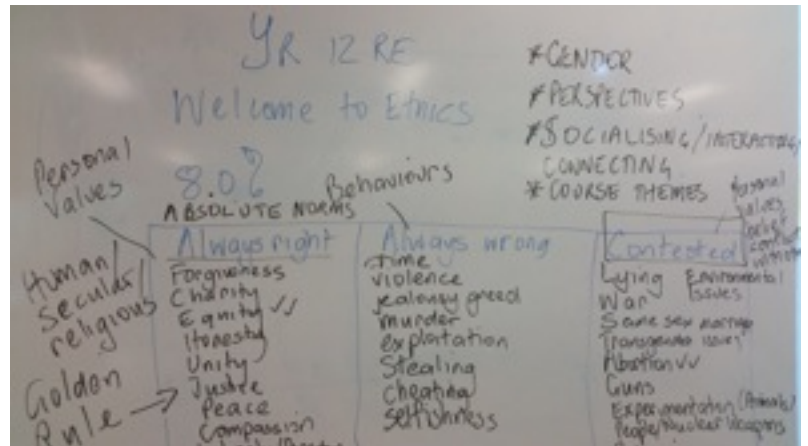
PRAYER AND REFLECTION IN RE CLASSES

Our RE classes this year have begun with a prayer and reflection focus. We are encouraging journal writing in both Year 9 and 10 classes.

Students in Years 9 and 10 have begun journaling as a means of reflecting on their relationship with God, their experience of prayer and their relationship with others. Students have taken to this opportunity wholeheartedly and I have been encouraged by some of the heartfelt and honest reflections I have read. Such an activity also complements our goal of helping students to think reflectively and critically about issues of concern to them and respond to learning in the classroom. It also helps develop skills that will be of great importance in their Senior Years.

Year 11 and 12 *Ethics and Search for Meaning* students are encouraged to think critically and reflect on their own values, experiences and relationships with God and others. The first task for our Year 12s is to explore moral courage, how it is lived out in the lives of others and how they can be people of moral courage. The first task for our Year 11s is to explore how compassion is a necessary component in leading a meaningful life. You can see how some of our seniors have been exploring these issues by examining the two photos below. I think you will agree these responses show that we can look forward to a future in which our young people will be inspired leaders.

It has only been a week since we began a new school year, and already students are embracing the challenges and opportunities given to them in our RE classes.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHILD'S RE TEACHER

RE classes could not operate without the faith and witness of our dedicated team of RE staff. Many you will be familiar with but we do have some new faces this year. I would like to welcome new friends to the Department: Jo Dougherty, Kevin Knapp and Luke Potter.

We welcome back after an absence of some time: Kelly Candy, Meg Talip and Cathy Barry.

By now you will have received emails from RE teachers introducing themselves to parents and guardians. This is a great opportunity to begin a conversation with your child's RE teacher. Many parents have concerns about their child's faith and faith development. Already a couple of parents have taken the opportunity to express their concerns by return emails. I encourage you to share your concerns and suggestions about how we can make RE meaningful and relevant to our students' lives.

INNOVATIONS

Kevin Knapp is teaching Year 9 RE with a twist. This class is a dedicated liturgical music class full of eager students who have a talent for music and singing. While they will do the usual units, the class will also develop liturgical leadership skills to enable them to lead their peers and the College community in Eucharistic and liturgical celebrations.

As we plan to have 2 Year 9 masses (in class banks) towards the end of this term, this will be an ideal opportunity for Kevin's class to teach their peers and encourage them to participate more fully and meaningfully in the experience of Eucharistic celebration. I would like to thank Kevin, Thea Zimpel and Jarek Ferenc for their support and encouragement of this initiative. We look forward to all students 'singing a joyful noise unto the Lord'!

RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO EXPLORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To further assist our students' experience of RE, we have access to a wonderful resource called "Understanding Faith". I encourage you to explore some of the resources, so you have meaningful conversations with your children about the things they are learning in class

<http://understandingfaith.edu.au/>

USER NAME ceo.cg.florey PASSWORD: 35ringSTAY#&

PAGES OF INTEREST FOR PARTICULAR YEAR GROUPS:

<https://secondary.understandingfaith.edu.au/do-this-in-memory-of-me/> Year 9

<https://secondary.understandingfaith.edu.au/modern-church-history/> Year 10

<https://secondary.understandingfaith.edu.au/search-for-meaning/> Year 11

<https://secondary.understandingfaith.edu.au/ethical-issues/> Year 12

<https://secondary.understandingfaith.edu.au/ethical-values/> Year 12

BEING MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE - INSPIRING TED TALKS

Many students will be watching these talks in classes over the following weeks. I encourage you to take time to watch them yourself and be challenged to become more merciful and compassionate. Again, you could see this as a Lenten activity.

The following TED talks may be useful for your classes. I found them quite enlightening and my Year 12 Ethics class enjoyed listening to Krista Tippett.

https://www.ted.com/talks/krista_tippett_reconnecting_with_compassion?language=en this powerful 15 minute Ted talk by Krista Tippett on compassion and courage is an excellent reflection on the nature of mercy and compassion. Krista talks about Einstein, Gandhi, Jean Vanier and others. 15 mins.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/12/19/371688189/how-can-we-make-the-world-more-compassionate> Religion scholar Karen Armstrong describes how compassion is the core principle in all world religions, in the form of the golden rule.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/10/132809627/concrete-ways-to-live-a-compassionate-life> Karen Armstrong believes religion should advocate for compassionate living, but is often part of the problem. In Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life, she describes ways to add kindness to daily routines.

http://www.ted.com/talks/jackie_tabick while we all agree that compassion is a great idea, Rabbi Tabick acknowledges there are challenges to its execution. She explains how a careful balance of compassion and justice allows us to do good deeds, and keep our sanity. Useful for Social Justice and Year 12 Ethics. 15 mins.

http://www.ted.com/talks/swami_dayananda_saraswati Swami Dayananda Saraswati unravels the parallel paths of personal development and attaining true compassion. He walks us through each step of self-realisation, from helpless infancy to the fearless act of caring for others. 16 mins.

These talks all have transcripts that will allow you further reflection.

For now, embrace Lent and its call to be merciful and do mercy.



Anne Armstrong
Religious Curriculum Coordinator