



**St Francis Xavier
College**

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Students and Staff

It has been a busy but calm start. The hot weather has certainly provided a few challenges and we appreciated the cooler weather at the start of this week.

Awards Ceremony

Ross Fox (above), the new Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, was our guest speaker at yesterday's Awards Ceremony. Ross only started as Director in early December and he mentioned that yesterday's address was a first!

Ross has a Master of Arts from Oxford and an Engineering degree from the University of NSW – as he explained his career has taken a number of unexpected twists and turns. Ross spoke of the importance of having a passion for learning. This had to be combined with hard work to achieve one's dreams.

He also reflected on the things that make Catholic schools what they are. Across the world there are over 220 million students in Catholic schools.

There are 56 catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and we were very pleased that Ross took the time to visit SFX.

Community Day

Hot weather has been forecast for this Friday when we have Community Day at Big Splash Jamison. We have reminded the students of the importance of 'Slip (on a shirt), Slop (on the sunscreen), Slap (on a hat), Seek (shade) and Slide (on the sunglasses) and we will do our best to monitor students through the day. We will work with the staff at Big Splash to try to maximise access to shade.



Best Wishes

Angus M Tulley
Principal

Student Wellbeing

Welcome to what is set to be a very exciting and challenging year for your child at St Francis Xavier College. I would like to extend a special welcome to all the new families joining our school community this year. I trust that you will find the College to be an open, welcoming and positive environment.

I would like to introduce myself to all our students, families and friends. My name is Dearne Bassett and I have been teaching since 1991. My teaching areas have extended from Special Education with deaf students, into Junior Mathematics and English, and predominantly Religious Education. I have taught in different States and in different systems, with Catholic Education a main focus for the last 7 years. I have just moved from Townsville with my family to settle in Canberra. Since starting at the College I have been made to feel very welcome by both the staff and students. I feel part of the SFX family and look forward to meeting you in the near future.

My role is to ensure overall pastoral care for your son or daughter in conjunction with their Pastoral Leader and Year Coordinator. This means that one of my primary concerns is the welfare of your child whether that is their spiritual, physical, social or emotional welfare. A partnership between students, parents and teachers is essential in achieving the best outcomes for students.

I look forward to this year and getting to know both your child and each and every one of you. I value building a relationship between school and home and look forward to meeting you all.

Afternoon Pickups:

As it has been a busy start to the school year, with new parents looking to pick up and drop off their children. With the weather impacting on our traffic flow, we all need to be vigilant and ensure safety is our top priority. Just a few points to assist in this process:

- **Use the blacktop/basketball courts to pick up your child/ren**
- **Be mindful of the BUS signage along Barnard Circuit – these are only for buses to stop at**
- **Keep the Bus Loop entrance clear for bus movements**
- **Give way to buses trying to merge back onto Barnard Circuit out of the Bus Loop.**

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

Pindari goes Purple

Hopefully the world, perhaps the SFX world, is aware that as from year Pindari's colour has changed to PURPLE. As I pointed out to the students of Pindari, we are no longer a conglomeration of all the other colours of the rainbow. We finally have our own distinct colour. *POWER TO THE PURPLE*. I have purchased a bulk order of purple T- shirts which we intend to screen print with the House name. These are on sale for \$8.00. There are a range of sizes and student are invited to try these on for fit. Hopefully the house spirit engendered by our new found colour will see us win the Spirit Cup. We look forward to showcasing purple Pindari and building stronger bonds across the year levels - which is what Community Day is all about. We are also looking forward to a great year!



Janet Gratton
Pindari House Patron



Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? Mary Oliver

NEW BEGINNINGS

The first day of a new school year is always full of laughter and promise and some anxiety. It is joy filled, sharing holiday stories, admiring new hair dos, and clothes, meeting new teachers and students. It is hopeful – looking to improve, learning new skills and ideas, developing positive relationships, finding new friends and rejoicing in friendships we have. For Australians, it comes after Christmas, New Year, Australia Day, the Australian Tennis Open.

This is my 36th Year of teaching and a new school year still excites me with new students to meet, new staff to collaborate with and new courses to write and teach - and I am still learning how to be a teacher. We live in changing times and teaching and learning is no different. My students are different, or older (if we've worked together in previous years) because the world has moved on. I have learned how to be more creative and I still pride myself on trying to engage students with interesting, personally relevant lessons, which also make connections with the world in which we live. Sometimes I succeed. Sometimes I miss the boat completely. I am grateful that our students are kind and patient and like to give feedback about lessons.

The most important part of a new school year, however; is dreaming new dreams or keeping long cherished dreams alive. Dreams should be big but big dreams don't get achieved over night. They are more often the result of years of constant struggle and failure. We were reminded of this at our recent Awards Ceremony by both Angus Tulley and Ross Fox, our guest speaker and new Director of Catholic Education.

40 years ago the Archdiocesan authorities had a dream of a new Catholic school in Florey, which was then a suburb yet to be developed. It was built in the middle of cow paddocks. The school itself was named after the great Jesuit Saint, Francis Xavier, who dreamed of bringing the good news of Jesus to the continent of Asia.

Our Australian faith tradition is very much the result of big dreams dreamt by people like St Bishop Bede Polding and Sister Scholastica Gibbons, the co-founder of The Good Samaritan Sisters, of whom our Sister Sue, the College's Pastoral Care Worker is a member. Bede Polding formally received the Sisters into the order on 2 February 1857. Last week they celebrate their 160th anniversary of working in Australia. Mother Scholastica Gibbons, ministered with selflessness and compassion for the women in her care at the Good Shepherd Refuge in Pitt Street Sydney.

The Good Samaritan Sisters follow the rule of St Benedict of Nursia whose sister, Saint Scholastica was the founder of the Benedictine religious order for women. Mother Scholastica Gibbons took her religious name after the great Saint Scholastica whose feast day is celebrated on February 10. St. Scholastica was born around 480 in Nursia, Italy. She was the sister of St. Benedict and the first Mother of nuns in a community of women, founded by the Holy Father St. Benedict, near Montecassino (Italy). This community is the oldest congregation of nuns in the Latin Church, whose purpose was to give to the people a community of love. She died in 543.

Building a community of love is certainly a big dream and it is something many people of today still dream of, both religious and secular. Our recently selected Australians of the Year all dreamed of making a difference in the lives of others. In order to achieve this dream they worked hard, failed often, picked themselves up and dusted of the grime of failure and began again.

Many facilities you use on a daily basis are the result of people dreaming big dreams to make the world a better place.

Thomas Edison's teachers said he was "too stupid to learn anything." He was fired from his first two jobs for being "non-productive." As an inventor, Edison made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. When a reporter asked, "How did it feel to fail 1,000 times?" Edison replied, "I didn't fail 1,000 times. The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps." (<https://www.uky.edu/~eushe2/Pajares/OnFailingG.html>)

The car you rode in this morning is a legacy of car maker Henry Ford who failed and went broke five times before he succeeded. (<https://www.fastcompany.com/3002809/be-henry-ford-apprentice-yourself-failure>)

The air conditioning you enjoy in this summer heat was developed by Will Carrier. (<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to/a7951/a-brief-history-of-air-conditioning-10720229/>)

The antibiotics you last took built on the work on Alexander Fleming and Howard Florey, after whom the suburb is named. Great medical discoveries might sometimes be accidental but they are always the result of years of preparation.

<http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/16851/1/Top-10-Greatest-Medical-Discoveries-of-All-Time.html>

That plane you last flew in was the result of over a hundred years of collaboration and engineering. The Wright brothers dreamed for 30 years to achieve the first manned flight. (<http://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-wright-brothers>)

Dreams of a just world have been achieved through such movements as the Civil Rights movement, Suffragettes, and organisations such as St Vincent de Paul. Each of these movements is the result of people dreaming dreams of bringing about a just world.

More than ever we need to dream big dreams and hold fast to them in order to:

- Find ways to resolve conflict,
- Build a just world,
- Cure diseases such as Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, Motor Neurone disease, Alzheimer's, Dementia.
- Create more sustainable food production,
- Develop more productive technologies,
- Explore the possibilities of STEM.

Fortunately, we have students who are dreaming these dreams. Students who want to cure cancer, who want to build better robots, who want to be chefs, scientists, and teachers, and those who want to minister to others. And we have teachers who want to support them in their journey to achieve these dreams.

As a Catholic School we are part of the great Biblical tradition of prophets and dreamers who seek to bring God's love and vision for our world. In the book of Joel, chapter 2 verses 27 and 28 we read "*Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and there is no other; And my people will never be put to shame. It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old people will dream dreams, your young people will see visions.*"

It is our vocation to dream big, to live out a life of meaning and purpose, to know how to live a good life, to be a Eucharistic people, following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in faith. This experience and learning about vocation is the essence of the unit's students are studying in RE this semester. Please look on **Canvas** to see what great things your child is learning in RE.

- Big dreams are bigger than failure.
- Big dreams ignore naysayers.
- Big dreams are the foundations of meaningful lives.

The American poet Langston Hughes once wrote:

***Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken winged bird
That cannot fly.***

A BLESSING

Dream big, but hope that not all your dreams come true in a hurry.

Dream with believers who will inspire you.

Walk with warriors whose courage will affirm you.

Laugh with the cheerful who will encourage you.

Keep your feet on the ground but let your dreams soar.

*May the spirit, which empowers them, ignite a fire within you,
to leave this world a better place because of your dreaming.*

May your dreams disturb your feet into taking the first tentative steps.

May your dreams harness your hands for hard work to see the dream unfold.

May Your heart find the courage to face the obstacles.

May Your head see clearly the paths that are possible.

SOME INSPIRATIONAL PRAYERS AND POEMS FOR THE JOURNEY

<http://www.great-inspirational-quotes.com/short-inspirational-poems.html>

<http://www.behappyzone.com/new-beginnings-new-day-poems.html>

<http://www.prayforschools.org/resources/group-resources/inspirational-prayers/>

<http://www.prayers-for-special-help.com/prayer-poems.html>

<http://www.wow4u.com/poems/>

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF FAILURE

<https://www.uky.edu/~eushe2/Pajares/OnFailingG.html> Some anecdotes of great failures.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/05/21/life-luck-work-success-opinions-book-excerpts-peter-buffett.html> Peter Buffet - musician

<http://thoughtcatalog.com/rachel-hodin/2013/10/35-famous-people-who-were-painfully-rejected-before-making-it-big/> 35 People who were rejected before becoming successful



Anne Armstrong
Religious Education Coordinator

Resource Centre Rave



Research READ Relax

Welcome back to all staff and students. We've had much fun over the school holidays rearranging shelving and furniture in the Resource Centre to create more interesting learning spaces for our students. We'd love to get some feedback on what you think.

We've hit the ground running this year and in the first week 3,286 textbooks and other books were loaned out! We also had a very late delivery of 528 new Mathematics and Biology textbooks. These are all available for loaning. Students should have all their required texts by the end of this week. If this is not the case, they can come into the Resource Centre to collect them.

Reading Café

Reading Café will recommence in Week 3 and will run every Thursday morning at recess in the Reading Lounge. Students can expect to meet with other book lovers and discuss all things books! We hope to see you there.

The Author's Apprentice

We have a very exciting opportunity for our budding authors. This year students have the unique opportunity to work with international best-selling author **Stephen Hunt** on an original novel over the course of this year. Stephen is a fantasy, science fiction and thriller/crime author. The program will be run during lunchtimes and in student's own time and is conducted exclusively online with the author and other students from around the world.



For more information about Stephen visit <http://stephenhunt.net/>

And information about the program visit <http://www.theauthorsapprentice.co.uk/>

Spaces are limited so if you are interested please attend the information session this **Thursday 9 February during Lunch 1 in the Kingsford Smith room.**



Erin Pitt
Resource Centre Teacher

VET: Get Your USI

It's USI time again!!!

Who needs one?

Students studying the following:

- Year 10 Digital technology
- Year 10 Construction
- Year 10 Hospitality

Year 11 and 12 Students that are new to:

- Business Administration
- Construction
- Furniture
- Hospitality

Creating a USI is quick and easy and can be created at <https://www.usi.gov.au/students/create-your-usi>

All you need on hand is one of the following:

- Australian passport
- Australian birth certificate
- Australian drivers licence
- Medicare card
- Certificate of registration by Descent
- Citizenship certificate
- ImmiCard

Some information about USI

Every year almost four million Australians build and sharpen their skills by undertaking nationally recognised training. All students doing nationally recognised training need to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). This includes students doing Vocational Education Training (VET) when they are still at school (VET for secondary students).

What is a USI?

The Unique Student Identifier or USI is a reference number made up of 10 numbers and letters that:

- creates a secure online record of your recognised training and qualifications gained in Australia, even from different training organisations
- will give you access to your training records and transcripts
- can be accessed online, anytime and anywhere
- is free and easy to create and
- stays with you for life.



Reference for above information and to find out more visit <https://www.usi.gov.au/about>

Please forward the email receipt with the student's USI to bernadette.bradley@sfx.act.edu.au

Any problems, please come and see me in the VET and Careers Office.

Bernadette Bradley
VET Coordinator

Sport Report

Welcome to Sport at St Francis Xavier College for 2017! My name is Samantha Stevens and I will be the Sports Coordinator for this year. I can be contacted at samantha.stevens@sfx.act.edu.au.

There are many sports coming up in Term 1, 2017 and staff are preparing to hold trials and attend events with the teams they are coaching.

Term 1 Sports:

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

Students are asked to read Academy and listen to Pastoral Notices each day, and also read notices on the PE notice board (located outside the PE office) for information about signing up for sports, trials and competitions.

Trials for sporting teams are held during lunch times. Students are to change into their PE uniform and meet their coach in the appropriate area in order to participate in the trials. After trials, selected students will be notified via the PE notice board and receive a permission note during Pastoral. It is extremely important that this note is returned to the silver box outside the PE staff room in order for your child to participate on the day.

If you have any exciting sporting news to share about your son or daughter please share this with us via my email. SFX takes great pride in celebrating the sporting achievements of all our students.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of school sport!!



Samantha Stevens

Sports Coordinator

samantha.stevens@sfx.act.edu.au



MUSIC LESSONS AT SFX



Have you ever wanted to play an instrument or learn to sing? Well SFX offers a range of private lessons with highly experienced musicians and teachers.

You can learn the flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar, double bass, drums, piano, vocals and more.

Please see below for the contact details for our fabulous teachers:

Instrument	Teacher	Contact details
Flute, clarinet and saxophone	Bryan Hooley	For lessons with Bryan please contact the College by emailing hannah.carey@sfx.act.edu.au . Hannah will then pass your details onto Bryan who will contact you directly.
Guitar	Stuart King	<i>Become a rock star this term! Learn all the tricks and secrets to mastering the guitar. Lessons with Stu are available on Friday each week in the performing arts department. There are only a couple of spaces left.</i> For lessons with Stu, please email: stuart.s.king@gmail.com
Guitar and double bass	John Burgess	For lessons with John, please email: john.burgess.6455@gmail.com
Piano and vocals	Nicola Jelinkova	For lessons with Nicola, please email: nic.jelinkova@hotmail.com
Drums and percussion	Matt Tennant	For lessons with Matt please contact the College by emailing hannah.carey@sfx.act.edu.au . Hannah will then pass your details onto Matt who will contact you directly.



Community Announcements



Stressed about high school costs?

**Would \$500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions,
tutoring, a laptop or tablet?**

Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar,
up to \$500!

You may eligible if:

- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

**Contact Kathleen Watson,
your local Saver Plus Coordinator:
02 6283 7606 / 0448 730 305
or kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au**

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in your area by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
Find more information at saverplus.org.au.

Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools Inc.

APFACTS

www.apfacts.org.au

Voice of non-government school parents in the ACT

Welcome back to school for 2017!

We hope that your children have all returned to school rested and happy.

APFACTS is a well-respected advocacy group representing non-government school parents in the ACT and is managed by parents who have a passion for education issues. Our nominated school P&F representatives have children ranging from infants through to high school, across all our member schools.

If you would like to know more about APFACTS and what we do please have a look at our web site www.apfacts.org.au or give us a call.

We welcome your thoughts and involvement.

Dr Justin Coulson PhD

We have secured a brilliant speaker for Term One, Dr Justin Coulson.

Dr Justin Coulson is one of Australia's most qualified parenting and wellbeing experts. He is a celebrated author, has a Ph.D. in Psychology and is well known expert in this field. He regularly appears in the media for expert commentary. Justin also lives what he promotes, as the father of six girls ranging from 2 to 16. He is down-to-earth and relatable, not afraid to share his personal experiences and learning. Pre-Sale tickets will be made available only to parents at APFACTS member schools. Details will follow shortly.

Date: Wednesday, March 8th 2017
Time: 7pm-8:30pm
Venue: Daramalan College
Topic: *Parenting Tools to Help Your Adolescent Thrive*

Date: Thursday, March 9th 2017
Time: 7pm-8:30pm
Venue: Canberra Grammar School
Topic: *Are your children addicted to technology?*



Keep an eye on our Facebook page for ticketing information.
We can't wait to hear this brilliant presenter!

We are keen to hear your thoughts. Send us an email: executiveofficer@apfacts.org.au
Article by Linda Fleming

01.02.2017

MOTHER LANGUAGE WALK 2017

UNITE FOR DIVERSITY



The UN has proclaimed that February 21st is **International Mother Language Day**.

What is **your** mother tongue?

Sing your mother language in a **walk** across Commonwealth Bridge in Canberra. Wear something traditional or colourful and bring banners, posters or anything else that celebrates your language identity.

When? 10am, Sunday February 26th 2017

Who? Anyone and everyone! Free event

Where? Under the flags, near the National Library in Canberra.

Sausage sizzle and children's games available at the end of the walk

More info? Facebook: 'International Mother Language Movement Canberra'

E-mail: imlm.21feb@gmail.com Website: <http://imlm21.org.au/>



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Event organiser Robert Jamieson

Ph 0432 118 204 E robert@csot.com.au

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For more info please see www.csot.com.au

Marymead's 50th Year Anniversary **Family Fun Day**



Sunday 26 February 2017

**Marymead, 255 Goyder Street Narrabundah
11.00am – 3.00pm**

Have you walked in the Marymead Walkathon or attended a Marymead event? Have you worked or volunteered for Marymead? Have you utilised one or more of Marymead's services?

As part of Marymead's 50th Anniversary celebrations we will be holding a Family Fun Day at Marymead's Narrabundah site on Sunday 26th February from 11am to 3pm. There will be a jumping castle and lots of free activities for the kids, a sausage sizzle and soft drink for gold coin donations, entertainment and more, so please come along and enjoy a day with the Marymead Community!

**Lucky Door Prizes • Raffle • Drinks •
Sausage Sizzle • Popcorn •
Face Painting • Picnic Games •
Jumping Castle and much more!**



marymead
children • families • community

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership: Marymead acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.