



SFX

IN THIS EDITION

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

Acting Principal Colleen Rowe reflects on our success

*Upcoming events and conferences

*Homework Help and Brekkie Club

*Naplan

*Book Week

*Hairspray Wrap-Up

*SFX RoboCup Champions

*Wisdom of the Elders

*Writing Comp Winners

*Italy and Japan Tour

*Sport Report

*Digital Tech in Middle School

*SHINE Youth Mass

*ADFA Tour

*RACI Titration Stakes Comp

*English Masterclasses

*Greenlight for Girls, Science

*APFACTS article

*SFX on Social Media





Celebrating Our Successes

Dear staff, students, parents and members of the SFX community,

Sally Pearson put two years of pain behind her to win gold in London. At our College assembly, this week I shared two photos and a short YouTube clip. The video clip was the recent incredibly impressive win by Sally Pearson at the London World Athletics Championships. In the face of great challenges Sally soundly managed to win the 100m hurdles final. The emotion exhibited by Sally was of disbelief and also of pure joy. The win was one of those moments that you like to replay so that you can share the joy and the pride that Sally felt. Sally's performance was even more impressive given the 'psychological scars' from two years of injuries, including a broken wrist from one of her several falls and muscle strains plus the fact that she coached herself.

The two photos I showed were of our victorious Year 12 RoboCup Team who recently won top spot in the RoboCup International Competition in Japan and the other was the cast of our fabulous College Musical in full-swing in the finale at one of the sell-out performances.

How is Sally's win connected to our successful RoboCup Team and with our wonderful College Musical? The reason I chose to share these images is because all who were involved in these events experienced joy, pride and a wonderful sense of accomplishment. They are also perfect examples of how determination, hard work and practice, practice, practice can bring successes and great joy. I'm sure if you talk to anyone involved in the musical, the RoboCup Team or Sally they will tell of the challenges, the frustration, the pain and hard slog of practicing again and again and the difficulties that they experienced. But I'm also sure if we asked them was it worth it they would give a resounding: yes!

I suggest that they would also tell us is that they didn't do it alone! That they were surrounded by a team of supporters. People who coached and mentored them, listened to them when things were tough, kept them motivated even if they felt like it was all too hard. As Sally said, her team 'had more belief than me coming into the competition'.

The support teams and all of us share in that sense of pride and success. We are all the richer for the joy of their success. I left the students with two questions. Where will you find joy and success in your life? More importantly who will be in the support team that you surround yourself with?

We often get feedback from members of the public and parent community about our students. Sometimes it might be a reference to road safety and it provides an opportunity for us to discuss safe driving with senior students or safe road-crossing with juniors. Occasionally it is the feedback that 'warms the heart' of the principal and staff. The College Hairspray was one of those wonderful events that makes us all feel very proud of our students and the fantastic staff who support them.

I thought I would share a couple of messages we received by email with you. The first is from a member of the public who was impressed with a group of Year 11 students at the Florey shops.

....a half a dozen of your students assisted at an incident The students were calm, helpful and took initiative. They stayed around to support someone who was hysterical and spoke with sympathy and support. I didn't get their names but was very impressed with them all. Please pass on my congratulations to a school who is supporting such outstanding young people. Kind regards, Kindergarten Teacher

The second an excerpt from a parent email which sums up beautifully the great impact Hairspray has made.

Dear Hannah and Annie and all other staff who have helped, directed and contributed....There are moments in one's life, especially as a parent, where all the magic just converges into one single point in time. And for me, I felt that magic on Saturday night beaming from all of the sensational students at the finale of the greatest musical in town. It was a really wonderful production, and I laughed and laughed. So, before the moment fades - I just wanted to make sure you all know of our gratitude - to the school and to yourselves as teachers. You really brought out the best in the kids. And I know from first-hand how much energy, dedication and hours goes into making something like this. It's a labour of love, and that was clearly apparent to all. Congratulations - we are very grateful to have our daughter thrive under such an inspiring umbrella of talent, leadership and care.

We are very proud of our students and the wonderful staff who have supported them. We also acknowledge the support and care given by our parent community.
Mark 10:27: With God, all things are POSSIBLE.

Colleen Rowe
Acting Principal



This year....

SFX FLOREY TURNS 40!

We are looking to past and current students to help us celebrate at a HUGE event on 4 November. So, if you have a band, a food truck, a jumping castle, a petting zoo or a pony.... or just about anything else you can think of, get in touch!! help us celebrate:

SFX fest!

Celebrating 40 Years of Frannies

On November 4, St Francis Xavier College #sfxflorey will celebrate 40 years of providing quality Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We are inviting past and previous students to get in touch with us via social media, Phone: 6258 1055, email: school.office@sfx.act.edu.au.

What can you contribute? Well, If you have a band or a comedy act, a pony, a facepainting kit, a jumping castle, a food truck, a cake-making business, we want to hear from you for #SFXfest - a huge event to take place on the SFX oval.

All interested members of the SFX community will be welcome to attend this ticketed event. More details to come soon! Make sure you follow us on social media: Instagram, Twitter @SFXFlorey and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pg/StFrancisXavierCollege>

Explosion Youth Conference

Daramalan College
26-29 September

\$130 per student.

For more information:

www.explosionconference.org.au

A youth conference for young people aged 13-18. It is an awesome opportunity to have a break during the school holidays. Get to know more about yourself, others and God.

The event is jam-packed with games, dramas, recreation time, sport, prayer, music and more.

Where: Daramalan College
When: It begins 2pm Tuesday 26th September until 9pm Friday 29th September
Cost: \$130 per student or \$110 each for families with two or more siblings
Food: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included throughout the event (except for the opening night)

For more information and to register:

www.explosionconference.org.au

Contact us: explosionyouthconference@outlook.com.au
Anna Jeffery - 0422014203



Homework Heroes

Perhaps you need help with a tricky assignment?
Perhaps some guidance on a challenging homework task?

Maybe even a plan to stay organised with all your assessment due dates?

The afterschool Homework Heroes are here to help!

Monday to Thursday, 3pm-4pm.

Find us in the Resource Centre study area!

SFX Brekkie Club

We know breakfast can be a busy time for some families. But, we want you to start your day off in the right way, every day! Join the SFX Early Birds Brekkie club and grab some cereal or toast and a drink – for free!

Let's start each day with food in the tummy and a smile on the face.

School days from 7.30am to 8.00am in the Senior Common Room

All SFX students welcome.
Bring a friend!!



NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May. Your child was given their NAPLAN results in Pastoral this week and should have brought them home for you to see. Students who have two addresses were issued two copies that were mailed through the post to each address. If your child sat the exam and you have not received their results, please contact the College.

It is vital that we remember this external exam is a snap shot of achievement at one point in time. There are many variables that can influence your child's performance. Please be aware that these results do not directly impact on your child's success at school. We use these results to enhance our teaching and learning programs to meet the needs of our students.



Book Week at SFX

By Rachael Hind and Erin Pitt

Week 6 marks Book Week, and to celebrate the Resource Centre organised a pop-up bookshop to visit on Monday and Tuesday. 'Book Passion', from the Belconnen Markets, brought a great selection of books to tempt our readers.

In the lead up to Book Week, a group of students created Folded Book Art sculptures out of discarded books to decorate the Resource Centre.

Students participated in a Pastoral Scavenger Hunt and a Shredded Book Competition with the coveted prize of a pizza lunch and bars of chocolate up for grabs.

Staff enjoyed a Book Swap and a delicious tropical morning tea celebrating the Book Week theme 'Escape to Everywhere.' Lastly, some of our talented students treated us to musical performances during lunchtime, and a variety of classes participated in art activities responding to a shortlisted text called *Mechanica*. Check out their works of art!



hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •



“HAIRSPRAY” WRAP UP

After months of hard work the Hairspray Cast, Crew, Band and Staff are very sad to come to the end of what has been an incredible journey over the past 7 months. Over 150 staff, parents and students were involved in bringing this amazing show to life and 1000 people saw the show. This showcases what a supportive community we have here at SFX.

By participating in this musical, students learned about themselves, others and the world around them in such a different way from that of the classroom.

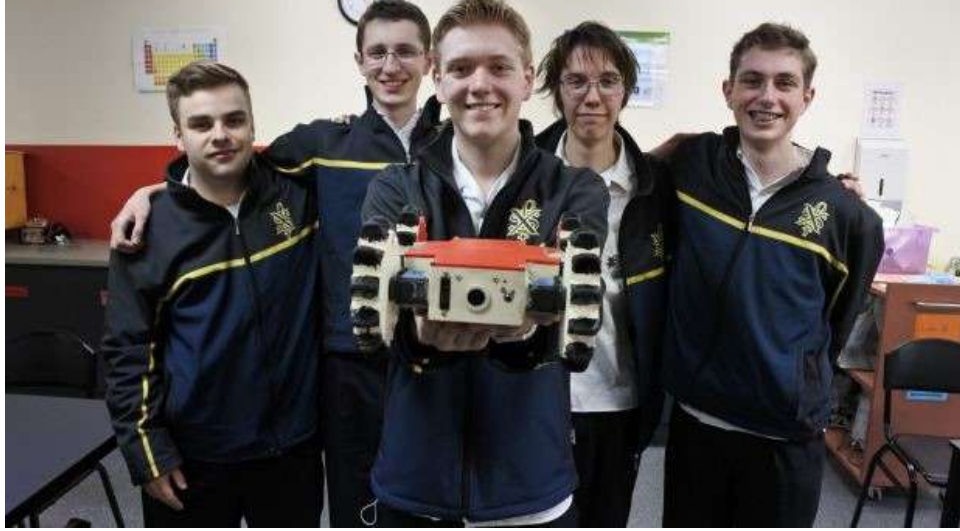
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the production. From performing on the stage to painting sets, everyone's roles were equally valuable and contributed to what was a truly magical show!

From the Hairspray Production Team

“HAIRSPRAY” REVIEW

By Claire Mackenzie (Year 11)

SFX has never been more colourful. The school's 2017 production of “Hairspray” was a massive collaborative effort between students from all grades and teachers from all departments, and the final result was incredible. The cast was charismatic and amusing, and there were quite a few powerhouse vocalists amongst them. The band played flawlessly every time, and the backstage crew put unlimited time and energy into making the musical perfect. The rotating set was an absolute triumph, and the set, props and costumes created a beautifully nostalgic atmosphere, even to members of the audience who were born way too late for the 60s. The musical was full of snappy comebacks, slick dance moves and powerful social commentary. The sense of community within the cast and crew, all of whom had visible mutual love and respect for each other, was the best part of the entire production; a real testament to our College Community. SFX is many things, but it is certainly not ‘without love’, as Tracy and Link would say.



St Francis Xavier College Year 12 students top league in RoboCup International

Following a successful RoboCup win in Japan, the SFX Robotics team SART were interviewed by Emily Baker of the Canberra Times. Below is her article:

A robot designed and manufactured by five clever St Francis Xavier College students didn't just win them top spot in an international competition - it could save Canberra lives.

Ryan Ewyk, Riley Cockerill, Aaron Maggs and twins Matthew and Jack Williams travelled to Japan last month to compete in RoboCup International.

The group of year 12s - known as Semi-Autonomous Robotics Team, or SART - beat university students to take the title in the Rapidly Manufactured Rescue League.

Their robot mastered mazes of varying difficulties on terrains including sand and gravel, proving to judges it would prove useful in a disaster situation.

Their 3D-printed machine cost less than \$1000 to manufacture and could one day feature in Canberra rescue operations.

Information technology co-ordinator Peter Crane said teams over the next several years would refine, update and improve the design, with the aim to one day sign a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Federal Police or ACT Fire & Rescue.

"The whole idea is that each one of these is an international standard, so if you pass all of them and get your robot certified, we can then go and manufacture it and sell it to fire brigades, ActewAGL, the police and those sorts of things," he said.

"That's the actual goal."

Semi-Autonomous Robotics Team also received the Open Source Software Award for the second year in a row thanks to the detailed information they provided on their hardware and software on their website.



Wisdom of the Elders

***By Anne Armstrong,
RE Curriculum Coordinator***

Recently our Year 11 Religion and Science classes have been exploring the wisdom of the elders, particularly through exploring the work of David Suzuki, noted environmental scientist. Through these explorations, students are coming to appreciate the wisdom that exists in indigenous knowledge around the world and particularly in Australia. Most of our students have been surprised at the scientific importance and accuracy of such wisdom and knowledge and its seamless integration into the spiritual lives of indigenous peoples. It is too easy for our generation to dismiss ancient wisdom as superstitious, old fashioned and irrelevant for our modern world. It is this ancient wisdom, however, which calls us to respect the earth and creation.

Every Catholic family has its elders, although we do not always celebrate the spiritual wisdom by which they have lived their lives. We may regard their religious behaviour as more superstitious than authentic. We may laugh at their seemingly unsophisticated understanding of faith. We may deride their religious practice as pre Vatican 2. We may see their spiritual devotions as irrelevant and anachronistic in our modern world. If this is the case, then we need to ask why is this so?

Perhaps the elder was the one who never married; who did not seek attention to themselves, who lived quietly and anonymously, unknown to the world except to their own local Catholic community. Our family's saint and elder was our recently deceased Aunt Nell, who funeral was last Friday, August 4. It was an auspicious day for such a traditional Catholic – a first Friday. Nell had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion resulting from her formative and adult years spent as a parishioner of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Randwick in the Eastern beachside suburbs of Sydney.

She was 91 and apart from the 9 family members there were 8 other people and 4 funeral attendants at her requiem mass. It was a small gathering of people who, with the exception of the funeral attendants, knew, loved and cherished her. Her siblings had long since gone to God, as had most of her friends. The people in the dementia unit where she lived could not be brought out because of their infirmities. The priest, Father Bernie Thomas, OFM, who officiated, was not surprised at the small number of people. He told us it was one of the challenges of old age.

Nell was a quiet, self-effacing woman who sought nothing for herself. Even at family gatherings, she was the one who sat quietly, listening, observing, filling the endless pots of coffee and tea that were consumed on such occasions. Nell lived in Sydney's eastern suburbs all her life: Randwick until her late sixties, in the family home and then Charingfield Hostel, Waverley. She went to school at Brigidine College, but, in the middle of the Depression, went only to fourth class.

At first, she thought she was meant to be a nun. However, her Mother Superior thought she was not suited...she took everything too seriously and was frequently sick with anxiety. Perhaps the Mother Superior was right. Nell's religion dominated her life. It motivated her to express her desire to help others. Hospital visits; voluntary work for St Vincent de Paul; input and recording for the Legion of Mary; daily wishing good to all she met were all part of her weekly routine. Nell could have chosen to be bitter for her lot in life. Instead, she attended Mass regularly, prayed for and donated generously of her time and money to others in need.

Her entire adult life, apart from her work, was marked by religious devotion to prayer, good works and generous financial donations to religious causes. Today we would call this obsession with religious behaviour religious scrupulosity.

Scrupulosity is a form of OCD in which the sufferer's primary anxiety is the fear of being guilty of religious, moral or ethical failure. Those afflicted with Scrupulosity fear that their effort to live according to their spiritual values not only isn't good enough, but is in direct violation of God's teaching. Until a few years ago, I had never heard of such a condition, although I was aware of obsessive and unhealthy religious behaviour and its negative impact on one's spiritual and psychological well-being. I often wished a good confessor would have worked with Nell to realise that she was the daughter of a loving God who loved her as she was, unconditionally. She did not need to live a life of feeling guilty or ashamed of not being good enough or not doing enough good for others. If only a good confessor had advised her, in the words of the song "Come as you are, that's how I want you". If only a good confessor had encouraged her to read such spiritual writers as Joan Chittister or Richard Rohr and celebrate rather than lament her sinful state.



Nell had great respect for her brother, Jack, my father in law. I think he was the standard by which she measured all good people. Jack was a devoted family man. His faith was real and practical. He put his family first, but he worked to ensure that all his children were given a Catholic Education and that they went to Mass regularly. Like Nell, he gathered his children every night to say the rosary before retiring. My husband and sister-in-law hold this memory dearly. Certainly, she was keen to see her brother Jack and other siblings again. She asked for them frequently during her last weeks. We told her truthfully that they were with us and she would see them soon: they were looking forward to seeing her. In her last days, when the confusion and pain was becoming too much for this gentle woman she frequently called out for help from God and in the end, God called her home.

Nell was so frugal and unmaterialistic that even her last worldly goods were rejected by St Vinnies as not work taking in their furniture stores. Father Bernie Thomas OFM, pp of Mary Immaculate Waverley, the celebrant at her funeral, remarked that even Franciscan furniture, as humble as it should be, was better regarded. He honoured Nell's Franciscan spirituality, embracing poverty and dependence on God and bringing goodwill to others. He acknowledged her light footprint which hardly touched this world.

My Aunt Nell is now at peace living in the presence of a loving God. I hope she is surprised by the joy of her God. We acknowledge with gratitude her and all the elders who have gone before us, who stand with us as unseen witnesses of faith, in the company of saints.

FIRST FRIDAYS IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION

<https://ocdla.com/scrupulosity-ocd-religion-faith-belief-2107>

<http://www.sacredheartlegion.com/friday.htm>

<https://aleteia.org/2016/04/29/5-things-catholics-should-know-about-first-fridays/>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/prayers/devotions/to-our-lord-jesus-christ/first-friday-devotion/>

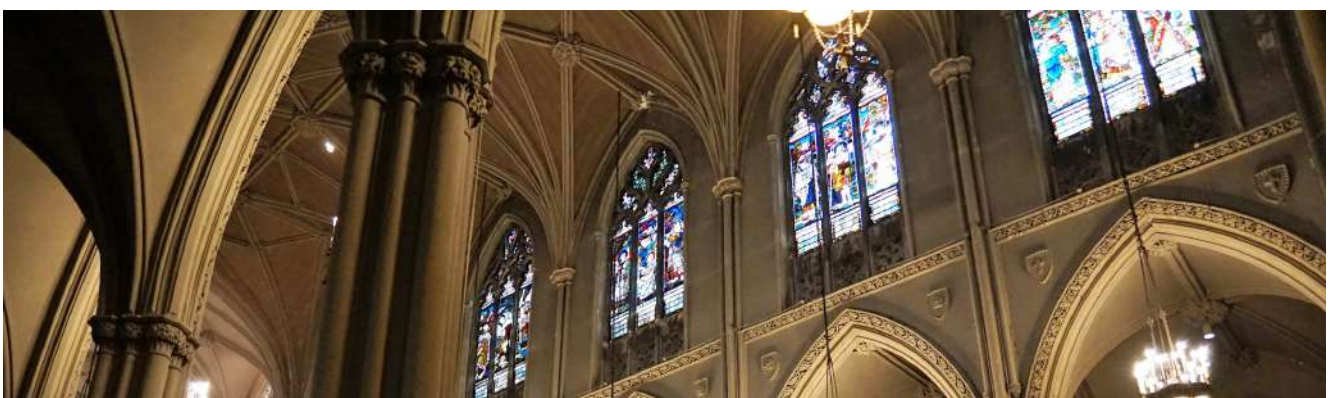
WISDOM OF THE ELDERS


http://www.mountainman.com.au/w_elders.html Wisdom of the Elders

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/resources/> David Suzuki Resources

<http://biophysics.sbg.ac.at/transcript/wisdom.pdf> Wisdom of the Elders interview transcript.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2b7SpLpN5A> An Elder's Vision for our Sustainable future.(highly recommended viewing)





To celebrate their 160th anniversary
the Sisters of the Good Samaritan announce...

THE GOOD OIL 2017 YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD

The Good Oil Young Writers' Award
seeks to encourage and support
the development of young writers
interested in exploring ideas, issues

CASH PRIZES \$3,000

In each of the three age groups three
prizes will be awarded.

HOW TO ENTER

Submit a piece of writing, between 750
10,000 words.

SFX Writers Win Good Samaritan Competition

By Anne Armstrong

In the RE Department last week, we discovered that Georgia Rice (Year 9), Eoin Garton (Year 12) and Beth Doherty, our wonderful, multi-talented RE and English teacher and Communications Officer have all won awards in the Good Samaritan Young Writers' Competition.

The theme was "Love your neighbour".

Year 9s were encouraged to participate in this competition as an assessment task in their "God of the Prophets" unit and Year 12s were encouraged by invitation. Thanks to all the RE staff involved in supporting and encouraging these students.

The RE Department congratulates these talented people and encourages you to read their commendations here: www.goodsams.org.au.





Italy and Japan Tours 2017

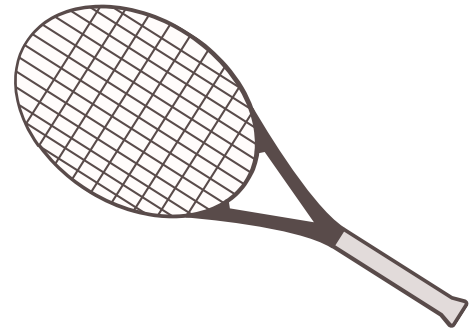
By Danielle Madsen
Languages Coordinator

The school tours to Italy and Japan are fast approaching! The trip to Italy will depart on 15 September and the trip to Japan on 17 September!

Students of Italian will be engaged with the culture and language of Italy, and in doing so, will not only improve their language skills but be better informed global citizens with a greater understanding of themselves and others. The Visual Arts students participating in the tour to Italy will have an invaluable opportunity to experience the rich history associated with the 'birthplace' of Western Arts culture. The trip to Italy will include a visit to a high school in Desenzano 'Liceo Bagatta' in Lago di Garda. A short home-stay will also be a part of the school visit.

Japanese students will be travelling to Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara and Tokyo. Students will have an opportunity to practise and improve upon their linguistic competence by using the Japanese language in real life situations and everyday activities. Students will gain an insight into Japanese daily school life by visiting our Japanese sister school in Takefu and by participating in a home-stay. The trip to Japan will engage students in the traditions, customs and beliefs of Japanese society and assist them in their understanding of Japanese social values and identity.

We wish all our students and teachers the very best as they prepare to embark on their trips to Italy and Japan. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Porcheddu, Miss Zhou, Mr Dexter, Mr Veal, Mrs Barry and Mr Telford who have spent many hours organising the tours to ensure the students have a memorable experience.



Sport Report

By Samantha Stevens

On Thursday 20 July, Mr Gerry Elias and Mrs Michelle James took our College Girls AFL team to Wagga Wagga for the NSW State Finals. Congratulations to Maggie Gorham, Tash McKay, Zoe Allen and Shae Krushka who all were awarded MVP points for their efforts on the day. A big thank you also to Gerry and Michelle who spent a long day with the girls. It was a great opportunity for the girls to test themselves against some interstate opponents.

On Friday 28 July Mr Bradley McCallum coached the College Mixed Hockey team at the annual carnival. The team had a strong start to the day, though their opponents were better in the round games and the team just missed out on a spot in the semi-finals. However, they played with good skill and enthusiasm throughout the day. Well done to Georgia Whittaker, Julia Bruce and Xanthia Bingley who picked up the MVP points for the day.

On Friday 4 August, Miss Kate Rhodes and I took the Boys and Girls College Oztag teams to O'Connor ovals for an exciting day of Oztag. The girls' team played extremely well throughout the day and made it through their round games to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the semis. Well done to all the girls for an outstanding display of skill and spirit. Well done to Tarni Magyar, Zoe Allen and Bailee Crowe who picked up the MVP points on the day.

The two boys' teams also played well throughout the day. Both teams played with enthusiasm and great skill on the day. One team had a great run through the round games, winning all games to advance to the semi-finals, where they unfortunately lost to St Edmund's College. The other team drew a much tougher side of the draw and had some close results throughout the round games. Thanks to all students for their maturity on the day. Well done to Kieran Jobson, Saxon Jones and Nick Rolls who picked up MVP points for the day.



On Wednesday 9 August Miss Kate Rhodes, Mrs Michelle James and Mrs Jessica Muller coached three girls' netball teams at the north side carnival.

One of the 7/8 teams played extremely well in their round games, winning all bar one game. Unfortunately, they came up against the other SFX team in the semi-final where they were beaten. Well done to the entire team and specifically to Matika Millard, Dehme Smith and Ebony Turner who were all awarded MVP points for the day.

The other 7/8 SFX team had a great start to the day winning all 7 round matches, some of those quite convincingly, while some were a bit closer. All day the girls played amazing netball, really showing team spirit and great skills. They unfortunately had to play the other SFX team in the semi-final, and it was a close game initially, but they pulled away, making it to the Grand Final. They then played John Paul College in the final, whom they had beaten in the rounds, but JPC came out strong and we had to work much harder to get in front and start pulling away. The result was 13-10. It was a wonderful day out with fantastic girls, and I look forward to taking them out again for the ACT Final. MVPs on the day went to Ellie Bishop, Charlotte Rauraa and Favour Lokudu. I would also like to acknowledge our wonderful umpires Chloe Davis, Laura Monaghan and Carlee-Ann Tonkin. The 9/10 team played with pride and represented SFX with hard work, team spirit and perseverance. They made it through the semi-finals, where they lost to Merici.

Congratulations to Alyssa Mills, Jasmine French and Abigail MacDonald who were awarded MVP points on the day. Also, a big thank you to all of the senior coaches and umpires for their help on the day!

There have also been several SFX students who have represented different teams around the country in the last couple of weeks.

There were a number of students from SFX who participated in the Under 15 Youth Boys and Girls ACT AFL teams. Ashlyn Walters, Heidi Chiswell, Tiarne Reid, Maximus Monaghan, Thomas Simpson and Matt Hambleton all travelled to Perth to attend the championships in the last week of July. We had some great feedback from a parent saying that all players showed great sportsmanship and their conduct was impeccable. Well done to all!

There were also several SFX girls who were recently selected in the ACT Oztag team to compete at the Nationals in October in Coffs Harbour. Well done to Ainslie Winefield, Kaitlyn Bink, Ellie Bishop, Montana Boyle, Holly O'Neall and Indya Stirling. We wish you all the best!

Jaycob Shea of Year 7 was selected in the U12 ACT Schoolboys Soccer squad to travel to Adelaide in December to play at the Pacific School Games for 2017. We wish Jaycob all the best!

Ainslie Winefield of Year 8 has also been selected in the SSACT Cross Country team to compete in the Nationals in Hobart. Good luck, Ainslie!

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.





Digital Technologies, a highlight in Middle School!

By Teresa Patterson

Acting Coordinator, Middle School

Technology is a real highlight in the teaching and learning which occurs in our Middle School!

In STEM this term, students continue to enjoy opportunities to develop their coding skills through their work with the SPHEROs. Damien Woods has been coordinating the transition of the fish tank into a SPHEROs tank, so that students may be able to experiment with a whole new environment! This will overlap with some of the Year 8 Humanities History content next term, as students create Polynesian boats, integrating the SPHEROs, and then tank testing them! Overall, the SPHEROs have enabled SFX to commence the teaching of the block coding element of the Digital Technologies curriculum for Year 7. Students will be progressing to simple general coding in the later part of the year.

The iPads have been a wonderful addition to the Middle School Program and have been enthusiastically taken up by both students and staff. They are being used in addition to a range of established teaching and learning practices and have become a valuable tool to enhance skill reinforcement and facilitate home learning across all curriculum areas. iPads have proven to be an excellent tool for data collection and background research during our scientific investigations.

More generally, students have become increasingly skilled at utilising the wonderful resources and applications which have been made available to them on their iPads. They are producing a wide variety of media including documentaries, presentations and stories, showcasing their learning in dynamic ways. They have so many options including Keynote, iMovie, Picollage, Socrative, and the Microsoft suite, just to name a few. More and more, tasks are being completed and then uploaded to Canvas for feedback and grading. This means that students and parents are gaining almost immediate feedback, which is ideal for improving skills and targeting areas for development. It has also seen an improvement in students taking responsibility for completing tasks and setting their own goals - valuable skills as they lead into their high school subjects.

The Kobo app has been a particularly valuable tool, as students in Humanities engage in reading groups and have access to hundreds of books, at their fingertips. In addition, students are more confidently accessing the Resource Centre's Canvas page to access the databases (such as World Book Online) and the bibliography generator. These resources make for the development of efficient and reliable research skills, something every student will need for the duration of their school life.

This is just a snapshot of the technology being utilised in the Middle School, which is enhancing student learning, increasing communications and broadening opportunities.





shine

SHINE Youth Mass

By Katie Golding
Youth Minister

On the 13th of August, hundreds of young people and their families within the Archdiocese gathered together at Saint Christopher's Cathedral for the SHINE youth mass/rally. The SHINE student gathering was an opportunity for young people to take a leap and enter into the life of the Church.

This began with Mass with Archbishop Christopher Prowse and a number of youth chaplains. The Gospel reading of Matthew 14:23-3 encapsulated having Faith in Christ amongst the Chaos.

I believe this message was parallel to the theme of the SHINE Conference, which was having faith and trust in God in a secular world. In the Gospel reading Peter doubted Jesus and his abilities; this gospel passage resonated with me personally as I believe that we all need to have faith and trust in Jesus Christ and his everlasting love for us.



ADFA tour for students

By Donna Lambert
Defence Transition Mentor

Last Friday it was my absolute pleasure to accompany a group of enthusiastic Year 10, 11 and 12 students to ADFA. We participated in a fantastic tour of both the Military and Academic aspects of life at this campus of the University of New South Wales. The students had the chance to ask questions of 3 second year Cadets who are all studying there, and experienced life as an electrical engineering student via a talk from Assoc Professor Andrew Lambert. Don't forget the ADFA Open Day is on Saturday 26th August from 9am to 4pm. A big Thank You also to Mr Tom Klekner for coming along with us!



2017 RACI Titration Stakes Competition

On Tuesday, 25 July, three SFX teams competed in the 2017 RACI (Royal Australian Chemical Institute) Titration Stakes Chemistry Competition, in the Science Teaching Laboratories at the ANU.

This competition is sponsored by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and organised by the Department of Chemistry. All SFX students performed well in the competition, which involves working in teams to determine the concentration of unknown solutions using titration analysis. There were 25 teams from 11 different colleges competing.

Two teams were placed in the top ten teams and will compete in the finals competition. Students going through to the finals are Helena Padilla, Giuseppe Rover, Matthew Humphrey, Emma Montgomery, Eoin Garton and Nick Barry. Emily Nahon, Natasha Choo and Lachlan Humphrey just missed out on a place in the top ten teams. The finals will be held in October at the ANU and the students from the ACT will be competing against finalists from other states.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by Karla and Judy, our laboratory technicians. They supplied equipment and solutions for the practice sessions and organised equipment to be used in the competition. Without their support and commitment, our participation would not be possible.

I would like to congratulate all students and I appreciate their effort as they practised for the competition in their own time and were wonderful representatives for SFX during the competition. Our finalists will have more difficult titration analyses to do in October and I wish them well.

English Masterclasses

By Megan Wyche
English Coordinator

At the end of each semester, English teachers offer masterclasses to Year 9 and 10 students. The aim of these class is to create engaging and creative forums for students to explore aspects if the curriculum in more detail. Year 9 looked at poetry and Year 10 explored critical literacy, focusing on the role of the media in society.

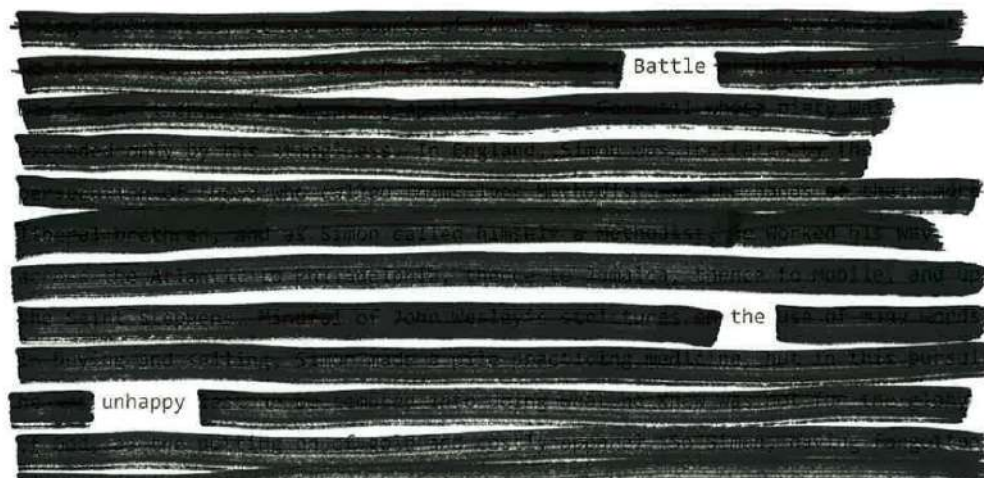
Some examples of the Year 9 “Blackout poems” are shown here.

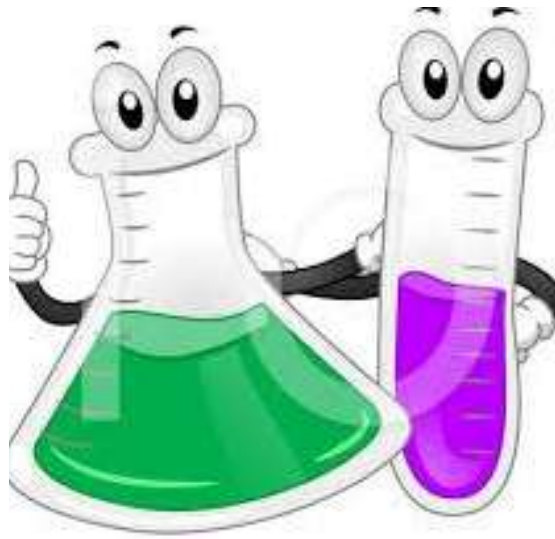
Thanks to our teachers who facilitated these lessons: Ms Santos, Mrs Talip and Mr Mullin. The students certainly enjoyed the experience, as shown by the comments below:

I loved the idea of a master class. It was quite fun and interesting. I enjoyed the blackout poetry. It had a balance of creativity and fun. (Isabella Rover, Year 9)

I enjoyed some parts of the master class, like the blackout poetry. That was my favourite. (Isobel Pluis, Year 9)

I really enjoyed the masterclass because I worked on poetry (something that isn't taught much to me anymore). This let me show another side of myself and I really loved it. Also, it's very quiet which is always good. (Kai Houston, Year 9)





National Science Week 'Greenlight for Girls' and Work Experience – Opportunities to excel

By Margaret Stapper
Careers Coordinator

'Greenlight for Girls' is an international organisation based in Brussels, boasting over 500 volunteers across every continent. The organisation is dedicated to inspiring girls of all ages and backgrounds to pursue STEM subjects. Alannah Daly from Year 10 spoke at the closing ceremony of the 'Greenlight for Girls' day, held at Melrose High School as part of National Science Week on Saturday 12 August.

Over 150 girls aged between eight and sixteen participated in a variety of STEM workshops throughout the day.

Alannah was one of 6 invited speakers on the day; the others included science professionals; Meegan Fitzharris, ACT Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research and Member for Molonglo, Rebecca Cody MLA and Professor Christine Charles from the ANU. Alannah spoke about her interest in science and what has led her to choose studying Science in Years 11 & 12. She also spoke about how science is not just for scientists and that everyone can incorporate science into their everyday lives. Alannah also assisted in some workshops held during the day.

'It was a real honour to be asked to present at this year's Greenlight for Girls event and it provided me a great opportunity to speak in front of such a large group of people. It was great to see how the girls' interest and enthusiasm for science grew throughout the day.' – Alannah Daly

The organisers of the day tell us that Alannah's talk went very well and she had a lot of compliments from both adults and the girls attending.

Alannah has also just completed work experience with an architecture firm and has also gained more insight into the importance of science in so many occupations. Congratulations to Alannah on her willingness to say 'yes' and grow her understanding of herself and learn new skills.

VOLUNTEER



APFACTS, Week 6, Term 3 **Volunteering Crisis in Schools.**

We were very excited to launch our collaborative project on Volunteering in Schools. We have enjoyed working on this shared project with P&C Council, Canberra Preschool Society & Volunteering and Contact ACT.

This survey will provide us with a unique picture into Volunteering within the Education sector.

This is the first time we have conducted a survey of this kind, that looks at the common volunteering issues across all sectors from preschool to high school. A whole picture view of the status of Volunteering in Education will provide us with substantial information and feedback.

We encourage you to share this survey throughout your school community.

We'd like to hear from you even if you don't volunteer!

We need both sides of the story.

We will continue to work collaboratively to create a set of resources and tip sheets designed to help schools attract volunteers and to help schools to build a strong volunteering culture.

The Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VolunteeringinSchools>

SFX on Social Media



Instagram: @SFXFlorey



Twitter: @SFXFlorey



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCollege>

