



Issue 14 | 8 December, 2017

SFX

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Staff, Parents, Students and Community of SFX,

In my speech to the Year 12 graduating class, I ditched my written notes and spoke from the heart. Many of the things that I would have said had already been said. Part of my speech was to thank any number of people, and it's easy to miss someone. I would like to thank all of the students of SFX and the staff for a wonderful year. It was one to remember.

I'd just like to leave you with three simple messages, which I gave to the Year 12s. The messages relate to three words beginning with 'S'.

Firstly, there is 'Silence'. We live in a busy and noisy world. When you need to make decisions and when you really need to think try a little 'silence'. Silence can turn on the brain and the lack of distraction helps you to think.

Then there are the 'Simple things'. As you are aware I was on leave in Term 3. I visited Rome and Amsterdam and Scotland. When people ask me, what was the best thing about my leave I always say it was being able to spend time with my family. The simple act of making scones for my daughters was one of the highlights of the time away.

I would also advise you to see 'Strength in gentleness'. I would encourage the young men to be gentle. At times gentleness can be mistaken for weakness and gentle people can be ignored and criticized. Gentle people will form strong and lasting relationships and their friends will stick by them. I would also encourage the young women to also see gentleness as a strength. Some believe that the best way for a woman to get on in this world is to behave like a bloke. To do things the hard way and to be tough. Please take the other path and be yourselves and let your light shine through.

In farewelling 2017 I would like to thank you for making such a positive difference in our lives and in our school.

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all,
Angus M. Tulley
Principal



Religion @ SFX

By Anne Armstrong
Religious Education Curriculum Coordinator

As we end the school year, we begin the Liturgical year.

The Feast of Christ the King always marks, for me, the end of one drama cycle and the beginning of a new one, with the invitation to reflect, renew and restore our faith and relationships.

As we prepare to wind down, we are called to enter into a time of reflection, withdrawal into our hearts, and seriously consider the role of the incarnation of Jesus in our own lives.

The season of Advent, challenges us to follow, anew, the life of Christ the King and the life of the Christ Child, and enter wholeheartedly into the birth of the child king.

In Roman times, the advent (arrival) of the Emperor into a city would arouse great fear and expectation. He would dispense justice and rewards. People prepared themselves for it.

In the Church year, Advent is the time we await the coming of Christ, remembering the birth of Jesus and preparing for the coming of God into our lives and the world.

It is a time of joyful waiting. Of waiting for a God of peace, not a God of war, a God of love, not an oppressive and capricious God.

The first readings in most Masses during Advent are taken from the prophecies of Isaiah. They were written in hard times of war, dodgy alliances and injustice.

They see the world as it is but are filled with hope, and a deep sense of God's presence in the natural world, they are expressions of longing during times of conflict for peace, conflict resolution and reconciliation.



They express the conviction that relationship to God affects the whole environment and not just our hearts.

This longing and vision of hope is most beautifully expressed in the reading from Micah 4:2, which is also found in Isaiah 2:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

This reading speaks of threats and counter-threats among nations. As it was in the Ancient times, so it is with us. Witness North Korea, Myanmar, The Middle East, to name a few.

Martin Luther King once said, there can be no justice without peace and there can be no peace without justice. Dr. King’s formulation contains no threats of violence, veiled or otherwise. Injustice anywhere, said King, is a threat to justice everywhere.” This advent, let us prepare for Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child through sincerely praying for peace.





Advent Prayer

Advent God,
Create in our hearts a longing for peace,
May we create Peace within families
May we create Peace within communities
May we create Peace within the state
May we create Peace within the world

Advent God
May we listen to you in the silence.
And stillness of your love
May your peace be our protection
May we be strengthened to be your prophetic voice

May we reject violence in all its forms
The violence wrought by fear and poverty of spirit
the violence of unexamined personal power and privilege
the violence of exclusion
the violence of oppression
the violence of neglect

Teach us to be makers of peace
Resolvers of conflict
Conquerors of injustice
covering battle grounds
with the lush growth of just peace.

You can find more prayers for peace to say with your family this Advent, or put them on your advent calendar.

You may be interested to know that Sunday, Dec 3, the first Sunday of Advent was the day set aside by the Australian Bishops' Conference to celebrate People with Disabilities. Here is the weblink: <http://www.cathnews.com/pastoral-letters/1129-171130-acbc-letter-for-day-of-people-with-disability-2017/file>

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Anne Armstrong
Religious Curriculum Coordinator



TEACHING AND LEARNING

READING AND INTERPRETING REPORTS

By Colleen Rowe

Students in Years 7 to 11 have received their Semester Reports via email. Year 12 students will collect their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and their ATARS on the 14 December (from 10am in the Hub). We are expecting some very pleasing results for this hardworking year group.

Receiving certificates and reports can bring feelings of joy and pride but in some cases, it can also cause concern, frustration or uncertainty. In either case, the end of year marks a time for reflection, to set goals and to think about the future. The role of parents and carers is important, in helping to motivate and encourage the student and help them focus on their areas of success and also to plan for improvement in others. Positive motivation from parents and carers is a great way to build self-esteem and can lead to more success in the future.

Some suggestions for discussion about reports are:

- Talk to the student calmly, go through the results and ask how they are feeling about it.
- Ask them questions like: “what can we do at home to help you focus on homework and study?”, “How can I help you manage your workload?”, “What strategies do you think will make a difference?”
- Set practical small steps for the student to work towards their goals.
- Support them along this journey, check in regularly and re-adjust goals if required.

When reading the reports, parents and carers need to keep in mind that the ‘C’ grade indicates that the student has met the standard expected for their age group for that subject and their learning is firmly on track. The Approaches to Learning and Report Outcomes will give valuable information about what the student knows and what they can do. This information may also identify areas in which the student needs further help or can improve.

One of the college goals for teachers this year has been improving feedback to students along the learning journey. This will continue to be a focus next year, as teachers hone their skills in the use of Canvas as a learning management platform. Research tells us that feedback to students on their learning is one of the most effective ways to improve student outcomes. Effective feedback practices provide the bridge between assessment and learning. High quality feedback can improve student learning by as much as eight months. (Reframing Feedback to Improve Teaching and Learning AITSL). For feedback to be effective, teachers carefully gauge when it is needed to promote learning and then provide strategies to help the student to improve. This will continue to be an area for teacher professional learning and professional conversations in 2018.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy and joy-filled Christmas. For as Pope Francis tells us Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace. May the happiness of Jesus' coming surround you this Christmas season.

Colleen Rowe
Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning



YEARBOOK, FORMAL, FAREWELL YEAR 12

WE WISH YEAR 12, 2017 ALL THE BEST!!

It has been a busy few weeks at SFX as we farewelled Year 12 at their final assembly and held their graduation ceremony on Monday 27 November. This was followed by the Year 10 Graduation ceremony on Tuesday the 28th. The Year 12 formal was held at Parliament House on Friday 1 December. All of these events are covered in the Yearbook which arrived yesterday. All students will receive a Yearbook in pastoral, and Year 10, 11 and 12 students can pick theirs up from the front office between the 8th and 12th of December. Others who would like a copy can email Ms. Doherty on communications@sfx.act.edu.au.
Meanwhile! enjoy the memories!







Catholic Schools Action Research Showcase

On Friday December 1st, teachers Damian Woods and Graham Stock represented the College at the annual Catholic Schools Action Research Showcase.

The showcase serves as a platform for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to present their research in improving education for our students, and to allow networking opportunities for teachers across the Archdiocese.

This year the Showcase focused heavily on STEM, and St Francis Xavier was well represented. We showed a number of fantastic projects that have been completed by our students and their teachers throughout the year, through our fantastic partnership with University of Canberra and Samsung.

Participants were also privileged to hear from Dr. Jane Hunter, a leading researcher and advocate for STEM in schools, who presented us with some excellent ideas for 2018!



Describing Animals (In Italian!)

By Tina Rodriguez

As a fun and engaging activity to finish off the year, my Year 7 students of Italian have been learning how to describe animals in Italian. As part of this unit of work they had to create a bilingual (Italian/English) storybook about animals, suitable for primary school students.

Then on Friday 1 December, they went over to St John's Primary school and read their booklets to the Kindergarten students. As you can see from the photos, all the students were engaged and enjoyed this activity very much. I thank the Kindergarten teachers, Bianca and Andrew for allowing us to visit their classes.



St Monica's Japanese Day

By Natalie Bakonji

Some Year 9, 10 and 11 Japanese students attended the St Monica's Japanese Day to help out with running some Japanese activities.

The students were able to watch (and perform in) a Japanese drum performance before going to Kinder to Year 3 classes.

They helped out with origami, fan making, Japanese games, helmet making, storytelling and other crafts. The primary school kids loved having the 'big kids' to help out and some of the SFX kids liked going back to their old school to see changes and old teachers.





Vocational Education

By Bernadette Bradley

Vocational Education is a wonderful and practical pathway that many students benefit from. At SFX, we have had some considerable successes in this area. A former SFX student Caitlin Maggs was featured last week on www.news.com.au. The article entitled: "Why more women need to consider a trade" looks at her unusual career choice, which she says has led to some awkward conversations, but is, as she says, "a great job". To read the article, click here: <http://www.news.com.au/finance/work/careers/why-more-women-need-to-consider-a-trade/news-story/27667cc92374ae41349f067bc2d49aba>

Congratulations to the following student cohorts on receiving their Certificates or a Statement of Attainment in the following:

Yr 10 Digital Technology

- Certificate I Business
- Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology

Yr 10 Hospitality

- Certificate I in Hospitality

Yr 10 Introduction to Construction

- Statement of Attainment in Certificate I in Construction

Year 12 Students that studied vocational courses have achieved certificates or statement of attainments in

- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate II Business
- Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- Certificate I in Furnishing
- Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology

Students in Year 11 Vocational classes that are continuing in 2018 have been emailed a summary of their training progress. Vocational courses give students the opportunity to develop life skills, skills for the workplace and participate in structured workplace experience.

There is a great video about VET on the My Skills website, which those interested may wish to watch: <https://www.myskills.gov.au/career-info/>.

Vocational Education is for everyone, unlock your future!!

Bernadette Bradley

Approaches to Learning

During Studies Coordinators meetings this semester the new reporting system has been evaluated. An analysis was carried out of the grades awarded in Semester 1 in comparison with the subject outcome levels of achievement, across various subjects and year groups. These results were shared with teachers at a Staff Meeting and discussed at Departmental Meetings to ensure alignment and consistency in assessment and the decisions about the final grades awarded.

The Approaches to Learning were also discussed. In devising the new report format, teachers considered the General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum, as these play a significant role in equipping young Australians to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. These capabilities were used as the basis for the learning approaches and encompasses skills, behaviours and dispositions (ACARA General Capabilities). Pisa testing also focuses on students' approaches to learning, as research suggests that how students regulate their learning and use appropriate strategies influences their achievement; with a 'particularly strong association between approaches to learning and performance' (PISA)

The skills that are the basis of the Approaches to Learning provide a solid foundation for independent learning and for working collaboratively with others. These skills can be learned and taught so that student can improve with practice. The approaches also provide a common language for students and teachers to use and reflect on during the process of learning and are very helpful in giving students feedback so they can improve and grow.

On the following page is a document that lists the approaches and includes brief descriptors to illustrate the learning behaviours teachers look for in making decisions about a student's progress in using the Approaches to Learning.





STUDENT APPROACHES TO LEARNING

1. Displays critical thinking and problem-solving skills
 - Applies logic to solving problems.
 - Develops original ideas and creative approaches to solve problems.
 - Applies successful strategies to new problems.
 - Generates questions for further inquiry.
2. Uses subject specific language confidently for learning and communicating
 - Understands subject specific terminology and uses it effectively to express ideas.
 - Communicates in written formats with a high degree of grammatical accuracy.
 - Expresses ideas fluently and clearly.
3. Shows respect for the learning environment including responsible use of ICT
 - Uses learning materials and resources responsibly.
 - Respects the rights, property and opinions of others.
 - Follows the College Guidelines in the correct use of ICT.
4. Positively contributes to the learning environment and works collaboratively with peers
 - Listens to, acknowledges and considers differing opinions.
 - Contributes and shares information and ideas to the class and groups.
 - Participates in group activities, working respectfully and cooperatively with peers.
5. Is prepared, punctual and has a positive attitude to learning
 - Arrives to lessons on time and with the required class materials.
 - Approaches lessons and activities positively, putting forward a consistent effort.
6. Behaves appropriately in class
 - Acts respectfully, responsibly and safely in lessons.
 - Follows routines and instructions without supervision.
 - Responds and participates in a variety of learning activities in a positive manner.
7. Meets classroom and assessment deadlines
 - Uses class time effectively and efficiently to complete set tasks.
 - Submits assessment tasks on time.

School Sport

By Samantha Stevens

I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to and support of School Sport in 2017.

It has been an extremely busy year and SFX has produced some excellent team and individual results.

To finish off for the year, we have had a few teams competing in gala days in the ACT.

On Wednesday 8th November Mr Peter Marrapodi and Mrs Elissa Chartres coached our Boys Super 8s Cricket teams.

There were two teams in the 7/8 competition and both teams played extremely well throughout the day. One team won 4 of their 5 games, while the other won 3 of their 5. Well done to all players! Particular mentions go to Harry Ryan-Baker, Tom McCormack and Thomas Alcorn who were awarded MVP points for the day and to Christopher Harrison who was acknowledged for his outstanding sportsmanship and team spirit.

With two teams in the competition also, the 9/10 Boys had a great day out. One of the teams had a very successful day, making it through to the 1 v 2 play off, where they lost against Trinity. The other team had a fun day out and ended up in the 5 v 6 play off. Well done to Matthew Hambleton, Riley Willcox, Joey Bishop, Harry Chittock, Thomas McInnes and Bailey O'Connor who all picked up MVP points for the day.

During November 7 SFX girls were a part of the ACT Youth Girls team at the TAG 20 2017 Oceanic Heritage Cup in Melbourne. The girls played very well over the three days and made it to the grand final where they unfortunately they lost against NZ. Well done to Nikola Anastasi, Elena Kingham, Alyssa Mills, Abbey Crowe, Sarah Farquhar, Sarah Lang and Bella Hoskins.





On Tuesday 14th November Mr Tom Nolan and Mr Peter Marrapodi coached the Boys Rugby League teams at the Clyde Rauter Shield competition.

The 7/8 boys had a successful day out, winning two and drawing two of their games. This was enough to see the boys progress through to the finals event. Congratulations to Kane Rushton, Jeb Smith and Toby Davis who were awarded MVP points for the day and to Seth Joice who showed great sportsmanship and team spirit throughout the day. Well done, boys and good luck in the finals!

The 9/10 boys had a fun day out, and showed great sportsmanship. Despite only winning one of their games, the team were highly competitive. Congratulations to Matt Hambleton, Isaac Torpy and Cooper O'Connor who won MVP points for the day and to Tom McInnes for his great teamwork and spirit on the day.

On Tuesday 21st of November, Mrs Kelly Candy coached the 7/8 girls cricket team in the ACT Finals. The girls had a great day, scoring lots of runs. The team won a number of games throughout the day, with some great results! Well done to Jessica Galeano, Maddy Mills and Annabel Whalan who were awarded MVP points for the day and to Alys Holdom who was recognised for her outstanding effort on the day. A big thank you also goes to Alannah Daly and Darcy Tait who were outstanding coaches on the day. Well done, girls!

Congratulations to Thomas Dixon of Year 7 who was selected for the ACT U/17 representative team to compete at the Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Association National Championships in Sydney from April 1st-8th 2018. Well done, Tom and good luck in April!

Also, congratulations to Caitlin Quester of Year 9 who has been selected for the ACT Brumbies Youth Rugby 7s team to participate in the Australian National Championships in Brisbane in early December. Good luck, Caitlin!





SFX also has a number of students who have been selected to attend the Pacific Schools Game in Adelaide in December.

- Ryan Ulrich (Year 7) – U12 Boys Golf (Captain)
- Callum McCann (Year 7) U12 Boys Golf
- Abbie Bailey (Year 7) - U12 Girls Touch Football (Captain)
- Jaycob Shea (Year 7) – U12 Boys Football
- Bradley Manning (Year 7) – U12 Boys Hockey
- Jeb Smith (Year 8) - ACT Athletics team
- Chelsea Tobin (Year 8) – U15 Girls Touch Football
- Olivia Holgate (Year 8) – U16 Girls Hockey
- Joshua Carter (Year 8) – U16 Boys Hockey
- Hannah Manning (Year 9) – U16 Girls Hockey
- Stephen Friend (Year 9) – U17 Boys Softball
- Matthew Mackenzie (Year 9) - U16 Boys Hockey
- Aidan Smith (Year 9) - U16 Boys Hockey
- Savahna O'Donnell (Year 10) – U17 Girls Softball
- Joshua Roberts (Year 10) - U16 Boys Hockey
- Connaigh Whittaker (Year 10) - U16 Boys Hockey
- Riley Willcox (Year 10) - U17 Boys Golf
- Caitlyn Savage (Year 11) – U17 Girls Softball
- Isobella D'Amico (Year 12) – U18 Girls Football
- Andy Meyer-Coyte (Year 12) – U17 Boys Softball

Well done to all students, and good luck in the upcoming Pacific Schools Games.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved for a fantastic year in sport. Bring on 2018 – BIGGER AND BETTER!!

This cartoon was drawn and designed by Bhriana Monaghan
(Yr 7) Bhriana loves to draw and cartoon, and completed this
during the year





Back to School @ SFX - Dates for 2018

Year 7: Monday 5 February

Year 8 - 12: Tuesday 6 February

We look forward to seeing you all in
2018!

School Student Transport Scheme

This is a reminder regarding the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) and students progressing from year 2 to 3 and year 6 to 7.

We have made some improvements to our system which now means that students who are progressing to year 3 and year 7 do not need to reapply if they meet the following three conditions:



- are continuing at the same school
- are residing at the same address
- have not been sent an expiry notification from Transport for NSW.



The system has automatically validated a student's ongoing eligibility if they're at the same school and progressing to year 3 and year 7. Where a student met the new eligibility the system has updated their entitlement and card. If they didn't meet the new eligibility, they would have been sent an expiry notification.



If students need to update any information or reapply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>.

Summer Tennis Programs with Tennis Canberra

Junior Holiday Camps @ Old Parliament House Tennis Club

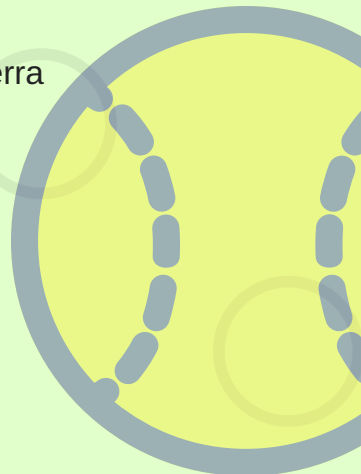
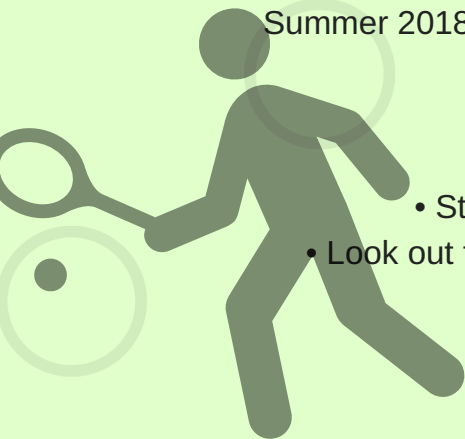
- Christmas 2017 Camp: December 18th - 20th
- Summer 2018 Camp 1: January 22nd - 24th
- Summer 2018 Camp 2: January 29th - 31st

Summer 2018 Season Starts February 5th | Tennis Hot Shots Canberra

- Free Racquet for new players!
- Ages 4 - 16
- Play at one of the Tennis Canberra Clubs
- Starter, Beginner, Intermediate & Advance Levels
- Look out for our Free Tennis Sessions January & February 2018

Contact & Online Bookings

- Website: www.tenniscanberra.com.au
- Phone: 0416 186 121
- Email: play@tenniscanberra.com.au



8th to 10th December: International Nativities

Expo

This exhibition of 350 Nativities is an entrée to family discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. From some 80 countries, they present the diverse cultures that embrace the Christian story, from the Palestinian Territories to Vietnam and China. Hands-on craft activities for children, as well as nativity jigsaws, puppets and books.

Venue: Catholic Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin St. Manuka (behind St Christopher's Cathedral). Fri 8th December: 2pm-7pm; Sat 9th December :10am-5pm; Sun 10th December: 9am-7pm.

Contact: Keith Linard on 0412 376 317 or linard.keith@gmail.com

