

# X L S



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Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members, Welcome to the 2018 school year.

I am excited and honoured to be the Acting Principal this year while Angus is on secondment to the Catholic Education Office as Deputy Director.

The first week back at school has been an exciting one with so many new staff and students joining or returning to our community. It has been heart-warming to watch the way the Year 7s have enthusiastically taken to their new school.

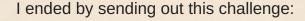
In this first edition of the newsletter Lextend a special welcome to all new students, families and staff members. I look forward to getting to know you all and hope that your time at SFX is enriching and that each and every student's SFX journey is one where they grow and develop life-giving relationships with many opportunities to explore and build on their strengths.

At our College Assembly last week I spoke to our students about how the start of each year is always a very exciting time as we contemplate how we will grow, evolve and change during the year ahead. I encouraged them to aim high with the dreams and goals they set and to strive to be the best they can.

In the challenges that we face in the year ahead we all need to help keep the special Saint Francis Xavier spirit burning brightly by living by our school motto 'truth and courage' and every day treating all members of our community with kindness, respect, tolerance and compassion.



### Principal's Welcome Continued





I want you to think about how you will contribute to our community this year...... and how the school will be a better place for you having been here on the journey with us in 2018. Believe that you can be the person that makes the difference. Everyone can make a difference!

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Our religious theme for this year is Be Still and Know that I Am God from Psalm 46:10. In the week before the students arrived staff had time to reflect on this theme during our opening mass and in a presentation on Christian Meditation led by Helen Bramanathan.

The act of being still and quiet can be quite a challenge in our hectic world as we all seem to get busier and busier. Helen's presentation reminded us that God asks us to be still so that we can receive love, peace and guidance. Helen will return during the year to assist staff to deepen their appreciation and knowledge of this Christian reflective practice. There will be opportunities for us to stop, to let go, to surrender and to contemplate God's will.

Taking comfort in letting go and resting in God's presence to provide help, strength and safety is a gift that will benefit us all.

Please take a moment to pray for those members of our community who may be experiencing difficult circumstances.

I wish you all a happy and successful 2018 and that God's blessings be with you as you journey through the year.

Colleen Rowe
Acting Principal, St Francis Xavier College

# Community Day @ Big Splash!





### **Year 7 Welcome and Information Evening**

Monday 26 February is the Year 7 Parent Welcome and Information Evening. This evening is an opportunity for you to meet your child's Humanities, STEM and Pastoral teachers and gain some understanding of the curriculum Year 7 students will be studying this year. The College Executive, including Acting Principal Colleen Rowe, will also be present.

The evening provides information for parents and quardians. It is preferable that students do not attend.

Parents and guardians are asked to gather in the Theatre for a 5:30pm start. The welcome is scheduled to take approximately 30 minutes, after which there will be time for questions, followed by an informal meet and greet session in the Canteen/HUB area. At this time you are invited to meet your child's Pastoral Leader and Humanities and STEM teachers. Both Teressa Patterson, Acting Head of Middle School and I will also be available.

Light refreshments will also be available. I encourage all parents and guardians to attend this important session to gain an insight into the Middle School structure, and the Year 7 Pastoral Care program, and to meet your child's teachers. No RSVP is necessary.

The teachers will be seated around the HUB (Humanities), Resource Centre (Pastoral Leaders) and Senior Common Room (STEM) so you can find them easily.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 6278 9041 or e-mail me Martin.Mullin@sfx.act.edu.au if you have any questions about the evening. I look forward to meeting you on the night.

Martin Mullin, Year 7 Coordinator

# STEM, EMPATHY AND THE NEED FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNE ARMSTRONG, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

#### By Anne Armstrong

It is a paradox in our modern world that we are drowning in information while starving for wisdom (E.O Wilson). At the beginning of every year we begin each RE class from Years 9-12 with these questions. Why do we study RE? What is its value? Probably the only other subject whose worth is interrogated so intently is Maths. The study of Mathematics arose out of religious and philosophical thinking. Pythagoras' academy in Ancient Greece, for example was a centre for both mathematical and spiritual exploration. Fortunately, the RE and Maths Departments have shared common ground.

A student with an appreciation for Maths, Science and Technology will appreciate the contribution that meaning and ethical dimensions play in those areas. Indeed, our top students last year were top students in Maths, Science and RE. They were able to integrate their faith and their intellect.

Maths and RE demand questioning, with the same rigour and intensity, applied to different contexts and problems. Both disciplines seek truth. Both RE and Maths promote wonder, truth and an appreciation of beauty. If you have seen Fibonacci sequences you would have appreciated the wonder and beauty of nature expressed in fractal patterns found in such objects as flowers and snowflakes.

Four men who perhaps did as much as any to revolutionise the mathematical sciences in the 16th and 17th Centuries, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo and Newton, were all deeply religious Christians. For Kepler, a devout Christian, mathematics was itself a religious undertaking. He wrote in Harmonice Mundi (1619): "Geometry existed before the creation; is co-eternal with the mind of God; is God himself ... Where there is matter there is geometry. ... geometry provided God with a model for the Creation and was implanted into man, together with God's own likeness - and not merely conveyed to his mind through the eyes. ... It is absolutely necessary that the work of such a Creator be of the greatest beauty..."

Fides Et Ratio is an encyclical promulgated by Pope John Paul II on 14 September 1998. It explored the nature of faith and reason and the inter-connectedness of the religious and the scientific.

Pope John Paul II begins the encyclical, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart the desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that by knowing and loving God, men and women can come to the fullness of the truth about themselves" (n. 1).



Our knowledge and pursuit of learning in any subject can lead to discovering purpose and meaning in our lives. Is there a place for the studies that bring attention to what it means to be human, how to relate to others, how to promote human dignity and how to be stewards of God's creation?

Even technological giants these days recognise the profound importance of human relationships in their workplaces. In 2013, Google decided to test its hiring hypothesis by analyzing data accumulated since the company's incorporation in 1998. Project Oxygen shocked everyone by concluding that, among the eight most important qualities of Google's top employees, STEM expertise comes in dead last. The seven top characteristics of success at Google are all soft skills: being a good coach; communicating and listening well; possessing insights into others (including others' different values and points of view); having empathy toward and being supportive of one's colleagues; being a good critical thinker and problem solver; and being able to make connections across complex ideas.

Google's finding is consistent with the views of the employer-led Partnership for 21st Century Learning who describe the foundation skills for worker success as the 4Cs: collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity. The book Becoming Brilliant adds to those four content and confidence to make 6Cs. (http://www.p21.org/)

There is no disconnect between RE, Maths and STEM. They are part of a spectrum across our curriculum which addresses the needs of the whole person.

Israeli educational psychologist Haim Ginott wrote a poem in 1972 in the form of a letter to teachers:

I am a survivor of a concentration camp.

My eyes saw what no person should witness:
gas chambers built by learned engineers.

Children poisoned by educated physicians.

Infants killed by trained nurses.

Women and babies shot by high school and college graduates.

So, I am suspicious of education.

My request is this:

Help your children become human.

Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths or educated Eichmanns.
Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human.

May we all strive to help our children understand what it means to be human, created in the image and likeness of God, with dignity. It takes a village to raise a child. In a school that village is the collaboration of all faculties.

Developing our humanity challenges us to reflect on the importance of being, being in the present and being present to others. It is a challenge to be still and attentive to ourselves, our relationships and God's call in our daily lives. Technology very often drowns out the still small voice of God inviting us to be present and attentive to his love.

Our liturgical theme for 2018 is "Be still and know that I am God'. It invites us to contemplate the wonder and love of God for creation and ourselves. It calls us to integrate our intellectual, spiritual and physical pursuits into developing a meaningful and purposeful relationship with God and others. Faith needs stillness and silence in order to grow. Technology has given us opportunities for advancement but silence and stillness allow us to reflect on whether this advancement is encouraging us to become better human beings or simply distracting us from really being.



#### LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY 14 FEBRUARY

Library Lovers' Day is an opportunity to celebrate the SFX Resource Centre.
Our interactive display incorporates ALIA's 'Love Stories for Libraries' written by
Australian authors. Our dedicated staff contributed the title and author of their
favourite book. Our display beautifully compliments our School Leaders' 'PALentine's
Day' initiative. And don't forget the free bookmarks at the RC!

#LibraryLoversDay
#SFXResourceCentre
#SchoolLibraries
#ALIA

#### **GREEN TEAM @ SFX**

The Green Team meets in the garden at lunchtimes
Mondays and 3:30-4:30 Thursday afternoons.
It's a great opportunity to become more self-sufficient,
learn to grow your own food from seedlings
and make a real difference to the environment!
For further information, contact Ms. Burden
lynette.burden@sfx.act.edu.au



#### USEFUL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

FROM DEARNE BASSETT, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL STUDENT WELLBEING

#### START AND FINISH TIMES:

A reminder that supervision starts at 8.00am. Students are not expected to be at school prior to this time. The final bell is at 2.55pm (3.25pm for senior late classes) – students are expected to make their way to pick up areas. Supervision is provided in the Resource Centre until 4.00pm and at the Bus Zone.

#### PASTORAL TEAM:

#### Year Coordinators:

Year 7 - Martin Mullin - martin.mullin@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 8 - Lee Dwyer - lee.dwyer@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 9 - Sue Carroll - sue.carroll@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 10 - Anthony Telford - anthony.telford@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 11 - Cathy Barry - cathy.barry@sfx.act.edu.au

Year 12 - Bridie McNeill (Acting) - bridget.mcneill@sfx.act.au.au

#### PASTORAL ADVISORS:

Years 7 & 8 - Kate Rhodes – kate.rhodes@sfx.act.edu.au

Years 9 & 10 - Luke Potter (Acting) - luke.potter@sfx.act.edu.au

Years 11 & 12 - Travis Cragg - travis.cragg@sfx.act.edu.au

#### **DEFENCE TRANSITION MENTOR:**

Steve Caddick - Stephen.caddick@sfx.act.edu.au

#### COUNSELLORS:

Sarah Foley – sarah.foley@sfx.act.edu.au Aaron Pakula – aaron.pakula@sfx.act.edu.au

#### COLLEGE CHAPLAIN:

Sr Sue – sue.hallams@sfx.act.edu.au

#### **BUS INFORMATION:**

For bus information 2018 - visit Transport Canberra. www.transport.act.gov.au/routes-and-timetables/school services

#### **CONTACTING STUDENTS:**

We are committed to ensuring student safety and wellbeing, as well as providing every opportunity for learning. We ask that parents who need to contact their child/ren do this through the Student Office. If you would like to talk in person, we can arrange this in the breaks at the office.

#### LOST

If anyone has found a men's black G-Shock watch with a blue trim around the face, please hand it in at the office.

#### THINKUKNOW

(Presentation with light refreshments)

St Francis Xavier College will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on Tuesday 3rd April 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 in how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and how to help them overcome these 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 people's 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 or contact Mrs Dearne Bassett: dearne.bassett@sfx.act.edu.au

#### SCHOOL TV

It's never been more challenging for parents to raise happy, healthy and resilient children. Like never before, parents need to be informed with clear, fact-based information on the many challenges faced by today's youth. Topics such as youth anxiety, depression, self-harm, drug and alcohol use, cyberbullying and many others need clear explanation and guidance. SchoolTV is a resource on the SFX website that continues to be available to our parents. Each edition will address a major topic with expert interviews, fact sheets, parent quiz, recommended apps, books and much more. SchoolTV aggregates information from many great resources such as BeyondBlue and ReachOut, amongst others. SchoolTV provides a single stream of independent factual information that saves parents time and confusion of searching online across multiple sites for information.

#### **FEATURES**

Many parents will be aware of the tragic circumstances in which Amy 'Dolly' Everett lost her life earlier this year as a result of cyberbullying. Dolly, as she was affectionately known, has since become the face of a campaign to raise awareness of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide. A legacy that Dolly's bereaved family fully supports with the intent of sparing other families from the same grief. In this Special Report, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg highlights the dangers associated with social media and outlines how parents can help reduce the risk of cyberbullying. Preventing such a tragedy from recurring, needs to have the support of parents, schools and the wider community, all of whom must work together to reduce the risks associated with bullying. Parents especially need to be aware of the dangers and be proactive in not accepting bullying behaviour of any sort.

Let's do it for Dolly.

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellors for further information: 6258 1055.



### **GET IN TOUCH**

For more information on these bits and pieces, please get in touch with Dearne Bassett, Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing Dearne.Bassett@sfx.act.edu.au



# NAPLAN will be online from 15-25 May 2018.



#### NAPLAN Online:

- is more engaging and adjusts questions to meet your child's achievement level.
- delivers more precise literacy and numeracy achievement results to schools and parents more quickly.
- supports school improvement by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.

Our school encourages all eligible students to participate in NAPLAN.

Visit www.nap.edu.au to see how the test works and for more information.



### Free One Day Workshop: Bringing School Staff and Parents and Carers together

Canberra 28 March 2018

#### Positive Partnerships is coming to a location near you!

Join us for a day of learning for school staff, parents and carers of school aged children on the
autism spectrum, designed to help foster productive school and family partnerships to provide
the best kind of support for our young people. Our workshop focuses on working together and
using evidence based resources to maximise learning in the school and home environment.

#### What will you gain by attending this workshop?

- · An increased understanding of the impact of autism
- · Further knowledge about how to strengthen effective partnerships between home and school
- An opportunity to be part of a support network where you can share knowledge, skills, strategies and experiences with others
- An understanding of planning tools that can be used to share key information related to your child/student

#### Workshop details

Venue: Hellenic Club Woden

Matilda Street Woden ACT 2606

When: Wednesday 28 March 2018

Parents/Carers: 9.10am - 2:30pm (Registration from 8.30am) School Staff: 8.30am - 4.00pm (Registration from 8.00am)

Catering: Morning tea and lunch is provided. Please advise any dietary requirements

upon registration.

For further information: Please contact your Positive Partnerships Team Leader

Name: Renee Christie

Email: rchristie@autismspectrum.org.au

Ph: 0407 897 368

Online registrations will open on 30 November 2017. You will be provided with a link to register.

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Department of Education and Training.





# **SFX Brekkie Club!**

Restarting Week 2, Term1, 2018

Join the SFX Early
Birds Brekkie club and grab
some cereal or toast and a drink.

All SFX students welcome.

Bring a friend!!

School days from 7.30am – 8.00am Senior Common Room

#### FREE!!

Homework Heroes
Restarting Week 2, Term 1, 2018

Do you need help with a tricky assignment?

Perhaps some guidance on a challenging homework task?

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

The After School Homework Heroes are here to help!

All Year levels welcome!

Monday to Thursday. 3pm-4pm.

Find us in the Resource Centre study area!





#### **GREGORY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE**

Our classes cater for fun and fitness, performance and competition, solo and team dancing in a friendly, caring, family orientated and safe environment for all skills levels and all ages - toddlers (3+), primary school-age children, pre-teens, teenagers and adults - its never too late to start!

# Enrolments open now and taken any time throughout the year! BRING A FRIEND & RECEIVE \$20 OFF EACH for TERM 1!

Aranda Studio - just a hop, skip and jump across the oval! A perfect after school activity for all ages.

Tuesday Little G's - 4pm - 430pm Beginners - 4pm - 445pm Adults - 7pm Thursday Little G's - 4pm - 430pm Beginners - 4pm - 445pm

Saturday Little G's and Beginners - 10am -1045am

Gungahlin - our brand new class location for 2018!

Saturday Little G's – 1030am – Ilam Beginners – 1045am – 1130am



"We are excited to discover the Gregory Academy. The strength and athleticism of the dancers along with their mental focus and precision in the detailed steps is inspining to watch. These are all great skills to develop in anyone and we are thrilled to have our daughter exposed to these qualities through this form of dance"

The Goode Family - one of our newest dance families!

Contact us today to find out more information by emailing gregoryacademyeoutlook.com or call

> Liz (ADCRG) - 0419 225 195 Jackie (TCRG) - 0408 232 402 Megan (TCRG) - 0421 654 420



## Takefu Higashi High School Hosting Opportunity

By Natalie Bakoniji

For a week in August (3rd – 10th) we will again be hosting our sister school from Japan. Our relationship with this school has spanned 12 years. This strong relationship is built on the trust, respect and friendship that has been built between host families over the years. This year, I am looking for 18 host families to welcome a Japanese student into their homes. You do not have to play 'tour guide' or 'entertainment coordinator' – your child should be able to do that. So what will hosting involve?

If you have a spare bed (or can make up a spare bed) you are qualified to host a student. The students will attend school with your child. They will have a timetable of events where they could be in class or out on excursion. They will then go home with your child and/or attend sport training or other after school activities. They should be included in your family life as if they are another family member and not just a guest. Have them get involved in the cleaning and cooking – it will make them feel a part of the family. We receive profiles from Takefu and I try to match students and families based on their interests. And there will be a parent meeting later in the year to discuss plans and answer questions. Hosting is a really great way to share culture and you may be surprised at how mature your child becomes when they are playing 'host'.

Of course, in 2019 our students will be travelling to Japan and will potentially be hosted by the students who come this year. So if you are planning on attending the 2019 tour it would be great if you could host this year. If you would like to host or have any questions, please contact myself at natalie.bakonji@sfx.act.edu.au

Below is a reflection from a parent:

'We've been fortunate to host students from Takefu on two occasions and to have our son travel to Japan with the school and be hosted by a wonderful family. The first time around we were very nervous and had no idea what to expect. Thankfully SFX was very helpful and supportive and the Japanese teachers were happy to answer all our questions, no matter how silly. It turned out to be a fantastic experience for all of our family. The second time we were delighted to be able to host the student who had hosted our son the year before. This experience has lead to ongoing friendships and we were privileged enough to meet his family while on holiday in Japan last year. Hosting Takefu students was the catalyst for our son, Jake, to continue studying Japanese at school. He was going to give up at the end of Year 8 but having the boys from Takefu stay with us convinced him to continue. Jake is now studying International Relations and Japanese at ANU.

Hosting was definitely scary and nerve wracking but absolutely worth it.'

Lara Braithwaite



# Sport @ SFX

Welcome to Sport at St Francis Xavier College for 2018! My name is Brendan Duffy and I will be the Sports Coordinator for this year. I can be contacted at brendan.duffy@sfx.act.edu.au.

There are many sports coming up in Term 1, 2018, 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 and Girls Basketball
- Northside Swimming Carnival
  - Girls AFL
  - 7-10 Boys Rugby 10s
  - College Girls League Tag

Students are asked to listen to Pastoral Notices each day and refer to the PE 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 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 on 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, the SFX community would love to hear about it so please email me the details.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the ACT at the Australian Junior Track and Field Squad. The Championship takes place in Sydney, 14th - 18th March 2018. We wish these students all the best at the competition.

Sidney Shaw – 3000m Walk

Charlotte Rauraa – Shot Put Discus Hammer Javelin
Austin Tetteh – 100m 200m
Jeb Smith – High Jump

Jeremy Maranan – 100m 200m High Jump

Hannah Manning – 5000m Walk

Dillion Manning – 110m Hurdles

I am looking forward to an exciting year in School Sport!!

Cheers,

Brendan Duffy Sports Coordinator

brendan.duffy@sfx.act.edu.au



### LAPTOP ROLLOUT

#### Dear Parents and Guardians

As you may be aware, Year 9 students have been participating in the school's laptop program for a number of years. Each student in Year 9 receives a laptop for their own use, at school and at home.

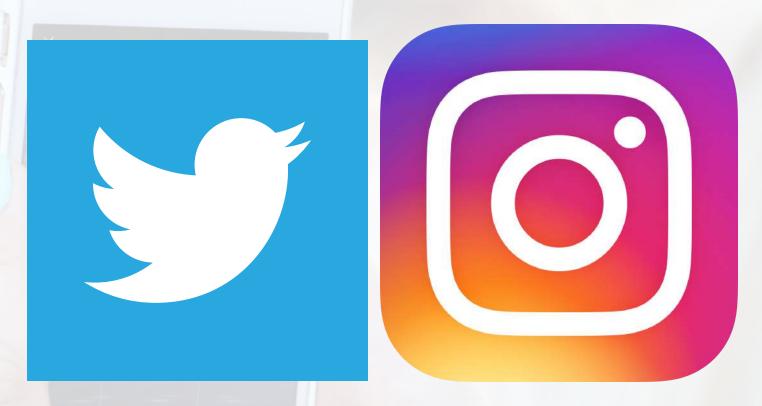
The program will provide a quality Dell Laptop, inclusive of a four-year warranty with all school software and technical support. The laptop program finishes at the end of Year 12 when the laptop ownership passes to the student.

Students and parents will be required to attend an information session on Wednesday 21st February. There will be two sessions, one at 5.30pm and one at 7.00pm. You do not have to book, just turn up to one of the sessions. One parent/guardian must attend with the student to obtain their laptop. The Student laptop policy and Contract has been provided to Year 9 parents and must be brought along to the information session.

Please read the contract and policy carefully. You will need to bring just the last page of the contract signed to the information night. If you have questions please email me peter.crane@sfx.act.edu.au . I look forward to meeting you on Wednesday 21st February.



# Find us on Facebook



On twitter and instagram

asfxflorey

www.sfx.act.edu.au

@SFXFlorey is active on social media, with accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Make sure to follow us so you can hear all of our news as it happens! Email us with any information at communications@sfx.act.edu.au.