



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

Learn, Love, Live The Gospel, Witness Our Faith & Celebrate Life

Friday 17 May 2024
Week 5

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2024

Catholic Social Teaching, Writing, Mathematics, Wellbeing and Regulating

Dear Parents & Care Givers,

Don't handicap your children by making their lives easy.

Robert A. Heinlein

I came across this quote some time ago and it made me stop for a while and think back to my childhood days. Many of you wouldn't even have been born when I was a child and 'parenting' was definitely not a word commonly used. When I look back on my childhood I thank God that my parents *didn't* make my life 'easy' for me. Mum was a 'tough old girl' who took on the lion's share of disciplining her children. My 3 siblings and I were brought up to tell the truth, do as we were told because our parents knew better, respect our elders, live with and learn from our mistakes and poor choices always had consequences. Mum's favourite saying was, 'chickens always come home to roost!'

Growing up as children of immigrants – my parents were both born in Italy – I learned at a very early age what prejudice and bigotry were. Being called 'wog' and 'deigo' and other not so nice names, were a common occurrence. While it was hurtful, I developed a strong voice at an early age. I will remember 'til the day I pass, my mother's pearl of wisdom which I have always lived by – 'stand up for yourself' and don't ever let anyone tell you what to do.'

Mum and dad loved us all but did not fight our battles. What they did do though, was give us siblings the necessary tools to fight our own battles and on most occasions, come out unscathed – in other words they taught us how to be resilient.

If we want our children to stand up to the inevitable challenges they will face in the future and keep going despite disappointment or frustration, we need to help our children develop resilience. This means they need to practise coping skills, and therefore need some challenges with which to practise these skills. They need to 'battle' for themselves (depending on the severity of the situation) and not always depend on mum or dad to sort their issues for them. 'I can't' needs to be turned into 'I can...give it a go'.

After all, life is not about figuring out how to turn off a thunderstorm or switch on the sun – no matter how much we would like this to be possible.

Our children will learn to be much happier, more resilient people, when they can enjoy the sunshine when it is around and dance in the rain when there is no other choice.

Have a wonderful weekend.

God Bless,
Olivia

WHAT'S HAPPENING - TERM 2, WEEKS 6 & 7

TERM 2 WEEK 6

- **Monday 20 May:** "Try It Tucker Day"
- **Tuesday 21 May:** Board Meeting
Primary Netball Gala Day
- **Wednesday 22 May:** National Simultaneous Story
- **Friday 24 May:** Assembly 8.30am
HOUSE DAY
Athletics Field Events – Years 3 – 6 – School Oval
St Patrick's School Band performing
Help of Christians Day

TERM 2 WEEK 7

- **Monday 27 May:** Senior Athletics Carnival – Years 3 – 6 - ARC
- **Tuesday 28 May:** SCHOOL PHOTOS – Sibling photo envelopes available from office
- **Wednesday 29 May:** SCHOOL PHOTOS
10th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Michael
- **Friday 31 May:** Assembly – 8.30am

FROM THE APRE



(for children who have made the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and who will continue to then prepare for Communion)			
Please note: Attendance at Enrolment Masses and Workshops is required to complete the program			
	St Francis Xavier	St Mary's	St Michael's Sarina
Enrolment Mass	Saturday May 25th 6pm St Francis Xavier Church	Saturday May 25th 5pm St Mary's Church	Sunday May 26th 9am St Michael's Church
Session 1 (parent and child)	Monday 3 rd June 3:15pm Yr. 4 /5 classrooms	Thursday May 30 3:15pm SMM Early Years Classrooms	Sunday June 2nd 10am after Mass St Michael's Parish Centre
Session 2 (parent and child)	Monday June 10th 3:15pm	Thursday June 13th 3:15pm SMM Early Years Classrooms	Sunday June 16th 10am after Mass St Michael's Parish Centre
Celebration of the Sacrament (parent, child and sponsor)	Saturday or Sunday 10th or 11th August St Francis Church	Saturday 3rd August St Mary's Church 5pm	Sunday 4 th August 9 am St Michael's Church



It was beautiful to see so many St Francis Xavier mums and grandmas join us for our Mother's Day Prayer Celebration led by our Year 2 students last Friday. These are such special events and seem to get bigger every year with more and more mums attending. Unfortunately, the rain played havoc with our picnic morning tea plans, perhaps we may be able to have another opportunity later in the year. May God bless all our wonderful mums and mother figures and grandmas both here and in heaven.



Ned and Ottis were certainly not going to give away the secret of what they bought their mums for Mother's Day. However other students were happy to share what they bought. Thank you so much to Toni (our P & F President) and her band of wonderful mums, dads and grandmas who volunteered on the Mother's Day stall.

The students absolutely loved buying their gifts for their mums.



FROM THE APA



Notifying Parents when Children become Sick at School

At times, your child may become sick at school. We have very strict guidelines we are required to follow. These guidelines are provided to us by Catholic Education Office Rockhampton and are informed by Queensland Health.

If your child presents at our office with any serious or contagious symptoms, they will be provided with first aid and you will be contacted immediately.

If your child requires an ambulance, we will not hesitate to call one, if we believe your child is in danger and we are unable to assist them, medically.

We do have students who present themselves to the office on a regular basis, advising they are not feeling well. At times, this is more about not wanting to be in class, not feeling comfortable with a change in the school routine or perhaps even an issue that is not school related. Over time and with communication from home, we get to know these students and follow advice from parents as to what helps them to return to class, if they are not genuinely unwell.

How can you, our parents help us?

If one of our office staff rings and ask you to collect your child from sick bay, please comply with this request. We have two beds in our sick bay and often have an office full of students, who are not well. This means, some children must sit on chairs in the office. This is not conducive to getting well quickly. If your child has contagious symptoms such as cold or flu or vomiting and diarrhea symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child as we are mindful, not only that your child needs to be in a comfortable bed at home to rest and recover, but also that we have 570 students and 70 staff whom we need to protect.

We understand, when parents are working outside of the home, it is sometimes difficult to stop work to collect a sick child, but we also need to consider the health and safety of our staff and students. Whilst our office staff are all trained and have up to date first aid certificates, they are not medical professionals and so they need you to collect your child if he or she is sick.

If you believe your child is sometimes inclined to imagine symptoms and fain illness, we ask that you speak to them about it and provide them with strategies to assist them to only present at the sick bay when they are genuinely ill.

We thank you for your help and support.



Strategic Priorities and Goals 2024 – 2026

1. Catholic Identity		2. Effective Teaching and Learning (NSIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8)	
<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>1.1 To explore and embed the tradition of prayer within the Catholic faith.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>To engage and educate staff and students in a variety of prayer opportunities and experiences.</p>	<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>2.1 To create a culture of data informed practices where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>To improve student learning outcomes in writing.</p>
3. Pastoral Support and Wellbeing (NSIT Domain 3)		4. Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing (NSIT Domains 1,4,9)	
<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>3.1 To implement a student wellbeing program that focuses on each child being the best version of themselves.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>To assist students in regulating emotions by understanding their readiness to learn.</p>	<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>4.1 To enhance and develop parent and community partnerships to improve student learning.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>To engage parents in the everyday life of the school.</p>

Does your 8-14 year old child struggle with reading?



GRIFF LINC READING RESEARCH



Image - MS Word Stock Image

FREE ONLINE TUTORING FOR 6 MONTHS

Students must be available 2 -3 times per week for 30 mins

The Griff Linc Reading Research team has developed a new tutoring method for middle years students struggling with reading. The tutors use artificial intelligence to write short texts specific to your child's interests and reading level, and use a six-step teaching method during each tutoring session. The researchers collect data on your child's reading assessments at the beginning and end of the project, as well as video recordings of the tutoring sessions. This data will be used to evaluate the impact of the project on middle years students struggling with reading.

RESEARCHERS:

Professor Beryl Exley &
Dr Frances Hoyte

TO APPLY:

Email - f.hoyte@griffith.edu.au
GU Ethics Reference Number: 2024/201

ICAS MATHS

Dear Parents,

ICAS is an online academic competition that gives students the opportunity to challenge their higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in English and Mathematics.

Every student who participates is celebrated and recognised with a printed certificate in each subject area, and online results report to track development each year. Top performers are eligible for one of the highly coveted ICAS medals. The assessments we offer are **English** and **Mathematics** for Years 4, 5 and 6 These will be conducted in **August**. Each test costs \$19.95

How to participate in ICAS

If you wish for your child to participate in ICAS this year, please:

1. Read about ICAS subjects and prices here: (icasassessments.com/products-icas/)
 2. Read the terms and conditions here: (icasassessments.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-ICAS-Assessments-Schools-TsCs_S2023.V6-1.pdf)
 3. Go to the Parent Portal to sign up to chosen subject areas here: (shop.icasassessments.com/pages/pps)
 4. Enter our school's access code – LLQ284
 5. Enter your child's details, select the subject areas your child would like to participate in, then proceed to payment. Please note that the ICAS subject areas shown for selection are at the school's discretion.
- After payment is made via the **Parent Payment System**, you will receive an order confirmation email, please keep this for your records.

Kind Regards

Mrs Tracey Galletly (Equity teacher)

BLANKETS NEEDED St Vincent de Paul Society



**YOUR GENEROSITY THIS WINTER
WILL HELP PROVIDE PEOPLE LIKE LUKE WITH
FOOD AND A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT.**

Blankets needed

Please help our children support those in Mackay who are in need of warm blankets this Winter.

If you have any new or near new blankets at home, we would love it if you could drop some off at the school office so we can help out St Vincent de Paul with their mission to help those in need this Winter.

 **St Vincent de Paul Society**
QUEENSLAND *good works*

Therese McLean (Prep M Teacher, ARLOS)

SENIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Get excited, next Friday the St Francis Xavier Senior Sports carnival starts! Don't forget that your child's nomination form must be completed on Parent Lounge to allow them to participate. If this form is not completed your child will not be able to go on the bus to the ARC on Monday, 27/05/2024.

Please ensure on both Friday and Monday your child has the following:

- **Sports house shirt**
- **School hat**
- **Water bottle that is labelled. Students will be carrying it around to events.**
- **Snacks that they can carry to an event e.g. piece of fruit, packet of crackers/ popcorn.**
- **Closed in sports shoes. All students must wear their black school shoe to school. If your child wishes to wear specific runners on the day, they must bring them in their bag. No spikes are allowed.**
- **It is highly recommended that your child applies sunscreen before coming to school. Staff will have sunscreen for students to reapply during the day.**

For those children competing in the 800m, please ensure you have ticked the box indicating the mode of transport for your child (Parent dropping off at the ARC or early bus from school).

Friday 24 May: Field Events at school – Years 3 – 6

Monday 27 May: ARC - Years 3 -6

(Please give permission on Parent Lounge for participation)

JUNIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Tuesday 18 June: Field Events at school - Prep – Year 2

Alana Knezevic – PE Teacher

Mercy Awards

Excellence

Love

Faith

Mercy



Awardees – Week 4



Awardees – Week 5



Try it Tucker Day

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is held between the 17 May and 3 June each year remembering two very important events in our history, the 1967 Referendum and the Mabo High Court decision. This year our school will be acknowledging NRW and the theme of Now More Than Ever with the popular Try it Tucker Day on Monday 20 May. Students and staff will be able to taste Kangaroo lasagna and lemon myrtle damper. Staff will also be treated to native lemon grass zucchini fritters on Tuesday 28 May.

Mrs Karlie Tatchell ~ Senior Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer

Earth Care Group

We were lucky enough to have a special visit from Sr Cecilia and Georgina where they conducted a Nature Bird Life talk with the Year 4 students and our Earth Care group. In the past, we have worked with Sr Cecilia from Woorabinda by helping her Rangers group appreciate their local bird life. We donated some money from our Colour Run last year to Sr Cecilia and she was able to purchase some binoculars for her Rangers. Sr Cecilia has been working with Georgina, National Geographic wildlife photographer and they were both very keen to visit our school to share their passion and knowledge with us. Our Earth Care leaders enjoyed getting out in nature with the two self-confessed “bird nerds” and even got to experience using a professional photographer’s camera!

Mrs Haley Saye ~ Earth Care Group” Co-Ordinator





School Photos



Students in Years 1 – 5 - FORMAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students in Year 6 - SENIOR POLOS

Students in Prep wear PREP UNIFORM

Tuesday 28 May & Wednesday 29 May

8.00am	Siblings A-L	8.00am	Siblings A-L
8.45am	Prep D	8.45am	Prep D
9.00am	Prep H	9.00am	Prep H
9.15am	Prep M	9.15am	Prep M
9.30am	1C	9.30am	1C
9.45am	1S	9.45am	1S
10.00am	1N	10.00am	1N
10.15am	2W	10.15am	2W
10.30am	2H	10.30am	2H
11.40am	2LS	11.40am	2LS
11.55am	3K		
12.10am	3JS		
12.25am	3SM		
12.40am	4M		
1.40am	4D		
1.55am	6L		
2.10am	6AK		
2.25am	6G		



SFXM P&F NEWS

Team blue or pink?

Get ready to groove at the most anticipated event of the year - the school disco! This year's theme is blue and pink, so start planning your outfit now for a night of fun, music, and dancing. Mark your calendars for June 7th and stay tuned for more details on this unforgettable event!

Remember, volunteers will be needed. So please if you are available, let us know.

Important Dates

P+F Meeting

TBA

Disco

Friday 7th June

St Francis P&F Golf Day

Sunday 11th August

Father's Day Stall

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 29th August

Disco

Term 3. Date TBA.

Spring Fair

Friday 11th October

Christmas Raffle

Drawn at Christmas Carols

2024 P&F Executive Committee

President: Toni O'Connell

SFXM_PandFPresident@rok.catholic.edu.au

Vice President: David Serginson

Treasurer: Caitlin Place

Secretary: Tenielle Martin

SFXM_PandFSecretary@rok.catholic.edu.au



ST FRANCIS P&F GOLF DAY

AUGUST 11TH • 8:30AM
2 BALL AMBROSE 9 HOLE EVENT
MACKAY GOLF COURSE

COST: \$100 PER PLAYER - INCLUDES LUNCH & GREEN FEES

REGISTRATIONS OPEN: APRIL 27 AT 9AM
VIA THE WEBSITE LINK ON FACEBOOK OR THE QR CODE

PAY ONLINE VIA THE WEBSITE LINK TO SECURE YOUR TEE TIME

NOMINATE YOUR TEAM OF 2 OR GROUP OF 4
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE



P&F SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN MONDAY MORNINGS FROM
8:15AM IN THE HALL.
CASH ONLY. MOST ITEMS ONLY \$5!

Non State Schools Transport Assistance Scheme

Student Travel Rebates Semester 1

Bus Fare Assistance


- Does your child attend a non-state school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
- Does your family spend more than \$35/week* on bus/ferry fares to and from school (*\$25/week if you, the parent, hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a publicly available service not owned or chartered by the school?

Students With Disability

- Was your child included on the latest Commonwealth Census as a student with a disability requiring supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustments?
- Does your child's Personalised Learning Plan confirm their transport needs are demonstrably different to those of their same aged peers by reason of their disability?
- Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's Travel Capability Rating as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for our financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at SchoolTransport.com.au during May.

Late applications cannot be accepted after 31st May.

MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS

LUNCH | ENTERTAINMENT | GUEST SPEAKERS

10AM - 2PM
FRIDAY | 31 MAY 2024

YUWIYUMBA CULTURAL HUB
9 RIVER STREET, MACKAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
(07) 4957 9400

Are you looking for work that fits around school hours?

Are you an all-rounder who loves to clean?

Are you passionate about helping the elderly?



**WE WANT
YOU!**

Mackay District Home Care Service is currently looking for energetic, hardworking, and caring people to deliver a quality Home Care Service to our clients within the Mackay and surrounding District.

A Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) will be an advantage, but not essential. The candidates must also have a reliable car, a positive attitude, and a passion for helping the elderly. The position is on a casual basis, working within school hours Monday to Friday.

If you are interested, please contact the Mackay District Home Care office for further information on 4852 3340 or go to <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-542346-OP>