



# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL WE WILL:

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

Friday 31 May 2024  
Week 7

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2024**

**Catholic Social Teaching, Writing, Mathematics, Wellbeing and Regulating**

Dear Parents & Carers,



On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024, The Most Reverend Bishop Michael celebrated his ten years of Episcopal Ministry in the Rockhampton Diocese. Bishop Michael was announced as the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Rockhampton, by Pope Francis on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The Mass at the Cathedral on Wednesday included the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Charles Balvo, who has been travelling around the Rockhampton diocese over the last week.

Bishop Michael and his Excellency, Archbishop Charles Balvo are visiting Mackay today. A special gathering will take place at St Patrick's hall this evening to celebrate Bishop Michael's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as bishop of the Diocese of Rockhampton.

We congratulate Bishop Michael and thank him for his continuing spiritual guidance as shepherd of his diocesan flock.



**TUTORING, EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, FAMILY HOLIDAY** during school hours and term time disrupts a child's learning. Yes, I am once again on my soap box, as I struggle to understand why this is starting to appear at our school. Regular classroom learning provides a structured environment where students acquire essential knowledge, develop social skills and engage with their peers. Missing school days or even parts of days can disrupt this continuity and potentially hinder a child's progress.

Private extracurricular activities and tutoring serve specific purposes. While they can enhance a child's skills and confidence, they should ideally complement, not replace, regular schooling. Parents often seek private tutoring to address individual learning gaps or to provide additional support in specific subjects. All of these need to take place outside of school hours.

Family holidays during term time can indeed impact a child's education. These breaks disrupt the learning process and may require students to catch up missed lessons or to miss that component of learning all together.

What message do we send our children if we take them out of school for dance lessons, swimming lessons, tutoring, holidays etc? A very clear one in my opinion – primary education is not all that important.

Please ensure that your children are at school every day (unless sick of course) and arrive on time. I realise I have said this before, but I believe it bears repeating – children feel at their safest when routines are adhered to. Even 10 minutes late for school can be upsetting, particularly at the primary level.

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD...



Baby Beckett Patrick Shipton. Congratulations to Shannon and Liam Shipton on the safe arrival of their first little Shipton addition on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Mum and bub are travelling well.

Baby Emilia Hope Powell. Congratulations to Helena and Adam Powell and big sister Everlie Grace. Little Emilia entered the world on 27<sup>th</sup> May. All are doing well.



Baby Zimmi Karlei Powell. Congratulations to Tahyla and Kellen Powell on the arrival of their little bundle of joy. Zimmi joined the world on 29 May and all the family are doing well.

Have a wonderful weekend.  
God Bless,

Olivia

# WHAT'S HAPPENING - TERM 2, WEEKS 8, 9 & 10?

## TERM 2 WEEK 8

- Monday 3 June: BOOK FAIR ~ Library ~ 8.00am – 3.20pm  
Confirmation Workshop 3.15pm – 4.15pm
- Tuesday 4 June: BOOK FAIR ~ Library ~ 8.00am – 3.20pm
- Wednesday 5 June: BOOK FAIR ~ Library ~ 8.00am – 3.20pm
- Thursday 6 June: BOOK FAIR ~ Library ~ 8.00am – 3.20pm  
Reader's Cup – St Mary's School
- Friday 7 June: Assembly 8.30am  
BOOK FAIR ~ Library ~ 8.00pm – 11.00am  
DISCO 6.00pm – 7.30pm

## TERM 2 WEEK 9

- Monday 10 June: Confirmation Workshop 3.15pm – 4.15pm
- Tuesday 11 June: Board Meeting
- Friday 14 June: Assembly 8.30am  
Deadly Day Out  
**HOUSE DAY**

## TERM 2 WEEK 10

- Tuesday 18 June: Junior Athletics Carnival – School Oval
- Wednesday 19 June: Year 6 Mission Fair  
Year 1 Pirate Day  
Report Cards available on Parent Lounge
- Thursday 20 June: **MACKAY SHOW HOLIDAY (No School)**
- Friday 21 June: Assembly 8.30am  
**LAST DAY OF TERM 2**

## 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
Session 1 (parent and child)	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 SACRAMENT  
(Parent, Child & Sponsor)

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH**  
Saturday 10 August ~ 6.00pm  
Sunday 11 August ~ 9.00am

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**  
Saturday 3 August ~ 5.00pm

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**  
Sunday 4 August ~ 9.00am

## SUPPORTING VINNIES

Vinnies Family Support Conference and Vinnies Housing is putting a call out as they are in desperate need of tinned and non-perishable food, as their supplies have run very low. They have had an influx of people seeking our help with food donations. Donations can be dropped off to the Vinnies Office at the Corner of Juliet and Hamlet Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between the hours of 8.30am – 1.30pm, or alternatively drop them into school. Once again thank you very much for your generous support.

SFX  
Vinnies Winter Appeal  
To Celebrate International Donut Day

**Friday - June 7th**  
**Churros & Donuts \$3.00 each**

Vegan Churros      Chocolate Donuts  
Strawberry Donuts      Caramel Donuts

These will be served at 2nd break  
Order will be through Quickcliq - Special Event  
and will close on Thursday 6/6/24 at 8:30am  
it will be first in ....

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Phone: (07) 4953 1844 or (07) 4954 6275  
Mackenzie Street, West Mackay QLD 4740  
PO Box 54565 MACKAY QLD 4740  
www.stfrancis.catholic.edu.au  
IN CHRIST WE GROW

## FROM THE APA



# NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Every year on 26 May, we commemorate National Sorry Day.

On this day, we acknowledge the strength of the Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. Such a beautiful prayer!

Prayer written by Ella Stone and Steph Unger, featuring "The Spirit" – artwork by Eric Ellis – copyright to Brisbane Catholic Education.






## FROM THE APC



## St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

### Strategic Priorities and Goals 2024 – 2026



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

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.

<p><b>RESEARCHERS:</b> Professor Beryl Exley &amp; Dr Frances Hoyte</p>	<p><b>TO APPLY:</b> Email - <a href="mailto:f.hoyte@griffith.edu.au" style="color: green;">f.hoyte@griffith.edu.au</a> <small>GU Ethics Reference Number: 2024/201</small></p>
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# ST FRANCIS XAVIER SENIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Last Friday and this Monday, we held our annual St Francis Xavier Senior Athletics Carnival. It was a fabulous day with the students participating in a range of track and field events. A massive thank you to all the wonderful staff and parents who assisted on the day. Your help was greatly appreciated and ensured that all events ran smoothly. It is wonderful to see so many children keen to take part in the various events and demonstrate good sportsmanship towards their peers. It is all about having fun and giving it a go.

We would like to pass on a huge thank you to Catherine McCauley College for assisting us with using their bus to transport students to the ARC for the 800m race before school. We appreciate your constant support.

With big events such as these we are always looking for feedback on what worked well and opportunities for improvement. If you would like to comment on the event, please feel free to email me ([jodie\\_benfer@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jodie_benfer@rok.catholic.edu.au)) or send in some written feedback to our front office.

Mrs Knezevic and Mrs Figlia will be in touch with students in the upcoming week about selections for the Southern Suburbs Carnival on Tuesday 18/6 at the Mackay ARC.

## 2024 AGE CHAMPIONS

Age	Boys	Girls
9 years	Samuel Sheales	Abby Wilson
10 years	Finn Mills	Emma Ricciardi
11 years	Jacob Sellings	Mikayla Mills
12 years	Charlie Wiggins	Jorja Ricciardi



## 2024 SENIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

House	Totals
Dingoes	1023
Stingers	1000
Taipans	914
Eagles	892



## ATHLETICS WAR CRY WINNERS

**DINGOES & TAIPANS**



# JUNIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

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

Attention junior students! Get ready to ignite your excitement because it's your moment to limber up those muscles and gear up for some thrilling running, jumping, and throwing, all in pursuit of those prized house points. Yes, you heard it right—the junior athletics carnival is just around the corner, and it's time for our youngest stars to shine brightly on the field. Unlike other events, there's no need for nomination forms for our junior carnival; our primary goal is to offer a fun and engaging introduction to track and field. On the big day, expect a lineup of thrilling running and relay events, accompanied by ball games, modified field events, and a variety of entertaining activities

However, to ensure your child can fully partake in all the fun, we kindly ask for your consent by completing the discus and throwing health and safety form available on the Parents Lounge.

Rest assured, while our students will be using modified and age-appropriate equipment, your approval remains paramount to us. Additionally, if any parents are eager to lend a hand, whether for a portion or the entirety of the day, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jodie Benfer APC – [jodie\\_benfer@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jodie_benfer@rok.catholic.edu.au) Let's make this carnival a memorable and enjoyable experience for all!

**Date:** Week 10, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**Where:** St Francis School, main school oval  
**Time:** The event will run during normal school hours



**What students will require:**

- House shirt
- School hat
- Water bottle
- Lunch and healthy snacks. Tuckshop will be running as usual.
- Closed in running shoes (Students can wear their black school jogger, or if they prefer a sports runner, NO spikes).

**OUR SCHOOL PARTICIPATED IN SHOE LACE TYING LESSONS**

Ascent Footwear works closely with the the medical community to ensure that their footwear meets the needs of Australian school kids feet. Part of this commitment is educating students about a range of foot health issues from learning how to tie shoe laces to basic foot biomechanics. The lessons are totally **FREE** and the kids take home their own lace tying pencil case and 9 step guide so they can keep practicing at home!

**CONTINUE LEARNING AT HOME**

**LEARN TO TIE SHOELACES**

Scan the QR code below to find out more:

You can tie your laces at home with our handy video and step-by-step guide!

ADELA SCHOLAR APEX SUSTAIN 2

**ascent** | **SCHOOL**  
[ascentfootwear.com.au](http://ascentfootwear.com.au)

## BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair will commence this Monday 3 June – Friday 7 June. The fair will be open Monday – Thursday 8.00am – 3.20pm and Friday 8.00am – 11.30am. All students will visit the fair with their class during the day. Parents are welcome to visit the fair before and after school. Cash, EFTPOS and online credit card payments will be accepted. All families welcome to attend.

### OPENING TIMES



Monday 3 June	8.00am – 3.20pm	Library
Tuesday 4 June	8.00am – 3.20pm	Library
Wednesday 5 June	8.00am – 3.20pm	Library
Thursday 6 June	8.00am – 3.20pm	Library
Friday 7 June	8.00am – 11.30am	Library

## ICAS MATHS

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/](https://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](https://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](https://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)

## NEWS FROM THE TUCKSHOP

- **International Donut Day – 7<sup>th</sup> June raising money for Vinnies Winter Appeal**
  - Orders close on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 8:30am.
  - All profits will go to purchasing blankets for the Winter Appeal
- **Changes to our Menu**
  - ✓ We are currently going over the menu and a few items may be removed. This is from either not cost effective, low orders.
  - ✓ TNT – you will notice, we have cut the TNT's in half. This was because students were taking too long to eat.
- **Volunteers**

We are trialling a new system with helpers in the tuckshop, whilst the school currently pays for 3 staff, we need more helpers on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Each week, we will be asking one year level only to help.) The teachers will be asked to email parents requesting helpers. This means each grade will only be asked twice a term.

We are only looking for 2-4 people per week. Our main days we require helpers are Wednesdays and Fridays.

Parents are welcome - you do not require a blue card. Grandparents are **more** than welcome - you will need to register for a Volunteer Blue Card online or enquire at the office.

Currently we have 2 grandparents helping on a regular basis. NO parents helping on a weekly basis.

It is not a difficult job to volunteer in the tuckshop- (the job consists of making sandwiches and cleaning.) Your help and support is always appreciated. Thank you in advance!

Fiona Horsfall ~ Tuckshop Co-ordinator

## Mercy Awards

Excellence

Love

Faith

Mercy



### Awardees – Week 6



### Awardees – Week 7



## UNDER 8'S ACTIVITIES 2024

If you are wondering what a perfect school day looks like, have a look at these memories. Thank you so much to our Prep – Year 3 teachers/teacher aides for providing our youngest students with such wonderful opportunities to learn through play.



## YEAR ONES are "BUZZING."

This term, the Year One students have been buzzing with enjoyment and embracing their role as little entomologists. They have been learning about insects and their delicate environments and were fortunate enough to examine an extensive collection of insects from the Queensland Museum.



## YEAR ONES MAKING PUPPETS

In Year One, our students are learning all about designing and making a puppet with moving parts to use in a puppet show. Lots of creativity and fun!





## ST PATRICK'S CULTURAL ENSEMBLE

What a delightful way to begin the school day! St Patrick's Cultural Ensemble performed for our school and the word that best described it was JOYFUL! From musical instruments to choral singing, "saxophone offs" to dancers leaping across our USC. We all look forward to this annual even and would like to thank the St Patrick's staff and students who made this possible. You inspired so many of our students to embrace The Arts and challenge themselves to consider learning such amazing skills.



## NETBALL GALA DAY

On Tuesday 21st May, the Challenge Cup Netball team participated in the inaugural Netball Queensland Primary Schools Gala: Central Queensland North round.

The competition was held at the Mackay Netball Courts with 12 teams competing in the Championship division. We were very proud of Marli, Shelby, Maddi, Jorja, Lara, Emily, Taylor, Kacee, Emma and Ashlyn's effort on the day, and commitment to improving their team playing skills, as well as the personal goals they set themselves. As a result, the team came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Championship division.... Congratulations girls!!

Their sportsmanship was outstanding, so a big thank you to the girls for their wonderful representation of our school.

A huge thanks to Jaylene Harrison for coaching the team, Zoe for umpiring, the parent volunteers who scored and Mandy Griffin for supervising. We are all looking forward to the Challenge Cup competition coming up soon.



# SFX P&F NEWS



**Breast CANCER**  
AWARENESS



Let's celebrate with the first disco of the year and raise awareness for two worthy Foundations by bopping to great tunes in pink and blue and you never know, you may win a prize too.



Friday 7th of June  
6 - 7.30pm  
\$5 per armband  
Dress in pink, blue or both






## Disco Fever

Hey there, lovely people! We are excited to announce that our school disco is just around the corner on June 7th. It's going to be a fantastic night filled with awesome music, games, food and plenty of dancing. In preparation for the disco, armbands will be available for purchase on the 5th, 6th, and 7th. Make sure to get armbands for your little ones early so they don't miss out on the fun.

Let's make this disco a night to remember!

## 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



# DISCO FEVER

DRINKS, PIZZA, LOLLIES & CHIPS AVAILABLE

ARMBANDS \$5 PER FAMILY

ARMBANDS ON SALE WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY MORNING @ 8AM

DRESS TO IMPRESS, WEAR PINK, BLUE OR BOTH.

LOADS OF PRIZES TO BE WON !!

FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 6-7.30PM



# 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



SCAN ME

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!

