Dear parents and friends

What a great turn out of parents, and some grand parents, for our first Open Night for 2016 on Tuesday evening. Thank you to all those who came along and took the opportunity to meet teachers, ask questions, view students work and to get a good picture of your child’s learning this year. There was a real buzz and excitement around all the rooms. The conversations between children and parents, and parents and teachers, was great to listen to. One of our school focus areas is to build relationships with our parent community, by developing effective communication between school and home in order to work in a strong partnership to assist the children's learning. Open nights, like on Tuesday evening, are an important part of building that relationship and allowing that communication. You could definitely see and hear that happening. As a school we also welcome any feedback about events during the year, so if you have any comments about the open night or what you would like to see at the next one, please talk to your child’s teacher or come and let us know.

A big thank you also to the teachers and staff who have put so much time and effort into making sure that your children have had a great start to the year. Tuesday evening was a real reflection of this. The classrooms have been set up as great places for learning, the quality and quantity of work already being produced by students is amazing and teachers are working hard to ensure that each individual student's needs are being met. It was great to see some parents comment during the open night about the great work teachers are doing and how their child is enjoying school so much this year.

Yesterday our year six students presented speeches as part of the election process for student leaders. To speak in front of your peers, year five students, parents and staff and try and sell yourself is not an easy thing to do, but they did an amazing job. It was extremely hard to choose who to vote for and it really did come down to how they presented themselves during the speeches. Some students really surprised staff with their speech and made them rethink their vote. Even though some people have been elected to wear a badge and represent the students, it is important that all the year six students, as a collective group, continue to show leadership skills and be good role models to the younger students, as they have displayed already this year.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected our student leaders for 2016.

Head Girl: Niamh Blake
Head Boy: Benjamin Warr
Geordie Quinlan & Jack Cooking
Nagle: Kennedy Ley & Will Anderson
Mackenzie Tirant & Jesse Priolo
Thomas: Lani Wyatt & Jacques Laurent

You will find photos of the student leaders on the back of today’s newsletter. Tomorrow morning at the year six reconciliation liturgy the badges will be blessed and presented to the students.

During the week we received a phone call from Rigters IGA telling us that through their shop for your school program we will receive $1044 for the last year. This is about double what we got the year before. This money will be used to purchase and upgrade resources to assist student’s learning. A big thank you to Rigters IGA for their continued sponsorship of the local community and also to those parents who have allocated their shopping points towards the school.

On Monday the Leaders Forum was held in Perth, where all the principals from catholic schools around the state gather to meet and hear the latest focus areas and developments in catholic education. We had the privilege of listening to Archbishop Tim Costelloe talk about the “Year of Mercy” and what it means to catholic schools. He emphasized the point to always make sure that Christ Jesus is at the heart of catholic education. We do this as a school community by what we say, what we do, who we are, and the environment we create. He also had a simple way of understanding what mercy is, as he called it “Large Heartedness”.

Finally a big congratulations to Lisa Bennett & Jeremy Opalinski on the arrival of their son Ace, a step brother to Aaliyah Stadden in 3yo Kindy, Rhy Opalinski in PPR and Reef Opalinski in 2S.

God bless

Murray Gardiner Principal
RELIGION CORNER

Transfigured
In last Sunday’s readings St Paul wrote: For us, our home is in heaven, and from there will come our Saviour Jesus Christ. With power he subdues the whole world. He will transform our imperfect bodies into copies of his glorious body.

Pride. Pride hurts our relationships. For one thing, it prevents us from seeking reconciliation with others when we think that we are always right. This week try these humility building gestures:

Bite your tongue—avoid correcting another’s errors.
Give in secret—Make a donation anonymously.
Say ‘Sorry’ to someone you have hurt. Go to confession.
Reject vanity—Praise God for your beauty, strength or talent.
Forgive someone who has hurt you.

Did you know? Pretzels were invented by a monk around 600 AD in Germany and were given as Lenten sweets. Its shape is said to resemble a common prayer position, hands crossed over the chest.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Next Friday, 4th March, the Yr 4 – 6 students will be participating at the annual swimming carnival at the Nagle College pool. The carnival will start at 11.30am and conclude at 2.30pm. Students are to come to school as normal, they will get changed at school and will walk over to Nagle after recess.

At the conclusion of the carnival parents need to collect their students from class teachers and have names ticked off. Parents are asked not to collect their children before the end of the presentations as this makes it hard for teachers to keep track of students who have left and all students should be staying and supporting their team and other students until the end of the competition. Any students who cannot be collected from the carnival need to let their class teacher know, these students will be escorted back to school to be dismissed at 3pm.

On Friday students are to wear their school sports uniform with their faction coloured shirt, with their bathers underneath and to avoid shoes and socks becoming lost property students may wear thongs to school. Please make sure that your child brings sun cream, hat, water bottle, lunch to eat during the carnival, a towel and if they have their own faction coloured swimming cap they can bring that to wear during races. The school has swimming caps for students to wear if they don’t have their own.

If your child is going to be away next Friday or unable to swim at the carnival can you please let the class teacher know as early as possible.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

UPDATE OF FULL FAMILY DETAILS: We have sent home to each family an Update of Parent and Student Information details (Full Family Details) form which needs to be changed, if necessary, and returned to the office as soon as possible. It is extremely important we have all the correct information (phone contacts, emergency contacts, email addresses etc.) on our system in case we have to contact parents in an emergency.

MEDICAL ALERT: It is parent’s responsibility to provide an updated Action plan from their medical practitioner each year, of any medical conditions their child may have. These updated Action Plans (Anaphylaxis or Asthma) and medications need to be returned to the front office. Asthma medication stays with the teacher or child but Anaphylaxis medication (EpiPens) must be kept at the office.

KINDY—2017

Enrolment applications are open for Kindy in 2017. Parents of children born between July 1, 2012 and 30 June 2013 are asked to have their application forms into the office as soon as possible. Forms are available from the school office or on the school website: www.sfpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au Interviews will be held during Term 2.
ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE: If you’re on Facebook we wish to advise you the school has its own page which is regularly updated with various information. https://www.facebook.com/sfxpsg/?ref=bookmarks

Wanted - Helpers to cover Bibles.
We have just bought 60 brand new, beautiful bibles which need covering before they can go into classrooms. If anyone is able to come on a Friday to the library to cover some it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Debbie in the library if you are able to help. Thank you

P & F NEWS

RECYCLED UNIFORM SHOP: Please come down to the Uniform shop, next to the Multi Purpose room to grab yourself a bargain! Open on Mondays from 2.30—3.00pm and Thursday from 8.45—9.15am. For more information contact Suzie on 0427 871 152.

COMMUNITY / SPORT NEWS

ST LAWRENCE’S ANNUAL SCHOOL FETE.
Sunday 13th March, 9am - 1pm.
Fun for the whole family with Raffles, Cake Stall, Toys, Books, Clothes, lots of food stalls, haunted house, entertainment throughout the day and much more!

TEEBALL—STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Congratulations to the following students who will be representing Geraldton in the upcoming State Teeball Championships to be held over the March long weekend at Langley Park.
Imogen Cornelius (Yr 6), Braeden Harris (Yr 6), Brodie Morgan (Yr 5) and Jasper March (Yr 5).
We wish them all the best of luck for an amazing weekend.

AQUARENA BEACH VOLLEYBALL
If you are looking for an activity to get your friends motivated, active, socializing and having fun at the same time, then come and try Beach Volleyball at the Aquarena. Cost of entry is low at only $2.60 per person. It is not essential to enter as a team. You may register as an individual and be put into an appropriate team. The Aquarena hopes to start its official competition on March 1st, so now is the perfect time to come and have a go. For more information contact Jennifer Edwards 0429 392 500 or email edwardsjennifer40@gmail.com or Catherine Allan 9956 6906 or email aquarena@cgg.wa.gov.au

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following students who had a birthday this week:
Lucas Holdsworth, Gabrielle McLaren, Yiu Yeung Lin, Rylei Quick, Hailey Dale,
Jez Bonnette and Isabella Laurie.
Congratulations to all the candidates chosen to be leaders of our school this year!

**Head Girl and Head Boy:**

Niamh Blake and Ben Warr

"During the year, we are looking forward to being the ambassadors for the school and have many ideas which would make the school an even better place to study at".

**Faction leaders:**

**Thomas:**

Lani Wyatt and Jacques Laurent

**Xavier:**

Geordie Quinlan and Jack Cocking

**Griffin:**

Jesse Priolo and Mackenzie Tirant

**Nagle:**

William Anderson and Kennedy Ley

A few suggestions for 2016 from our new leaders:

"Games at recess and lunch in an Olympic theme".

"Disco's for seniors".

"Harmony activities to celebrate different cultures".

"Clubs based on student interests".
Save the Date!

PFFWA Conference and AGM 2016

"Congratulations! We Hear You’re Engaged!"

The Parents and Friends Federation of WA are excited to be putting the last touches to our conference program for this year. As usual the conference opening dinner will be held on Friday evening 20th May at Crown Perth.

The conference will commence the following morning and go through until 5.00pm. Refreshments including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided on the day of the conference, along with great speakers, interactive sessions and the usual fantastic networking opportunities.

With both Federal and State elections on the horizon, PFFWA have invited politicians from the major parties to attend and you will have the opportunity to hear what their vision is for education in Western Australia in the foreseeable future.

Dates for your diary – 20th & 21st May 2016

At Crown Perth

For more information, please keep an eye on the PFFWA website and our Facebook page or contact admin@pffwa.edu.au tel 9271 5909

https://www.facebook.com/pffwa www.pffwa.edu.au 9271 5909 103 Wood St, Inglewood, WA 6932