Dear parents and friends

Yesterday it was announced that Mr Ben Doyle has been appointed as our new Principal at St Francis Xavier Primary. Ben will be taking up this position at the beginning of term two. After nine years as Assistant Principal in various schools, Ben spent four years from 2010 to 2014 as principal at Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay. He was then appointed principal of St Joseph's School in Busselton and is currently Head of Primary at St Mary MacKillop College in Busselton after the amalgamation of the two schools. As you can see Ben comes to St Francis Xavier with a range of leadership experience. He is a young and enthusiastic principal, who will bring fresh ideas and energy to continue to improve our great school. We congratulate Ben on his appointment and look forward to welcoming him, and his family, into our school community.

The excitement is building amongst our year 4 to 6 students in anticipation of tomorrow’s annual faction swimming carnival. This year’s carnival is being held at the Nagle College pool beginning at 11.30am. There is some important information later in the newsletter, but a reminder to parents that it is a normal school day. Therefore students come to school as usual in the morning and will remain at school until after recess when they will walk over to Nagle to get ready to start. As it is a normal school day students who do not attend need to provide an absentee note to their class teacher. At the conclusion of the carnival, about 2.30pm, students can be collected from their class teacher at the pool. If you are unable to collect your child from the carnival can you please let the class teacher know so they are aware of which students are returning with them back to school. As for who might win this year’s carnival, the prediction is that it will be very close between all four factions, coming down to the last couple of relays to decide the winner. So good luck to all students who compete, do your best, show great sportsmanship and have fun.

Next week the Geraldton Catholic Schools are hosting the Catholic Primary Principals Association conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre. It will be a chance for us to show off Geraldton and our schools to other principal’s from around the state. The conference runs from Tuesday through to Thursday, including Mass at the Cathedral Tuesday morning. Parents need to be aware that there may be limited parking at the QE II car park next week due to this event.

Next weekend we have two important events planned, which involve some students in year 5, that have unfortunately clashed. The Year 1 & 5 Mass and the year 4 / 5 children and dads camp out. Even though there is a clash it has been decided to keep both events as planned. These types of events are designed around building community and therefore everyone is encouraged to attend them, and for those in the 5H class strongly encouraged to attend both. Mass is at 6pm across the road in the Cathedral and is usually finished by around 6.45pm. Activities at the camp out, such as the BBQ dinner and movies will happen after 7pm so those who attend mass won’t miss out. If you have any questions about both events please come and see me at the school.

As mentioned in previous newsletters one of our focus areas as a school is to build close relationships and partnerships with our parent body. We encourage open communication and feedback between parents and staff in order to put things in place that will benefit every child and continue to improve as a school. It is therefore really important that if as parents you have information, an issue, a query or a concern about your child’s education that you do not hesitate to arrange a meeting with the class teacher in order to discuss it. The class teacher should always be your first port of call and together we can put an action plan in place to assist your child.

Hopefully everyone takes advantage of the long weekend this weekend to spend some extra time as a family and enjoy an extra day off. If you and your family are travelling during the weekend please take care and travel safely.

God bless
Murray Gardiner
Principal
RELIGION CORNER

Holy Ground
In last Sunday’s readings we heard the story of Moses and the burning bush. Moses was tending his sheep when an angel came to him as fire coming from the middle of a bush. Though the bush was blazing, it did not burn up. As Moses came nearer, the Lord told him to remove his shoes for he was on holy ground. The Lord said, “I have seen the suffering of my people and I will free them from slavery.”

Laziness. For many people, following God just seems like too much effort. Don’t let laziness keep you from responding to God’s call:
1) Do that job you’ve been avoiding. Offer it for God’s glory.
2) Instead of ‘clothing’ in front of the TV, do a kind deed for someone.
3) Get up early and go for a walk. Marvel at God’s creation and give thanks to God.

Did you know?
St Casimir was the son of the King of Poland. Born in 1461, he grew up serving his father’s kingdom and the Kingdom of God. He showed great holiness, always rejecting royal luxury, wearing simple clothes and sleeping on the floor. He was a just and careful administrator. He died at the age of 23 from illness and is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania and of young people.

Upcoming Dates
1J & 5H Family Mass: Saturday 12th March, 6pm in the Cathedral
Mass of the Oils: Wednesday 16th March at 5pm in the Cathedral. All year six students celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation are to attend.

A reminder that project compassion money boxes are due back in by the end of term. Please continue to fill the boxes.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

UPDATE OF FULL FAMILY DETAILS: Update of Parent and Student Information details (Full Family Details) form was sent home earlier this term. If any details need to be changed, please do so, and return 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 of emergencies.

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 (Epi-pens) 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.sfxsosgeraldton.wa.edu.au Interviews will be held during Term 2.

LITERACY NEWS

Conversations about your child’s reading book encourages the use of reading strategies. To ensure your child is comprehending and summarizing, you can initiate a conversation about what has happened so far in the book.

Library books are perfect for reading strategies too, even if you are reading to your child!

Remember: practice your reading as often as you can.
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](https://www.facebook.com/sfxpsg/?ref=bookmarks)

P & F NEWS & COMMUNITY 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.

ST LAWRENCE’S SCHOOL FETE - SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2016 - 9am to 1pm
Come along and have some fun! There will be numerous stalls and lots for the kids to do.
There will be raffles, mystery jars, craft stalls, cake stalls, 2nd hand items, and more for the family to enjoy!

SWIMMING CARNIVAL NEWS

Tomorrow 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.

This year students will be in faction bays under the shade tents erected on the southern side of the pool. Parents are asked to sit on the northern side of the pool under the shade of the big new classroom. You might want to bring your own chair.

The program of events for the carnival was sent out today.

7ASIDE SOCCER COMPETITION—REGISTRATION DAY

There will be a Registration Day this Saturday 5th March at Northgate Shopping Centre from 9am-12 noon for any boys and girls wanting to register. The GISA will add any registrations received from this day to the school teams. Eftpos will be available for payment of fees.

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following students who had a birthday this week:

Serena Patterson, Braedan Harris, Adelaide Royce, Dylan Lang, Ben Kerr, Lilly Fehlauer, Ella Slater, Aaron, Schewtschenko, Jeffery Joyner and Rocco Olivert.
News from 5GO

We think we are GENIUSES!

Well, at least for an hour a week in our class when we work on our Genius Hour Independent Projects.

After watching clips about ‘Natural Disasters’ around the world, particularly the devastation caused by the fires in Yarloop in January of this year, we wanted to find out about ‘Natural Disasters’ and how they effect communities.

We each chose a ‘Natural Disaster’ to research and came up with two questions we would like to discuss.

The following are some of the questions we will be researching:

- How can communities protect themselves from the affects of Tornadoes? Liam
- What is happening to the earth during an earthquake? Brooke
- Can people use the heat from a volcano for other purposes? India
- Are there any benefits from floods? Kripitha
- Which hemisphere is most susceptible to earthquakes? Keira
- What is the environmental impact of a flood? Ashleigh
- How do Tsunamis occur and what impacts do they have on a community? Grace
- Where do blizzards occur most frequently in the world and why? Madison
- How can people safely avoid the effects of an earthquake? Jasmine
- Does hail form all over the world? Ethan
- What are the main causes of an avalanche and how do they affect communities? Connor
- What happens during a volcanic eruption? Caleb
- What are some of the worst Tsunamis ever recorded? Jasmin
- Why do Tsunamis form? Sienna
- Does wind direction duration make an impact on manoeuvring a tornado? Hien
- What warning systems do we have in place to warn people of flooding? Maggie
- Are landslides devastating? Monique
let's play netball

Attention

St Francis Netballers

It's that time again!! Registrations for Yr 3 to Yr 6 that are keen to play in the local Geraldton Netball Association Competition.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration - 23rd March 3.15pm (Wednesday)
(undercover area at school)

EFTPOS FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE!!!

Opening of 2016 Netball Season - 30th April (Saturday)

For more information, please contact:

Nat Schultz 0418 930 049 natschultz@live.com.au
Fundraising Programme

MARCH 2016

CAKE STALL
12th March
Rigters IGA 179 Durlacher St
Contact Pat Mills: 9923 1446
Peg Faithfull: 9921 6439

WE NEED YOUR HELP
Fundraising Committee Meeting 17th March 2016
5:00 p.m. Youth Room Catholic Centre
We're looking for new volunteers and new ideas for our fundraising programme for 2016. If you would like to

* Organise an event  * Suggest an idea  * Support those who are organising events  * Sponsor an event  * Hear what's planned for the year

PLEASE COME ALONG & HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD
Apologies or Enquiries: Gerry 0417 912997  info@sfxcathedralproject.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mother's Day Morning Tea – Sunday 1st May
Inspire Concert – Date to be confirmed
Italian Night – Date to be confirmed

If you would like to make a donation to the SFX Cathedral Precinct Project go to

www.sfxcathedralproject.com.au