Dear parents and friends

Today there is a sea of green in the school as we celebrate St Patrick’s Feast Day. The school has a connection to St Patrick as part of our school heritage. Prior to St Francis Xavier Primary opening in 1978 students attended either St Patrick’s Junior College (Little St Pats) or Stella Maris Junior School (Little Stella Marris). These two schools amalgamated to form St Francis Xavier Primary. For a few years after the opening of our school Stella Maris and St Patrick’s continued to act as feeder schools for St Francis. Eventually, with the establishment of the full range of classes from year 1—7 at St Francis, the association with the two schools ended in 1981 and they continued as Catholic high schools. It is therefore important to recognise our heritage and to appreciate the work of particular Saints like St Patrick who developed the Church throughout the world by bringing the Gospel to people in other countries. The students were invited to wear something green today, either a shirt or an accessory, to acknowledge St Patrick and the work he did in Ireland back in the 5th century. They were also asked to bring a gold coin donation to raise money towards Project Compassion.

Speaking of Project Compassion, the students this week had the opportunity to listen to Mr Paul O’Callaghan, the National Director of Caritas. Paul was able to give the students a real insight into the work of Caritas around the world and how the money raised through fundraising, like Project Compassion, is used to make a huge difference to those suffering poverty throughout the world. It was great to hear how the money is spent to uplift the people, so that they can become self-sufficient and develop their own programs to help their communities survive. Project Compassion has been our focus this term for our Social Justice program, so we again ask all families to please support the fundraising by filling and returning your money boxes that were given out earlier in the year.

Next week we have some important events being celebrated in the school. Firstly it is Holy Week. A significant week in the Church year as we celebrate the events leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Many activities have been planned for the students to help them fully understand the story of these events and why they are so significant to our faith. The junior students will have an opportunity to hear and retell the stories through ‘Godly Play’, the older students will develop prayer focus areas using symbols from the stories and visit the stations of the cross in the Cathedral. Pictures retelling the Gospel stories of the week will also be on display in the undercover area for classes to use. As a whole school we will gather together on Thursday afternoon at 2.15pm in the undercover area for an Easter prayer service lead by the year 6 students. All parents and members of our school community are most welcome to attend. Attached to today’s newsletter are times and dates of services being run during the week at our Parish Churches.

The second important event is Harmony Day on Monday. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. To celebrate this day we have organised an incursion called “Circus Challenge”. Each year group from PP to year 6 will participate in a skills session learning circus tricks throughout the day. Then in the afternoon all classes will attend a circus performance where students (and apparently teachers) are called up to be the stars of the show. It sounds like a lot of fun and a great way for students to respect, support and interact with each other.

Lastly on behalf of all the dads and children, a big thank you to the P&F, all the organisers and sponsors of the father and child camp out. It was a great success with 57 families attending and everyone having a really enjoyable night. Pretty sure there would have been some very tired people on Sunday.

God bless

Murray Gardiner

Principal
Forgiven
In last Sunday’s Gospel some Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman who had been caught in adultery. They wanted to stone her as the Law stated. But Jesus bent down and began writing on the ground with his finger, “If anyone has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone”. And they all left one by one.

Anger. The vicious anger of the woman’s accusers is disarmed by the wisdom of Jesus. Yet his compassion also challenges her to reform her own sinful ways. Try these tips this week:
Transformed anger—consciously hand your anger over to Jesus.
Self-control—choose an unhealthy habit and give it up for today.
Practise kindness—do three kind deeds today.
Compassion—Refrain from judging others today. Pray for compassion.

Did You Know?
Sacraments. We communicate in many ways without words. In our relationship with God, we use signs to express the mystery of God’s presence. Some community rituals in our Church are particularly sacred and mark the stages of a person’s life as a member of the Church. We call these sacraments: signs or symbols that ‘make present’ the reality of God’s love.

Mass of Oils: Last night our year 6 students attended the annual Mass for the blessing of the sacred oils that are used in our Church for special sacraments. Bishop Justin and all the priests from around our Diocese presided over the mass. The students were invited by Bishop Justin because the oil of Chrism used for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the main oil blessed during the mass.
Family Mass: Thank you to all the students and families that attend last Saturday night’s year 1 & 5 Family Mass. It was great to see such a large turn out of school families attend. Thank you to Mrs Jurd & Mrs Hosking for organising the mass, and well done to the students who read so well.

UPDATE OF FULL FAMILY DETAILS: Earlier this term we sent home 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.

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 (Epinipens) 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.sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au Interviews will be held during Term 2.

EASTER HOLIDAY BREAK
Please note that students and staff have a 5 day break over Easter. We return to school on WEDNESDAY 30th MARCH 2016.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE: If you’re on Facebook we wish to advise you the school has it’s own page which is regularly updated with various information. https://www.facebook.com/sfxpsg/?ref=bookmarks

PE NEWS: Many thanks to Nat Schultz who ran netball clinics with the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes over the past 2 weeks. The children certainly appreciated her expertise and we now expect to field many extra St Francis Xavier netball teams. Thank you Nat!
LITERACY NEWS

LITERACY HINTS

We have noticed that many children in the junior years look at the teacher at the end of each page to gain confirmation they have correctly read the text. In order to develop reading independence, we need to curb this habit.

A helpful prompt is - "I'm so glad you noticed something didn't sound right/look right. You check for yourself."

P & F NEWS

YR 4/5 FATHER/CHILD CAMPOUT

The P&F Committee would like to thank the following businesses who continually support the Father and Child Campout.

Western Independent Foods, Bakers Delight, Geraldton Fruit & Veg.

With this amazing support, our growing Yr 4 & 5 Camp Out, focused on being a major community building annual event, and managed to raise $1468.88. Thank you so much, your generosity is greatly appreciated and we encourage all St Francis families to support your local businesses as much as you’ve supported our school. A huge thank you also to Mel, Jacquie and our many helpers.

Haley Morris - SFX P&F President

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 Halden on 0427 871 152.

COMMUNITY / SPORT NEWS

GERALDTON AUSKICK
Where: Eadon Clarke Reserve
When: May 7th (Saturday)
Time: 8.30—9.30am
Cost: $75
Register online: www.aflauskick.com.au

GERALDTON SCIENCE FESTIVAL—COMMUNITY NIGHT

Join us for an evening of hands on activities and spectacular science shows. All are welcome. Free entry.

When: Wednesday 30 March, 5:30—8:00pm

Where: Batavia Hall, Geraldton Grammar School, 134 George Road

Contact: 9215 0741 or 0400 040 654

CANTEEN SPECIALS NEXT WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meatlovers Pizza</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margherita Pizza</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Stir Fry Noodles</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Fried Rice</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Soy Chicken &amp; Rice</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachos</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy Birthday

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

Kaziah Phillip, Ethan Drage, Aimy Jimmy, Jacob Burns, Nate Wyatt, Sania Sajeev, Ashlee Donohoe, Chase Bourke and Will Mackay.
The Internet and other communication technologies offer many benefits to children and young people. Social networking, gaming and chatting present many opportunities. They can communicate with friends and family from all over the world, access all types of information for school projects, and express themselves creatively, all with the click of a button or touch of the screen.

Young people are quick to take up the latest developments in technology and are often the first to know when something new comes along. They are growing up in an ever-changing technological environment and can have a lot of fun doing so.

Just as you try to protect your child in the offline environment, we would also like to keep them safe in the online world. That is why we have an ICT Code of Conduct in place for all students. Helping to equip our students with online safety skills will help them to enjoy more of the positives of the digital landscape and minimise the harm caused by some of the more negative aspects.

Working together, we can minimise the risk. We ask that you encourage your child to communicate openly with you about the ‘online’ world, the challenges they may face, what they can do and who to talk to if they experience issues. While many parents feel as though they are unequipped to discuss cyber safety, it’s important to remember that many of the behaviours and issues we experience online are no different to those in the ‘real’ world – it’s only the medium that has changed. Education and communication are the most powerful tools parents, carers and teachers can use to address issues that children and young people may face online.

**CYBER SAFETY CHECKLIST**

- **Stay up to date**—keep up to date with how your child uses their mobile devices and new apps.
- **Open lines of communication**—it is important to regularly discuss cyber safety and talk about issues your child may experience. By establishing these open and honest lines of communication your child is more likely to come to you if they experience a problem online.
- **Supervise your child**—monitor and supervise your pre-teen child when they are using the internet and mobile devices to ensure their safety.
- **Parental controls**—it may be necessary to use parental controls on mobile devices to establish limits on how and when children can access certain sites or games. It is important to note that parental controls should only be used in conjunction with open lines of communication with your child.
- **Protect your devices**—use anti-virus software and keep your operating system up to date.

**SHARE THESE CYBER SAFETY TIPS WITH YOUR CHILD**

Don’t share too much information online—avoid sharing personal information such as your name, email, home address and school online—even when playing online games.

Have STRONG passwords or passphrases—make sure you have strong passwords which have at least eight characters including letters, numbers and special characters. It is also important to have different passwords for different accounts!

Know who your friends are—it is important to make sure that your online friends are people you know in real life, you trust and are people you actually want to talk to.

Stay private—make sure social networking profiles or online game profiles are set to ‘private’ or ‘friends only’.

Don’t click that link—avoid clicking on links in emails, they could be spam or scams.

Don’t be a keyboard warrior! If you wouldn’t say it to someone’s face, don’t say it online.

Think before you post—once it is on the internet it is there forever. Think about who might see it or where it might end up years into the future.

Further information  
- [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au)  
2016 HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 20th March  Regular Sunday Mass times in all churches

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

There is NO 2nd Rite of Reconciliation during the Holy Week this year. There will be a “24 Hours for the Lord” (adoration and reconciliation service) from 4:30pm on 11th March until 4:30pm on 12th March. More details to follow.

Holy Thursday 24th March
7:00pm  Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight

Good Friday 25th March
10:00am  Stations of the Cross followed by confessions
3:00pm  Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion followed by confessions

Holy Saturday 26th March
11-12 noon  Confessions
7:00pm  Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil includes the lighting and blessing of the Easter Fire and Candle, Old Testament readings, Baptism and Reception into our community as new Catholics.

Easter Sunday 27th March  7:30am, 9:30am & 6pm - Resurrection of the Lord

St. Peter’s Church, Greenough

Good Friday  25th March  10:00am  Stations of the Cross (Reconciliation available)
Easter Sunday  27th March  8:00am  Resurrection of the Lord

St. John’s Church Rangeway

Easter Sunday  27th March  8:30am  Resurrection of the Lord