Dear Parents and Friends

This week students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 around Australia participated in the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) testing regime. Each year the purpose of NAPLAN, which is to assess students knowledge and skills in numeracy and literacy, is questioned and compared to its impact on children’s and teachers’ anxiety. Importantly, students at St Francis Xavier were supported and reassured that the test is only a snapshot, a point in time picture of how they perform in specific tests. As parents and educators what NAPLAN doesn’t assess is equally or more important, the uniqueness of our children.

Circulating social media this week has been a letter from one teacher to their class.

Soon you will sit the NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know.

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people who score these tests don’t know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad or that you play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and that every day you do your best. Because these attributes cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can’t tell you that you brighten up your teacher’s day. They can’t tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to ‘test’ all the wonderful things that make you YOU.

St Francis Xavier School vision, ‘With Christ as our light we aspire to nurture the whole person in a community centered on Gospel values’ encourages us to celebrate the artists, the athletes, the scientists and the uniqueness in each and everyone of our children. As NAPLAN comes to a close this year, I thank the students and staff who tried their best in literacy and numeracy but I celebrate what makes each of them exceptional and unique.

God Bless

Lord Jesus
You call us to be your witnesses.
Bless these calling cards and the people who will receive them. Amen

QEII CENTRE CARPARK PARKING AREA:
The City of Greater Geraldton is pleased to advise that the City has in place an agreement with St Francis Xavier Primary School in relation to parking at the QEII Centre. The agreement allows for the ‘drop off and pick up’ parking for parents within the first two rows between 8:15am – 9:15am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm, adjacent to Maitland Street. Unfortunately, there have been incidents where parents have remained parked in the area for longer than the agreed time, causing disadvantage to senior citizens utilizing the facility.

The City looks forward to continuing to support St Francis Xavier Primary School whilst ensuring facilities are available and utilized by all members of the Geraldton community.

5 Maitland St, PO Box 131 Geraldton WA 6531
Tel. 9921 1711 Fax. 9921 5687

Email. admin@sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au
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**RELIGION CORNER**

**Be My Witnesses**
Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension. Jesus and the disciples came together and as he spoke with them he was lifted up until a cloud covered him. Suddenly two men in white were standing among them, “Why are you looking into the sky?” they said, “Jesus has been taken to heaven.”

**Who? Me?** Jesus calls every Christian to be his witness and to share his love with others. He does not only want those with special gifts or knowledge or training. He wants us all.

**Did You Know?**
Our Lady appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal, on the 13th of May 1917, asking them to come back on the 13th of every month for five months. Our lady gave three prophesies, predicting World War II, the rise of communism in Russia and Pope John Paul II’s assassination attempt. On the 13th of October, so all would believe, a solar miracle occurred and was witnessed by 70000 people across Portugal.

**Confirmation:** If any Yr 6 Confirmation candidates and families were unable to attend Commitment masses last weekend at St Johns, you are able to attend any of the Masses this weekend.

**Communio Week:** Is fast approaching in week 5 this term. The week has two main focuses: 1) To raise money to support catholic Agencies in the Geraldton Diocese, 2) To raise awareness of what these agencies do and how they help people in need. The students will be involved in fundraising activities on Tuesday 24th May, including a whole school Mass at 11.30am. More information will be coming home shortly.

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**ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

**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.sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au](http://www.sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au) Interviews are being held this term.

**SCHOOL FEES:** Term Two Tuition Fees were invoiced and sent home this week. I have noticed some families with expired Concession cards. Please remember to bring in a copy of your current card as soon as possible to enable the discount to be applied this term. You are eligible for the Tuition Discount if you hold a means tested Concession or Health Care Card. Further information and applications are available online or from the front office. [http://www.sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au/enrolment.html](http://www.sfxpsgeraldton.wa.edu.au/enrolment.html)

**STUDENT ABSENCES**
If your child is absent from school and we haven’t been notified by note or phone you will be sent a text message to clarify this. If you do not contact the school in response to this we will phone you regarding the absence.
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

ABORIGINAL STUDENT BURSARIES 2017
Applications are invited from Aboriginal families who would like their children to receive a Catholic secondary education. Bursaries will assist with the cost of tuition fees. Applicants must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and have a desire to be educated in the Catholic education system. A list of eligible schools is available at the front office.

LITERACY NEWS

LITERACY HINTS
Previously we have defined phonemes and graphemes, in Literacy Hints. Today we will explain sight words. Sight words are words that are used frequently in children's reading and writing, some of which children may find difficult to read and spell, for example, the, was, saw, there.

P & F NEWS

RECYCLED UNIFORM SHOP
We are still chasing small size jumpers and jackets. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Did you know we have a number of BRAND NEW size 14 grey shirts? Only $10 while stocks last. We are 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 NEWS


Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following students:

Alyssa Kirby, Hudson Stokes, David Philip, Darcy Blakemore, Dakota Widdison,

Skye McBride, Saxon Bilbe, Nyaruay Kew, Lani Wyatt, Leah Blakemore, Jack Scott-Ducas,

Hien Tran Thu Thu, Belle Morris, Finn Morgan, May Parker, Lacie Slater, Josh Warden,

Bella Watson and Penny Wilkins.
Look what has been happening in 1J!

We have been learning through
Problem-solving, investigation, observation,
research,
resourcing, construction,
questioning, prediction,
measurement, design and creativity.

"If you are going to work with me, you have to listen to me. And you can't just listen with your ears, because it will go to your head too fast. You have to listen with your whole body. If you listen slow, with your whole self, some of what I say will enter your heart."

- Christine Mayer