Our Vision
We are called to provide an exemplary Catholic Education.
Discipleship: With Christ as our light we aspire to nurture the whole person in a community centered on gospel values.
Learning: We are committed to providing an education that empowers all to become life-long learners.

Dear Parents and Friends

Over the past few weeks informal chances for parents to meet the leadership team took place. The opportunity to meet many parents for the first time was truly appreciated. Your support and feedback enables us to strengthen our mission, to provide an education that empowers all to become life long learners.

For families who were unable to attend, other opportunities will be provided to ensure your feedback is received. As a school, St Francis Xavier acknowledges the enormous contributions parents make as the primary educators of children and I look forward to working with you.

Book Fair

Many thanks to all families for their support in preparing children for today’s Book Fair. A special thanks to Mrs Boxall, Mrs Bonnell, Mrs Moffat and all staff involved in making a successful celebration of literacy.

Other photos are available on the school’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/sfxpsg/

Lord God
You draw close to those who live humbly in service to others.
Teach us humility.
Amen

God Bless
Ben Doyle

5 Maitland St,
PO Box 131
Geraldton WA 6531

(08) 9921 1711
admin@sfx.wa.edu.au
www.sfx.wa.edu.au
Celebrating and Supporting Students with Specific Learning Needs

When you have a headache, you know there are many possible causes, ranging from the mild to the very serious. When you see your doctor, he/she will likely ask you detailed questions about how long the headaches have been taking place, what type of pain you are feeling, when they occur, and what other symptoms you’re experiencing. Without a thorough assessment and examination, it would be absurd for your doctor to diagnose you with a brain tumour or the flu, both of which can give you a headache. And, of course, the treatment for a brain tumour and a virus would look very different.

The same thing is true of mental illness: many common symptoms occur for a variety of reasons, and can reflect several different diagnoses. That’s why a good mental health professional will give your child a thorough evaluation based on a broad range of information before coming up with a diagnosis. It’s crucial to understand what’s really behind a given behaviour because, just as in medicine, the diagnosis your child receives can drastically change the appropriate treatment.

Learning is no different and students who are suspected of having learning difficulties are entitled to an assessment. “Learning disability” is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. A learning disability can cause a person to have trouble learning and using certain skills. The skills most often affected are: reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning, and doing maths. “Learning disabilities” is not the only term used to describe these difficulties. Others include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dyslexia</th>
<th>Difficulty reading</th>
<th>Problems reading, writing, spelling, speaking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dyscalculia</td>
<td>Difficulty with math</td>
<td>Problems doing math problems, understanding time, using money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysgraphia</td>
<td>Difficulty with writing</td>
<td>Problems with handwriting, spelling, organizing ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyspraxia (Sensory Integration Disorder)</td>
<td>Difficulty with fine motor skills</td>
<td>Problems with hand–eye coordination, balance, manual dexterity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphasia/Aphasia</td>
<td>Difficulty with language</td>
<td>Problems understanding spoken language, poor reading comprehension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory Processing Disorder</td>
<td>Difficulty hearing differences between sounds</td>
<td>Problems with reading, comprehension, language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Processing Disorder</td>
<td>Difficulty interpreting visual information</td>
<td>Problems with reading, math, maps, charts, symbols, pictures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accurate diagnosis is the key to receiving evidence-based intervention and appropriate accommodations. Accurate diagnosis of learning disabilities is necessary in order to distinguish this disorder from other potential causes of the presenting symptoms or problems. Accurate diagnosis will pinpoint the problem and help children get the appropriate evidence-based instruction to be successful in school.

In order to obtain the appropriate diagnosis, schools seek evaluation from certified professionals from a variety of disciplines (psychology, education, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, medicine, audiology, etc.) and professional associations (SPELD, Disabilities Services, Reading Recovery Tutors, Learning Support Consultants). Each play a significant role in the evaluation, as well as the development and implementation of a range of interventions.

Diagnosing a learning disability isn’t always easy. Don’t assume you know what your child’s problem is, even if the symptoms seem clear. It’s important to have your child tested and evaluated by a qualified professional. It involves testing, history taking, and observation by a trained specialist. Finding a reputable referral is important. Please contact our Disabilities support Consultant for a list of available services in the Geraldton region.

If you are concerned that your child may have learning difficulties, please contact their classroom teacher. In collaboration, a meeting with St Francis Xavier’s Disabilities Support Coordinator will be made if deemed appropriate. At this stage adjustments to learning programs or recommendations to qualified service providers will be made.
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The excitement is building for next Friday’s carnival at St Pats oval. Scores are very close after the cross country. The carnival begins at 9.15am, children are to be dropped off at St Pats from 8.30am. A bus will be running from the school for those students who cannot be dropped at St Pats at 8.45am and returning at 2.15pm. A reminder that there is not parking in the front entrance area of the St Pats College. There will be a canteen running with a variety of food and drinks on sale during the day for parents, no students are to go to the canteen.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

ASSEMBLY CHANGE OF DATES

Please note there has been a change to the assemblies to be held in Week 8 and 10 this term.

Week 8, 9th September will now be 5GO and Week 10, 23rd September will be PPM.

MERIT CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS AT THE ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 26th AUGUST 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name &amp; Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPM</td>
<td>Joshua Warden &amp; Asha Pirrottina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1J</td>
<td>Coen Lamb &amp; Ella Brennan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2S</td>
<td>Declan Coyle &amp; Ted Foulkes-Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4C</td>
<td>Patrick Holdsworth &amp; Chloe Cowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5GO</td>
<td>Levi Horsham &amp; Grace Potaczala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6K</td>
<td>Felix Siemiginowski &amp; Spencer Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Languages</td>
<td>Sabine Angelatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Bella Watson, James Gardiner &amp; Luke Kanny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Henri Laurent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Luke Warr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Kailani Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Chevy O’Brien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to Atharv Achar and Hayley McCarthy who were selected as ‘Aussies of the Month’ for August.

RELIGION

A People Gathered
The Lord says this, “I am coming to gather the nations. They shall come to witness my glory. I will send some of them to distant lands that have never heard of me. They shall proclaim my glory.”

Called to the Feast. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the Lord gathering people from every nation. In the Gospel (Lk 13:22-33) Jesus speaks of gathering people from all over for the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. We too are called to this feast.

Why do we do that?
Anointing people. The Christian Church adopted this ritual to indicate the blessing of the Holy Spirit. We anoint the sick and those in danger of death to bring God’s healing and comforting presence and during sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders.

Pre-primary Family Mass: The Family Mass scheduled for this Saturday night has been postponed until next term as St John’s are celebrating the Sacrament of 1st Eucharist this Saturday.

Sacrament of 1st Eucharist: Tomorrow our year four students will be participating in a retreat day at the Catholic Centre as part of their preparation to receive the Sacrament. During the day they will celebrate Reconciliation, participate in activities to further their knowledge and understanding of Communion and share lunch together. We wish them a great day.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The excitement is building for next Friday’s carnival at St Pats oval. Scores are very close after the cross country. The carnival begins at 9.15am, children are to be dropped off at St Pats from 8.30am. A bus will be running from the school for those students who cannot be dropped at St Pats at 8.45am and returning at 2.15pm. A reminder that there is not parking in the front entrance area of the St Pats College. There will be a canteen running with a variety of food and drinks on sale during the day for parents, no students are to go to the canteen.

Canteen is looking for donations of cakes/slices/biscuits to sell at the Athletics Carnival next Friday. They can be dropped to the Canteen on Thursday morning the 1st September or bring to the carnival first thing in the morning.

The Athletics Carnival menu and order form is attached to this newsletter. Please return to the canteen by 31st August.

Thankyou—Donna and Fiona

RE-OPENING OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral will re-open on Saturday, 3rd September beginning with the morning Mass at 9am.

We will revert to the normal Mass times from the weekend of 3rd/4th of September as follows:

3rd September Saturday
9:00am and 6pm (Vigil) Mass in the Cathedral
11am-12pm and 5:30 - 6pm Confession in the Cathedral
4th September Sunday
7:30am, 9:30am and 6pm Mass in the Cathedral
8:30am Mass at St John’s Church Rangeway

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students:-
Last week saw SFX celebrate all things ‘science’. Each day, children were involved in science experiment's within their classrooms. Our Year Sixes displayed their electrical circuit models. Even our staff participated in Science activities in the staff room.