Dear Parents

It doesn’t take long for the school year to ramp up and the frenetic pace of life to get in the way of maintaining positive relationships with our children and each other. In a recent article by Michael Grose, an educational expert, he recalls the following scenario. Have you ever asked your child what happened at school today and received, ‘Fine’ or ‘Nothing’, as the answer? suggests changing tact and asking different questions to learn about your child’s interests and welfare.

- Tell me what made you laugh today?
- Did you do anything that was brave?
- If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
- What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
- What’s something you learned with a friend today?
- If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

It doesn’t seem like a big deal but interesting questions lead to interesting conversations. By doing this we can learn about our children and celebrate the successes they make each day. The full article and additional conversation starters can be found at: https://goo.gl/WhW995

This week students in Yr 4 to 6 participated in the election process of student leaders at St Francis Xavier. There are many theories and leadership types. The heroic, the autocratic, transformational or democratic as a few examples. At St Francis Xavier we aspire to use Christ as our example and encourage a model of Service Leadership. Service leadership is a set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organisations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world. All students can aspire to be servant leaders and our school values of Compassion, Honesty, Respect, Inclusivity and Self Control are the foundations of effective leadership.

Congratulations to all students who were recognised and elected to represent St Francis Xavier as student leaders in 2017.
Label that Lunch Box
Already excessive amounts of unlabeled lunch containers, hats and other items are filling the lost property boxes. Teachers can only assist in returning property if they are clearly labelled. Take the time, save some money and label all items clearly with your child’s name.

Parent Information Evening
Thursday March 2nd will be an information session for parents to hear several updates occurring in the school and provide feedback as to ways St Francis Xavier could improve. The session will be informal and cover a range of issues including the code of conduct, forms of communication and before and after school care. This is an opportunity to be involved and provide feedback to the school.

Parking Issues
Thank you to all parents who have assisted by following correct parking procedures. The start of the year is always busy with children requiring additional support before transitioning to the kiss and drop zones. Additionally, a change in the finish time for a neighboring school has added to the volume of cars being present in this period. Please be patient and respectful to each other and ensure student safety is a priority during afternoon pick up.

School Fees
School fees have been processed and emailed out last week. Please contact the office if you have not received them.

Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme: The Catholic Bishops of Western Australia are determined that no family be denied the opportunity of education in a Catholic school because of financial difficulties. The Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme was implemented in 2005 and offers discount on tuition fees to holders of a means-tested family Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card. The scheme offers significant, automatic tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families.
Families that qualify for the scheme will pay AU$ 230 for kindergarten and primary school tuition fees and AU$ 1,400 for secondary school tuition fees for 2017. Specific charges such as subject and building levies and excursion costs will still apply, however these can also be discussed with the Principal. Application forms are available at the front office.

Swim Trials
This year’s swimming carnival will be held on Thursday 9th March at the Aquarena starting at 11.30am. To prepare for the carnival students in year 4—6 will be competing in trials next week at Nagle college pool: Yr 6 on Tuesday, Yr 5 on Wednesday and Yr 4 on Friday. Students need to be at the pool ready to swim by 8am, bring their uniform to change in to at the completion of the trials and a quick snack of food to eat when they return to school.

Lego
The library is looking for donations of LEGO. If you have any at home that is in good condition and isn't being used please bring it in to the front office.

Merit Certificates
Merit Certificates were awarded to the following students at this weeks assembly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPR</td>
<td>Dior Potiuch &amp; Jacob Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Adelaide Royce, Sarah Schewtschenko &amp; Nyadiet Kew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>May Parker &amp; Sophie Crothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Makenzie Chatley &amp; Hudson Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Zac Lang &amp; Linette Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5O</td>
<td>Ashleigh Wilson &amp; Luke Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6P</td>
<td>James Gardiner &amp; Brodie Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPM</td>
<td>Beejay Johnson-Kishere &amp; Jade Trembath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1L</td>
<td>Shrijth Elangumanian, Darcy Blakemore &amp; Aimy Jayesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2F</td>
<td>Rylei Quick &amp; Tex Kuser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Samuel Burro, Kaye McKeeman &amp; David Phillip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>Jeffery Joyner, Brodie Morgan &amp; Rocco Oliveri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5H</td>
<td>Rhama Evans &amp; Ashleigh Fishwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6V</td>
<td>Sienna Luff &amp; Jayden Augustson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RELIGION

VALUE OF THE WEEK—COMPASSION

This fortnight, as a school, we will be focusing on the value of Compassion. Compassion is the response to the suffering of others that motivates a desire to help. It gives rise to an active desire to alleviate another’s suffering. At St Francis Xavier we strive to show compassion for ourselves, others and the community by:

- Accepting our own gifts
- Helping, giving, comforting and encouraging
- Showing care for our school both inside and out

When we read the Gospel stories in the Bible we see so many examples of Jesus showing compassion to those who were suffering. In the miracles he performed when he cured people of disease, blindness etc. feeding the thousands who were hungry, and raising people from the dead, it was the feeling of pity that drove Jesus to act.

Jesus used parables to teach people about how they should treat others with compassion such as ‘The Good Samaritan’ (Luke 10;25-37). A Samaritan comes across a man laying bashed on the road, and when he saw him his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him bandaged his wounds and took him to an inn to take care of him. At the conclusion of the story Jesus gives the listeners (and us) the instructions, “You go, then, and do the same.”

FAMILIES ASKING FOR BAPTISM OF THEIR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Families of Children who are not Catholic who have begun their schooling at school this year and asking to be baptised in order to make their First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Community are invited to contact Carol Quill, Coordinator of the Parish Sacraments Formation Team by the 27th of February on 9964 2716 or email libraryplm@westnet.com.au.

Another option is to call into the Parish Office at the Catholic Centre, ph: 9964 1608 and complete an Enrolment Form which will be given to Carol.

If you have not already met with one of the Priests, Carol will arrange a meeting for you to build up the relationship between the Parish and your family.

All the sacraments will be celebrated in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th terms of the school year. An important way of helping your children prepare for Baptism or Reception (if already baptised in another Church) and participate the Sacraments, there will be a brief 4 weeks preparation time on Baptism for the children immediately after School beginning in March. You, as parents are very welcome to join in the classes.

I do hope this year of 2017 will be a time of blessing for you and your children as the new school year begins.

Fr Michael Morrissey
Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year. This year promises to be full of exciting new opportunities and possibilities for your child in Catholic Education.

If you are new to our system, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. I am delighted that you have chosen to join the Catholic Education Western Australia system, which provides a faith-based education and inspires a passion for learning and discovery for more than 75,000 students in 163 school communities right across the State.

You are joining Catholic Education at an exciting time of system success, growth and transformation.

In 2016, one of the many encouraging indicators of the success of our system was the WACE achievement of our Year 12s. Approximately 96 percent of CEWA students achieved a WACE, above the total State average, while CEWA students improved their Median ATAR again to 81.95, and were awarded a total of 33,178 VET Certificate 2 or higher.

In the past four years, our system has grown with the opening of seven new schools and colleges. Early Years Learning and Care is a key focus for us moving forward in 2017 as we seek to offer exceptional learning experiences for children in a vital period of their development, while meeting the needs of today’s families.

This year we aim to reimagine collaborative learning at every school across our system by implementing our digital transformation initiative, LEADing Lights. LEADing Lights is a single digital eco-system, designed to equip students with the 21st century technologies and deep learning skills that will best prepare them for the future. Much work is underway in this space to ensure that this initiative supports world-class learning and development experiences for both students and staff.

Catholic schools rely on the contribution of parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to sustain their vibrancy, educational excellence, and faith life. With your support and involvement in your child’s learning, the efforts of our dedicated staff and Principals, we will ensure that our Catholic schools help your child reach toward their God-given potential.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Thom McDonald
Executive Director, Catholic Education Western Australia
You can support your child in learning to read by reading with your child for up to half an hour every day. Here are some helpful hints.

1. **Set the scene**
Before you read the story, tell your child the title of the book and a bit about it. Try to relate it to your child’s own experience, if you can. If it is about dogs, talk about a dog they know. You can also discuss what might happen in the story.

2. **Read the book**
Read the story in a lively way with lots of expression. If you come across unfamiliar words, stop and tell your child what they mean. This improves your child’s vocabulary and helps them to understand the whole story. During the week, you might also like to remind your child of some of the new words from the story book and relate them to your everyday life.

3. **Recalling the story**
After reading the book, ask your child questions about the story. For example, “What happened at the beginning of the story?” or “What happened at the end of the story?”. If they can’t remember, tell them. You might also want to try asking different types of questions that require more than a yes or no answer. For example, “Why do you think the little green dragon was so sad?” These sorts of questions help to develop your child’s language skills.

You don’t need to read a different book for every session; in fact, re-reading the same book several times allows the child to become familiar with the story and helps them to learn new vocabulary.

Finally, being patient and enthusiastic will make reading together a much more positive experience for both you and your child. Have fun!

Peta Turner
COMPUTER NOTICES

CENTACARE: Dealing With Life’s Losses—Parent Edition

1 hour parent info session to assist you to support your child through the workshops which help children:

- Notice their warning signs that they are not coping emotionally
- Think about solutions
- Find better ways to express their feelings (including sadness)

When: Monday 27th of February 6.00pm - 7.00PM OR Wednesday 1st of March 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Where: Centacare Family Services, 3 Maitland Street, Geraldton.
Cost: $5.00

Please call (08) 9921 1433 to register your attendance

ST FRANCIS XAVIER—Cathedral Precinct Project Update

2017 should see the completion of our ambitious Project. Crothers Construction will soon commence work on the Midwest Garden to be located adjacent to the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Centre. This will complete Stage 3. In the next few weeks, tenders should be called for Stage 4 which involves the restoration and enhancement work inside the cathedral. If you are interested in hearing what changes and improvements are planned, Fr Cross will be giving a talk on Monday 13th February at 6 p.m. in the Cathedral.

Sponsorship Opportunities: We still have 2 Olive Trees available ($600) in the garden shown in the picture. This is a great way to memorialise a loved one or to have your family name connected with the Cathedral. We also expect to have more bells for sale in the near future. If you are interested in either of these sponsorship opportunities, please contact me.

We are still receiving donations and continue to update our Major Donor Honour Board and Digital Register. If you would like to have your family name added, donations are still being received. Go to the website or contact me for more information. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest.

Kind Regards—Gerry Eastman (Campaign Coordinator) - 0417 912 997
www.sfxcathedralproject.com.au
Learn to play like the Perth Scorchers through MILO T20 BLAST!

Geraldton registrations are now live!

**Venue:** GBSC Sport Park  
**Ages:** 7-12  
**Program length:** 5 weeks  
**Contact:** JASON YIP e: jason.yip@waca.com.au m: 0429 107 963

17.2.2017 – FREE COME & TRY + SKILLS MASTERCLASS (parents encouraged to participate)  
24.2.2017 – week 1  
03.3.2017 – week 2  
10.3.2017 – week 3  
17.3.2017 – week 4  
18.3.2017 – (morning) MILO T20 BLAST FESTIVAL!

Each week will include a skills zone, where ALL participants will be honing skills whilst waiting to bat.

**To sign up:**
2. Search 'where can I play?' in the top right corner of the page – for example 6530  
3. Scroll down to ‘Geraldton Junior Cricket Association’ and click ‘next’  
4. Click ‘register’

**Kids sport registrations:**
2. Search 'where can I play?' in the top right corner of the page type 'kidsport'  
3. Continue through the registration process selecting MILO T20 BLAST

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**CROQUET** – the good fun sport.............

**LEARN AND PLAY NOW !**

**AGES 10-16, FIVE SESSIONS $20**

Every Wed March 1 – March 29, 3.30 pm – 5 pm  
Geraldton Croquet Club, Maitland St. Geraldton  
Nationally qualified coaches with WWCC

To Register or enquiries: kaychynoweth@hotmail.com Ph. 0407196621

Book soon some vacancies still available:.............
ST PATS FOOTBALL CLUB

It is that time of year again and St Pats Football Club are now taking registrations for U8’s (year 1 – 2) & U10’s (year 2 – 3 & 4).

If interested please contact either:

Gerard Marquis – 0408 177 419
Georgina Grimley – 0407 126 336 or g.grimley@bigpond.com

SCHOOL SEVEN ASIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

School Seven Aside Junior Soccer registration forms are due in by Friday 24th February. Bethwyn from Geraldton Junior Soccer Association will be in the undercover area Tuesday 21st February from 8.15am with an EFTPOS machine if you wish to pay by card. Please ensure your forms are in on time, along with your $35 fees.

Feel free to contact Bethwyn on 0429 641895 if you need assistance.

P & F NOTICES

SFX Second Hand Uniform Shop—Change of hours

Suzie will now be opening the Uniform Shop on Monday afternoons 2.45pm to 3.15pm and Wednesday mornings 8.30am – 9.00am. They desperately need girls dresses with only three in stock. Also if you can please remember when donating items, if they could be clean and ironed which helps to save time and parents can then see items that are of reasonable quality.

We do not take donations of other items just school uniforms only please.

Suzie can be contacted on 0427 871 152
What happens if my child is absent from school on test day?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>6 minutes</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will the tests be online?

Will the tests be timed?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a national longitudinal assessment of educational achievement in grade levels 4, 8, and 12. The assessment is designed to measure the academic performance of students in various subject areas, including reading, mathematics, and science. The results of the NAEP are used by policymakers, educators, and parents to improve the quality of education and to monitor the progress of students across the country.