

St Francis Xavier Primary School



From the Principal's Desk...

June 25 2020
Volume 7

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support during the COVID-19 crisis. As you are aware, restrictions have been introduced across the state, however, St Francis Xavier has not implemented all of these. The existing process for drop off and pick up will remain until the end of Term Two. The purpose of this communicate, is to update families on the reasons why restrictions have not been implemented and the potential processes as we move forward.

The COVID-19 crisis forced our school community to adapt and implement unprecedented changes. In the period of 6 weeks, staff professionalism, agility and our supportive community enabled the school to transition from face to face learning, to online learning, to blended learning before returning to face to face learning. Our focus was always on the students. This was a collective success. We should all be proud of the contributions we made in ensuring student learning was maintained. As restrictions eased, the decision was made to reflect on our shared success. From parent, staff and student feedback we know many changes have had a positive benefit on our learning community.

With students as the focus, I wish to share the positive impact changes have had and how, as a learning community, we can embed these into our community whilst still retaining our vibrant school culture and supportive partnership with families.

The introduction of drop off at the start of the day has had a profound impact on learning in multiple ways. These include:

- Reduced separation anxiety at the start of the school day.
- Greater independence. Students carry their own bags, speak for themselves and commencing learning autonomously.
- Increased oral language and peer socialisation.
- Stronger relationships between the teacher and student.
- Teachers are focused on the task of learning.

Feedback from last week's parent forums highlighted that formal and informal communication and opportunities for parents to partner in their children's learning has been reduced. This feeling is shared by teaching staff. One of our school strengths is a joint commitment to supporting student learning. Re-establishing this partnership is a focus, however, how this looks could be entirely new. TEAMS and ZOOM have been innovative ways that teachers and parents have continued to meet and discuss student learning. The inclusion of Facebook live enabled parents who work away to connect and continue to be engaged in their children's learning, regardless of their geographical location. They have limitations but are positive examples of how change forced us to adapt.

I do stress, as per the communication June 8th, pre-arranged parent/caregiver meetings can proceed whilst adhering to physical distancing and hygiene protocols. Teachers have commenced scheduling meetings with parents, and I encourage all families wishing to discuss their children's learning to contact their teachers. Regulations require all **parents on school grounds to sign in via the administration and identify rooms/areas visited should this information be required by the Department of Health.**

I do look forward to the return of open nights, assemblies and parents as partners in your children's education. Optimistically, it isn't too far away. In the interim, I ask you to reflect on the positive outcomes for students' learning as a result of change. Returning to past practices that, as adults we are comfortable with would be easy, but as a learning community we need to carefully reflect on how it benefits our common purpose, the students.

Again, I thank you for your ongoing support and patience. Be assured that the decisions being made, as always, are based on the students we serve.

God Bless
Ben Doyle

Sacramental Programs

Due to the COVID-19 disruption the celebrations of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist were unable to be held. The celebration of these Sacraments has been rescheduled.

Our Year Three students had completed all their preparation to receive Reconciliation in 1st Term, however, were not able to participate in the celebration. We are planning to hold their 1st Reconciliation in the first couple of weeks of Term 3. With COVID restrictions being eased we are hoping to be able to celebrate as originally planned as a retreat day.

At this stage the Sacrament of 1st Eucharist for year 4 students is being scheduled for Term 4 this year. Dates of parent/child meetings, Commitment Masses and for the celebration will be sent out to parents once they are confirmed with the Parish. The Sacrament of Confirmation for Yr 6 children will go ahead as planned in Term 3.

Praying The Rosary

Praying the Rosary is one of the traditional prayers we pray as Catholics. During the Rosary we pray to Mother Mary to intercede for our needs or the needs of others. The Yr 4V class have been learning about how to pray the Rosary and have incorporated it into their prayer times.



4V praying the Rosary in Mary's Garden and How to Pray the Rosary booklets they made

Murray Gardiner

Assistant Principal R.E.



AUSSIE OF THE MONTH

Aidan O'Brien (4V) & Oliver Bunter (1R)
CHRIST Award
Lola Eastman (2W)

This week we are focussing on:

SELF-CONTROL



Semester 1 Reports

Due to COVID-19 and the disruption to learning and teaching in Semester 1, 2020, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Pre-Primary to Year 10 Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy has been amended.

As a result, the Semester 1 Report will report on student progress, according to what has been taught to date. General learning progress to date, against the year-level Western Australian achievement standards, will be noted as:

- Above expected standard
- At expected standard
- Progressing towards expected standard

This is an interim report. Achievement grades will be available in the Semester 2 Report. Semester One Reports will be made available to parents at the end of Week 10. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact your child's teacher for clarification.

Absenteeism

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact the school via email admin@sfx.wa.edu.au or phone to inform us if your child will be absent. Students who arrive after the start of the school day (8.45am) are required to go to the office to register their attendance through the SEQTA Kiosk.

Please refrain from using Class Dojo to communicate absences as this is not always monitored in the morning.

Judi Hollands

Assistant Principal Curriculum

Crunch&Sip®

Packing a healthy lunchbox

A lunchbox should contain about one third of a child's food for the day. Remember to also pack a water bottle and a Crunch&Sip® snack, preferably vegetables. For a healthy lunchbox pick an item from each of the key groups:

<p>1. Vegetables as snacks or as a filling</p>	<p>2. Fruit as snacks</p>	<p>3. Bread & Cereals wholegrain or multi</p>
<p>4. Dairy rich in calcium reduced fat milk, yoghurt, cheese or alternatives</p>	<p>5. Meat and meat alternatives rich in protein</p>	<p>6. Crunch&Sip® vegetables or fruit and a water bottle</p>