

NEWSLETTER NO.2

8th February 2024

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which our school stands

Dear SFX Families,

A really fantastic start to the year everyone. A **HUGE** well done. We welcomed our new Preps to assembly last Monday morning, we waved good bye and 'see you at 1pm' and then the Preps continued to learn about their new school routines. For the Year 1 to 6 students there was a sense of 'Let's get down to business and learning'. There is a wonderful feel around the school at the moment with our Year 6 leaders setting the tone for the school. **"Together We Shine"** is our theme for 2024 and we are really showing it at the moment.

At morning assembly we are asking all students to listen to important information, to celebrate birthdays and upcoming events, to really focus on the day ahead and to 'listen without interruption'. It has been great to see the students trying really hard to do this. Could we ask parents attending the assembly to do the same and as much as possible to ask accompanying toddlers to also remain quiet. This especially applies when we sing our National Anthem on a Monday and say our Acknowledgment of Country. Apart from it being good training for the toddlers who will be our future students, you also model good practices of being attentive in front of our students. We appreciate parental support in this area.

SFX - A SUNSMART SCHOOL-SEPTEMBER TO APRIL

Children at our school must wear a school hat at recess and lunchtime until the end of April. Children also wear a hat during sports lessons. This will have great benefit in the years to come when the chance of having skin cancers and melanoma are greatly reduced. The children know our slogan: **"NO SCHOOL HAT MEANS NO PLAY"**. Children who do not have a school hat must sit on the seats in the shaded play area rather than play with their friends around the playground. We now have ample stock of school hats in our uniform shop. Please label these clearly with your child's name.

MEET THE TEACHER YEAR PREP TO 6

This will be held on Thursday 15th February from 2pm to 8pm. This first meeting of the year is a crucial information sharing meeting between parents and teachers and allows staff to know each and every child, and you the parent early in the year.

Here's the URL <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/xkpyc>

or you can QR code to open the link on a phone. A change for 2024 is that all classes, Prep to Year 6 will have a 10 minute meet the teacher this year. Please note that registration for these interviews closes on Wednesday 14th February at 3.30pm.



SFX SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE &

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES 2024

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S.A.C)	PARENTS ASSOCIATION
Wednesday 21 st February	Wednesday 7 th February
Wednesday 20 th March	Wednesday 6 th March
Wednesday 1 st May	Wednesday 17 th April

Wednesday 5 th June	Wednesday 15 th May
Wednesday 31 st July	Wednesday 26 th June
Wednesday 4 th September	Wednesday 7 th August
Wednesday 30 th October	Wednesday 11 th September
Wednesday 20 th November	Wednesday 9 th October
Wednesday 11 th December	Wednesday 13 th November

Our School Advisory Committee is comprised of parents from our school community who meet regularly as an advisory body to the Principal. The members of this committee in 2024 are: Father Michael Sierakowski (*Parish Moderator*), Brigid Douglas (*mother Keegan Yr 6 & Madeleine Yr 2*) Antoinette Cullivan (*mother of Dillon Yr 6 & Caelan Yr 4*), Jane Fraser (*mother of Patrick Yr 4*), Brad George (*father of Davis Yr 3*), Anne Maree Flanagan (*mother of Majella Yr 5*), Tim Blanchfield (*father of Archer Yr 2*), Amanda Kazalac (*mother of Ari Yr 1 & Evie Yr 4*), Natalie Alexander (*mother of Isabelle Yr 3 & Thomas Yr 6*), Patrizia Rinaldo (*nominee of the Principal*) and Philip Cachia (*Principal*). At the moment all positions on the SAC have been filled for the 2024 school year.

MOBILE PHONES & SMART WATCHES AT SCHOOL

As of January 2020, the Minister for Education banned the use of mobile phones in all Victorian schools. I would strongly encourage parents to not allow children to bring mobile phones or smart watches to school. I have noticed a significant spike in the amount of children walking out of the school gate in the afternoon carrying a phone and checking their latest social media. Please do not be influenced by your child saying "we are now allowed to bring phones to school" or "everyone has a phone at school". **This is not true.** Mobile phones for primary aged students are unnecessary, are a distraction, and can lull parents into a false sense of security that a child walking home with a mobile phone will keep them safe.

My deepest concern is for students who walk home in a trance like state staring and engrossed in their mobile phone, often with their ear buds in, oblivious to oncoming or turning traffic and then crossing the streets dangerously because they are not using their eyes or their ears to monitor the street environment. Nonetheless if a mobile phone is lost, damaged or stolen, the school cannot be held responsible for replacing the phone or paying out the contract. If mobile phones are seen by a staff member during school time within the bounds of the school, they will be confiscated and parents will need to collect these from the Principal's office.

Another new trend is for some students wearing Smart watches to school, calling and sometimes messaging parents from their Smartwatch. Again this is a totally unnecessary and very expensive distraction.

If parents need to be contacted during the day or if parents need to contact a child this can be easily done through the school



2024 - TOGETHER WE SHINE

office. Once again the school will not be responsible for replacing or repairing a lost, stolen or broken Smart watch.

CHILD SAFETY/ PARENT HELPER SESSIONS 2024

At SFX, we take nothing else more seriously than providing a Child Safe school. A clear M.A.C.S directive (*Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools*) is that any parent who wishes to volunteer in any capacity be afforded an information session on an annual basis. We will be offering **three** sessions at different times during the week to suit all families.

The dates and times of these sessions are:

Session #1 – Wednesday 28th February @9.10am – School Hall

Or

Session #2 - Thursday 29th February @ 7pm - Performing Arts Room

Or

Session #3 – Tuesday 5th March at 2.30pm – Performing Arts Room

It is anticipated that the session will run for approximately 1 hour. All parents regardless of whether you have done the Child Safety course, or your occupation **must** complete the 2024 course to qualify.

The Child Safety Parent Information sessions apply to all parents who:

- ✚ Would like to help out in the classroom e.g Literacy
- ✚ Would like to attend excursions
- ✚ Would like to assist with school events such as Twilight Sports
- ✚ Would like to assist and be part of the School Advisory Committee
- ✚ Would like to assist at any Parents Association functions where children are present Eg. Mother's Day stall, School Disco etc

These dates will be the **ONLY** opportunity to achieve your accreditation and we will not be running the sessions later in the year or on an individual basis for those who have missed out. Please fill in the form below to let us know which session you will be attending and your availability/capacity to help.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18kf2widGazWwNjSpzSZtYCFt5iuFPztFDKPTu6uoCa0/edit?ts=65c02f3a>

PARENTS & MORNING PRAYER TIME

One of the beautiful ways we engage with parents is by inviting them into morning prayer time. Based upon the success of the initiative last year, this will continue in 2024.

There are a couple of parameters that SFX staff would like to see if this unique reflection and sharing time with parents is to continue this year.

- ✚ Due to timetable constraints and seven specialist classes beginning at 9.10am each day, it is important that we have our regular school assembly, children move into class and get unpacked for the day, and then settle for prayer. All this needs to be done before specialist classes begin or Literacy block begins in all classes at 9.10am. As such it is probably our busiest time of the day. When a class has a specialist at 9.10am we ask that parents do not attend prayer session in this particular morning.
- ✚ Parents need to remember that this is not a time for an impromptu chat with the teacher or other parents or a time for parent teacher interview. It is a time of prayer and reflection. Please respect that our teachers are getting their students ready for the day ahead and parents should not be a distraction from what needs to happen each morning.
- ✚ If younger siblings and toddlers are going to accompany parents to the session, they must not be a distraction to the

students in the class. We are asking the students to focus, pray and reflect reverently. If your toddler cannot remain quiet at the moment, you may have to wait until such a time as they can.

- ✚ If your presence in the room, distresses your child and they feel it is a way of going home with you rather than staying at school, it may be best not to attend until your child is able to cope with your presence.
- ✚ Parents will know when it is time to leave and we ask parents to do this quickly and quietly so that the learning day can commence. Please do not distract your child or others as you walk out.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES 2024

One of the major conduits between the Parents Association and the classrooms are the Class Reps that we have for each of the 15 classes. As a Class Rep you provide the 'coal face' communication between the activities and events of the Parents Association that are held through out the year and each of the families in your classroom. If you would like to be the Class Rep for your class can you please email me at:

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au We will publish the names of those who have offered their services as Class Rep in next week's newsletter.

SCHOOL CALENDAR – TERM 2024

Monday 12th February – Year 4 Reconciliation Parent Info Night

Tuesday 13th February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14th February – Prep Assessment Day – No school

Thursday 15th February- Meet the Teacher- Prep to Yr 6 -2pm to 8pm

Friday 16th February – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Tuesday 20th February – Welcome Picnic – 5pm to 7pm

Tuesday 20th February – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Wednesday 21st February – Prep Assessment Day – No school

Wednesday 21st – School Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7pm

Friday 23rd February – School Photo Day 2024

Friday 23rd February – District Swimming Competition

Monday 26th February – Preps are now full time

Tuesday 27th February- Year 3/4 Community Walk

Wednesday 28th February – District Swimming Competition

Wednesday 28th February – Child Safety Info session #1 @ 9.10am

Thursday 29th February- Child Safety Info session #2 @ 7pm

Friday 1st March - School Tour for Prospective Parents

Tuesday 5th March – Child Safety Info session #3 @ 2.30pm

Wednesday 6th March – Parents Association Meeting @ 7pm

Thursday 7th March – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Monday 11th March – Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 12th March – School Closure Day – First Aid Training for all SFX Staff (Level 2)

Wednesday 13th March – NAPLAN begins – Year 3 & 5

Wednesday 13th March – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Friday 15th March – St. Patrick's Day Mass @ Cathedral for student leaders

Tuesday 19th March – Regional Swimming Competition

Tuesday 19th March – Year 3/4 Excursion Banyule Council

Wednesday 20th March – School Advisory Committee @ 7pm

Friday 22nd March – Year 3 – 6 Athletics Event (TBC)

Monday 25th March – NAPLAN concludes – Year 3 & 5

Monday 25th March – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Wednesday 27th March – SFX Easter Liturgy

Thursday 28th March – School Tour for Prospective Parents

Thursday 28th March – Term 1 concludes at 1pm

Monday 15th April – Term 2 commences @ 8.55am

2024 – TOGETHER WE SHINE

JOIN THE MAGPIE ARMY!

GIRLS U12 & U10
PRESEASON
TRAINING

STARTING
TUE 6 FEB 2024

U10 4PM - 5PM
U12 4.30 - 6PM

PETRIE PARK
MONTMORENCY

FURTHER INFO:

GIRLSFOOTY@MJFNC.ORG.AU

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FUN**



SFX PARENTS ASSOCIATION – SHROVE TUESDAY TREAT

The PA invite your children to mark the beginning of Lent by enjoying pancakes. \$2 a pancake, see try booking link for more

details: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPAQA>

SFX CHOIR

GRADES 2 – 6

THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES

WHEN THURSDAY lunchtimes from Week 3
SECOND Lunch Bell

WHERE Performing Arts Room

WHAT TO BRING Your water bottle
Your fine voices!

WHAT TO DO: Please email Miss Beamont if you wish to attend ASAP:

abeamont@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Commitment Pledge:

Please note you will need to commit to every week and a roll will be taken. We will be working towards a performance so your regular attendance is essential.



Parade College OPEN DAY

Sunday February 25 | 10am - 2pm

Visit www.parade.vic.edu.au to register



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2024 - TOGETHER WE SHINE



To mark the beginning of Lent, the 2024 SFX Parents Association would like to invite the students to

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday Feb 13th 2024

Pancakes - \$2.00 each (max no. 2)

Toppings offered on the day include:

Maple syrup / Fresh Lemon Juice and Sugar / Strawberry Jam

For those students who have allergies or food intolerances, we would invite you to make some fresh homemade pancakes and drop them off at the school office on the day marked clearly with your child's name and class (including any specific instructions). We will ensure they are provided safely. Please contact Kate Harford on 0409 965 222 or Deanna Makhoul on 0424 186 620 to arrange.

Please pre-purchase your child's pancakes via the Trybooking link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CPAQA>



WELCOME PICNIC

Tuesday 20 Feb * 5 – 7pm

St Francis Xavier Primary School together with the Parents Association would like to invite all families, both new and existing to our Welcome Picnic! This is a chance to meet and greet and reconnect with family and friends after the holidays. BYO picnic rug, food & drinks. (This is a NO alcohol event)

St Francis Xavier
Catholic Primary School
Montmorency

Register your interest



THREE Pancake RECIPES



Prepare for the start of Lent with these delicious Pancake recipes provided by a couple of our lovely parents.

Traditional

INGREDIENTS

1 cup self-raising flour
¼ cup caster sugar
2 eggs
1 cup milk

MADE BY JANE FRASER
(MUM TO PATRICK)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Sift flour and sugar into medium bowl, gradually whisk in combined eggs and milk until batter is smooth.
- Pour ¼ cup batter into heated, greased frying pan. Cook pancake until bubbles begin to appear on surface. Turn pancake, cook until browned lightly. Cover to keep warm. Repeat with remaining batter.
- We love our pancakes with lemon and sugar, but fresh berries, maple syrup or jam are great alternative topping ideas.

Gluten-Free

INGREDIENTS

300g gluten free plain flour
1 teaspoon gluten free baking powder
150g sugar
6 eggs separated
300ml milk
1 tablespoon vanilla essence

MADE BY AMY O'KEEFE
(MUM TO SOL)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Sift dry ingredients together. Form well in the centre and add egg yolks, milk and vanilla. Mix thoroughly.
- In a separate bowl, whisk white until stiff peaks form. Gently fold flour mixture into egg whites until just combined.
- Bring frying pan to medium heat, spray with oil and pour a soup ladle of mixture into the pan. When bubbles form and burst, turn over and brown on second side.
- Variations: Sliced or mashed bananas, blueberries or strawberries can all be added for variety.

Vegan

NO ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND ALLERGY FRIENDLY
RECIPE COURTESY OF "THE PRETTY BEE"

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups white spelt flour you can use all-purpose flour if you wish
1 ½ Tablespoons baking powder
¾ cups non-dairy milk
3 Tablespoons organic cane sugar
3 Tablespoons organic canola oil or coconut oil, or melted vegan buttery spread
½ teaspoon salt

INSTRUCTIONS

- Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl.
- Add wet ingredients, and let rise for about five minutes.
- Melt a tablespoon of vegan buttery spread in a large frying pan over medium heat.
- Spoon the batter into the pan, and cook until you see the edges starting to turn golden brown.
- Flip pancakes and continue to cook until done, about 3 more minutes.
- Serve with vegan buttery spread and syrup, or desired fruit topping.



fresh is always best and don't forget that special ingredient... they have to be made with love xox

TIPS

- The secret ingredient is baking powder. The baking powder causes the pancake batter to rise and produces perfectly fluffy and tender vegan pancakes.
- If you want to try to make these pancakes oil-free, try using applesauce instead of oil. The texture may not be quite as fluffy, but the recipe will still work.
- Let the batter rise for at least 5 minutes. The baking powder needs a few minutes to do its job.
- Don't over-mix the batter. It doesn't need to be super smooth.
- Don't turn the heat too high! Medium heat will do it.
- Don't flip them too quickly. It will take about 5 minutes for the bottom to cook through. Look for the edges to be cooked, and a few bubbles to form in the batter. Then flip and finish cooking.
- You can use canola oil, melted coconut oil, or melted vegan buttery spread. Any neutral tasting oil should work well.
- Use the non-dairy milk that works for your dietary needs. You can even use water.

The SFX Parents Association would like to thank our 2024 Major Sponsors for their support

Jellis Craig (North East)



2024 - TOGETHER WE SHINE

Parents Association News

A big welcome back to our families and hello and welcome to all new & prep families! We already have a fun-packed year ahead and are up and running with pancakes for Shrove Tuesday next week! (More below).

Last year the school community came together for lots of events and fundraising activities. It was great to reconnect after 2 years of COVID restrictions. We also raised approximately \$40,000 that has gone towards family events and school infrastructure.

Meeting times

Our first Parents Association Meeting is scheduled on the **7th February**, so we're able to capture Shrove Tuesday and the Welcome Picnic Planning. The PA meets monthly on Wednesday's at 7PM. Everyone is welcome and no RSVP needed. Our next meeting is on the 6th March @ 7pm.

Our AGM, where we install the executive positions will be on 6th March @ 7pm.

If you are interested in any of the executive roles (President, Vic President, Treasurer, Secretary) please email principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Class representatives

Class reps are essential in helping communicate between the Parents Association, general ideas, social events and class related information between parents. Please email principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au if you would like to be your class rep this year.

Events

Over the course of the year the Parents Association works with the school to host a range of events for adults, mums, dads, kids and families. These will be worked through at Parents Association meetings. As a rough guide for the year, please mark these in your calendar:

Term One events

Term One events include:

- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake snacks** – Classes share a pancake to mark the beginning of Lent. For more details see try booking here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPAQA>
- **Welcome Picnic** – Come along to SFX Playground from 5-7PM on Tuesday 20th February, to reconnect and meet new families. BYO Picnic rug, food & drinks. RSVP here - <https://www.trybooking.com/CPARP>. No picnic chairs on the oval please. This is a **CHILD SAFE – ALCOHOL FREE** event.
- **Dads, Pa & Friends Bowling** is a hugely popular event where the Dads can get to know each other. Friday 22nd March.
- **Easter Hat Parade and Raffle**. Our raffle is the most anticipated raffle of the year (so much chocolate!) and will be drawn while the kids are doing their Easter Hat Parade on the last day of Term 1. Details to come soon.

Term 2 events

- **Mums, Nans and Friends event**. Details are to be confirmed – ideas welcome!
- **Mother's Day Stall and Breakfast**
- **School Disco**
- **Dads @ the Dogs (TBC)**

Term 3 events

- **SFX Mixer** – Adults Social event
- **Father's Day Stall and Breakfast** – Footy Colours Parade

- **Ladies Day**
- **Bunnings BBQ** (TBC) – Eltham Bunnings

Term 4

- **Kids Movie night**
- **Carols by Candlelight**

Support and volunteering

There are lots of ways to be involved in supporting the kids and the school. To be able to help out when the kids are involved you will need a Working With Children's check and to complete the 2024 Child Safety Course (*dates and times are in this week's newsletter*). This needs to be done each year, even if you've done it in previous years.

To get involved you can volunteer time:

- Come along to a Parents Association Meeting (Monthly on Wednesdays @7pm) and share ideas
- Nominate for the Parents Association Executive
- Be a Class Representative
- Help out with one of the Parents Association events above
- Help out ad-hoc as call for volunteers go out.

Raffles

Each year level contributes to raffle donations across the year, which help raise money for the school. Details will come out in the newsletter.

- **Prep, Years 1 & 2** = Easter Raffle,
- **Year 3 & 4** = Mother's Day Raffle,
- **Years 5&6** = Fathers Day Raffle.

Parents Association Values and objectives

To help guide the Parents Association's activities and goals, we need to hear from everyone. We have put together a short, anonymous survey that will help shape our values, objectives and goals this year. Please take the time to let us know what is important to you.

Link can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/WFeDmsaXU4weT5Ey9>

The SFX Commitment is that every cent of money that is raised during the year goes into visible, tangible purchases that the students use and they benefit from each and every day.

We're looking forward to another great year!

Rhiannon Saward

2023 PA President

2024 Photo Day

Online and Envelope Order Instructions

Dear Parents and Students of St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School,

Your school photo day is on 23-02-2024 and your school has chosen to order via online and/or envelopes which has been or will be distributed to every student. Therefore, it is important that the ordering instructions below are followed, and all students are photographed regardless of purchase.

**** IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE – ONLINE ORDERING FOR SIBLING PHOTOS WILL CUT OFF ON 22-02-2024 ****

ONLINE ORDERING: Your child's school photos are now available for secure online purchase, please note if you are ordering online, you do not need to return an envelope to the school

4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING

Step 1: [Click Here](#). - For online ordering process for your school - OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [WKR ZBF JD4]

Step 2: Enter your student's details

Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (*all orders will be delivered to the school for collection*)

Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)

****Online Orders have a 1.5% merchant fee applied when using Visa, Mastercard or PayPal.**

Please note: If you miss photo day, portrait and group packages can still be ordered online for 7 days afterwards with no late fees. After that time, late orders will require separate processing and handling and therefore will incur a \$15.00 late fee per package.

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS: No envelope required if ordering online

3 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING

- Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [WKR ZBF JD4]
- Family/Sibling photo orders online close on [22-02-2024]
- Orders can be placed by returning an envelope up until photo day with exact cash amount. (*no change given*)

ORDERING USING AN ENVELOPE:

ENVELOPES WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD, PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE

Step 1: Student Details - Complete the section for student details on the front of the envelope.

(*Please use black or blue pen*).

Step 2: Purchase Details - Complete the purchase details on the front of the envelope.

Step 3: Payment Method - Select your payment method.

Credit Card – Online Only at www.advancedlife.com.au

Cash – Please enclose correct money – no change is given under any circumstances

Please Note: A portrait and a class group photograph will be taken of every student at the school, regardless of purchase. Photographs of your children taken as part of a class group are only permitted to be distributed within their own class. Your child's name will appear on the class group photo. If you DO NOT wish your child to be photographed, please contact your school office with your instructions prior to Photo Day.

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries regarding your child's school photo order.

info@advancedlifevic.com.au or 03 9852 1133

Advancedlife Team

What's been happening...

Welcome back!

What an exciting time, the beginning of a new year.

We hope you all enjoyed the break and had a wonderful Christmas & New Year.

This year we welcome Keely to the team at OSHClub SFX. Keely is studying to become a teacher and brings a wealth of experience having worked at OSHClub for a couple of years.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have been working on transforming and updating the OSHC room, and you are invited to drop by and have a look.

We welcome any feedback and/or suggestions you have regarding our space, the program and activities we run, and what's coming up for OSHClub.

ClassDojo...



This week we have been setting up ClassDojo for our OSHClub families, to share all the fun we have with you!

Please scan the QR code to join!

If you have any questions, please come and see Rachel & Keely in the OSHClub room.

Photo gallery...



What's new...

This year will see the introduction of our domains of play including – global kids, power teams, super sports, creative inventors, art attack on Tuesdays, as well as a cooking club running on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Suggestions and recipes from families are more than welcome.

We are commencing Friday Funday starting with our pizza party to celebrate International Pizza Day on Friday 9th Feb, bookings are essential for staffing & catering purposes.

Reminders...

Please advise us of any updated **medical conditions** or **dietary requirements**.

Cancellations need to be made **48 hours** prior to **start of session** time to avoid out of pocket costs.

Another friendly reminder to please let us know if your child is going to be **absent**.

Please make sure **you** are signing your child/ren in and out of Kidsoft.