

## NEWSLETTER 6

7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

Dear Families,

Last week Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (M.A.C.S) launched their new "Vision for Instruction" for all of its schools. The objective is that **"By 2030 we aim to become the benchmark for excellence in teaching and learning, through a coherently integrated, academically competitive and distinctly Catholic educational offering"**.

**So what does this mean for us at SFX?**

It means that our SFX belief that explicit, structured and planned teaching actually works and accelerates student learning has been backed by M.A.C.S. So the direction that M.A.C.S wants to take all its schools in is so affirming of the way we have taught and learnt at SFX over the past four years.

Elements such as:

**Most students need formal teaching to learn biologically secondary knowledge:** Reading, writing and mathematics requires instruction and must be taught.

**Thinking occurs when we combine information from our environment and from our long term memory:** We connect new learning to what the students already know and understand

**Working memory has limits:** Cognitive overload can occur when we try to connect new learning without prior instruction. We need to provide new learning in sequenced, manageable steps

**Memory is a residue of thought:** Ask questions to get students thinking in a structured way, reduce distracted thinking and support the learning that students need the most

There are some minor changes we will make at SFX, as we are always seeking to improve our teaching and learning processes, however many will not notice the changes. The M.A.C.S Vision for Instruction is almost a mirror image of what we believe and do at SFX. This is exciting, reassuring and affirming that M.A.C.S wants to now take all its schools in the SFX direction.

**CHILD SAFETY/ PARENT HELPER SESSIONS 2024**

We have had a wonderful participation rate at each of our Child Safety/Parent Helper sessions over the past week. It is so great to have SFX parents and grandparents involved in their child's education.

Session #1 - 28<sup>th</sup> February @ 9.10am - 55 attendees

Session #2 - 29<sup>th</sup> February @ 7pm - 75 attendees

Session #3 - 5<sup>th</sup> March @ 2.30pm - 40 attendees

**Total for 2024 = 170 attendees/parent helpers**

There will be no further sessions for 2024 and as such helping out in any way whilst the students are on the school property is limited to these attendees.

Remember a quote from Ms. Rinaldo's presentation.....

**"When parents are involved at school, the performance of all the children at school, not just their own, tends to improve. The more comprehensive and well planned the partnership between school and home, the higher the student achievement"**

(Henderson and Berla).

## **SCHOOL SPORT NEWS...**

### **DIVISION SWIMMING**

Congratulations to the 13 students who represented SFX school and Montmorency district in the Northern Metropolitan Swimming carnival last Wednesday. You should all be very proud of your efforts.

A special congratulations to **Poppy B** who came 2nd in her backstroke and breaststroke races and will now compete in the Regional Carnival.

Also joining **Poppy B** will be **Anna C, Mila O** and **Ava N**, who also came 2nd in the relay.

**Claudia M** and **Keegan D** were our other place getters on the day finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. These students could be our future Olympic champions.



### **UPCOMING EVENT**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Year 3 to 6 students will compete in an Intraschool Standardised Athletics event at Willinda Park from 9:30 to 2:30. We will need parent helpers on this day. If you have done the 2024 Child Safety training you can volunteer for this event by emailing

[banderson@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:banderson@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

Further details will follow next week about this exciting new event in the school calendar.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY**

**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS PREP TO YEAR 6**

**ALL SFX STAFF COMPLETE LEVEL 2 FIRST AID/ASTHMA & ANAPHYLAXIS QUALIFICATION**

**ENJOY THE EXTRA LONG WEEKEND.**

### **NAPLAN 2024 - YEAR 3 & 5**

We wish our Year 3 & 5 students and their teachers well as they begin their 2024 NAPLAN Assessments next Wednesday. The time schedule for completion for these tests is quite tight and so we ask:

✚ That students in Year 3 and 5 to be at school on time over the next three weeks.

**2024 - TOGETHER WE SHINE**


- ✚ That students have a nourishing, high energy breakfast each morning . Fuel for the thinking brain.
- ✚ That students are well rested and have an early night on the night before an assessment
- ✚ That we encourage our SFX students to walk into NAPLAN days with great confidence and calm. They have been adequately prepared and so NAPLAN day should be like every other day.

#### CLASS REPRESENTATIVES 2024

If you would like to be the Class Rep for your class can you please email me at: [principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.


Prep RJ	Emma O' Malley ( <i>mother of Jack</i> )
Prep JV	Gabriella Ganino ( <i>mother of Anika</i> )
Prep BM	Virginia De Santis ( <i>mother of Francesca</i> )
Year 1 LC	Elise Lo Presti ( <i>mother of Sadie</i> )
Year 1 HS	Lauren Norman ( <i>mother of Mac</i> )
Year 2 SK	Georgina Bugeja ( <i>mother of Isaac</i> )
Year 2 SM	Emily Zann ( <i>mother of Holly</i> )
Year 3 JW	Krissy Veerhuis ( <i>mother of Madeleine</i> )
Year 3 DH	Belinda McParland ( <i>mother of Austin</i> )
Year 4 AH	Denise Egan ( <i>mother of Alexandra</i> )
Year 4 MA	Jodi Warren ( <i>mother of Chloe</i> )
Year 5 AM	Mia Jones ( <i>mother of Ben</i> )
Year 5 BB	Kathryn Hannon ( <i>mother of Evie</i> )
Year 6 AH	<b>VACANT</b>
Year 6 DM	Brigid Douglas ( <i>mother of Keegan</i> )

\*\*\* A reminder that all 2024 Class Reps need to complete the 2024 Child Safety/Parent Helper session \*\*\*




**Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**Third Week of Lent**  
(Week beginning Monday 4 March)



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.


Watch [Leaia's Story](#)

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia



#### SCHOOL CALENDAR - TERM 2024

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Labour Day Public Holiday  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – School Closure Day – First Aid Training for all SFX Staff (Level 2)  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – NAPLAN begins – Year 3 & 5  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – School Tour for Prospective Parents**  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick's Day Mass @ Cathedral for student leaders  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Regional Swimming Competition  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3/4 Excursion Banyule Council  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – School Advisory Committee @ 7pm  
 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 3 – 6 Athletics Event (TBC)  
 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – NAPLAN concludes – Year 3 & 5

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – School Tour for Prospective Parents  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Principal Forum – Term 1 2024  
 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – SFX Easter Liturgy  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – School Tour for Prospective Parents**  
 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Term 1 concludes at 1pm  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Term 2 commences @ 8.55am

SFX Parents' Association proudly presents


# Let's roll! BLOKES' BAREFOOT BOWLS


Fri 22 March • 6 – 9:30pm  
 Montmorency Bowls Club  
 RSL after bowls till late  
 Mountain View Rd (Petrie Park)  
 Tickets: \$25 (includes pizza)

Drinks available at bowls club prices .  
 Formal welcome to Prep and new Dads,  
 old stagers and Grandads.

For more information contact  
 Ben McDonald 0422 992 244 or  
[benmcdonald1974@gmail.com](mailto:benmcdonald1974@gmail.com)

Book by Wed 20 March at:  
[trybooking.com/CPLBW](https://trybooking.com/CPLBW)







SFX PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2024

# EASTER EGG RAFFLE & EASTER HAT PARADE

EASTER RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT THE END OF TERM ASSEMBLY  
**THURSDAY 28TH MARCH**

*The Easter Raffle is kindly supported by our Prep, Year 1 & 2 families. Donations for the Easter Raffle can be made to the Office.*

TICKETS \$2.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5.00

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE VIA  
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CPAPO](https://www.trybooking.com/CPAPO)



2024 - TOGETHER WE SHINE



## What's been happening...

This year we have been upgrading our OSHClub room to open environment. In doing so, these past few weeks we have added a giant rug, beanbags, some new games, and art supplies to encourage the children to continually explore their creativity and imagination. Our goal is to create a space that is not only fun and engaging but also promotes learning and growth for all our children.

We are excited to see how the children continue to enjoy and thrive in our revamped room, and we are always looking for ways to improve and enhance our program.

Thank you to all our families for your support and feedback. We look forward to continuing to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for your children at OSHClub.

If you have any suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can contact us, Rachel and Keely, directly via an email or text.

Thank you for being a part of our OSHClub community!

## ClassDojo...

OSHClub ClassDojo is now set up for our families, with most already linked, for us to be able to share all the fun we have with you!

If you haven't already, please scan the QR code to join!

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



## Photo gallery...



## Club News...

### Cooking Club:

The children love experimenting with different recipes and ingredients, and they are always eager to try new things in the kitchen, recently we have made cupcakes and vegan chocolate crackles!

### Art Attack:

The children's creativity knows no bounds as they experiment with new materials and techniques. It's amazing to see their imagination come to life with shaving cream art and marble paintings. We can't wait to see what they create in the coming weeks.



Exclusive National Victoria Education

# The big change coming to the way Catholic school kids are taught

**Robyn Grace**

February 22, 2024 — 3.30pm

Catholic schools in Melbourne will overhaul how students learn reading, writing and maths in a move expected to ramp up the pressure on the Victorian government to give greater guidance to its own teachers.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools on Thursday launched a 'Vision for Instruction' for its 300 schools, saying the evidence now supports explicit instruction as the best way of teaching children.

The move is a departure from the public system, which allows schools to choose their own teaching methods, despite many experts regarding some of those as outdated.

After a similar shift across dozens of Catholic schools in NSW and the ACT in 2019, the proportion of students underperforming in reading went from more than 40 per cent to just 4 per cent over three years.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools executive director Dr Edward Simons said years of declining results in the global Programme for International Student Assessment meant approaches to teaching and learning needed to change.

He said explicit instruction methods had "clearly shown us that our education systems can be much more effective at educating our children".

Explicit instruction promotes direct teaching over student-led or inquiry-based learning, breaking down new concepts into smaller steps and modelling each step before progression. The method is underpinned by an evidence-based, scientific understanding of how students learn.

The Melbourne Archdiocese is not the first system to adopt explicit instruction.

In the Canberra and Goulburn region, where 56 schools adopted the practice in 2020, the proportion of year 3 students underperforming in NAPLAN reading tests lifted from 42 per cent in 2019 to only 4 per cent in 2022. Government students dropped from 54 per cent to 60 per cent underperforming in the same period.

Melbourne is so far the largest system to switch tack, with the move affecting 115,000 students and about 16,000 teachers and support staff.

Opposition education spokeswoman Jess Wilson said the evidence on best-practice teaching was clear, but public school students were increasingly left behind.