

School: 9435 8474

St. Francis Xavier School Montmorency

VISIT US AT - www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Out of School Care: OSH Club 0401 958 962

Parish: 9435 4742



NEWSLETTER NO.17

12th June 2025

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

Dear Families,

We have been having flashbacks to the dark days of 2020/2021 when illness, namely COVID was rampant in our society and our schools. The last three weeks have been particularly difficult with many SFX staff and students having taken ill with a cocktail of illnesses: COVID, Influenza A, RSV and Pneumonia all at our school. Having spoken to other Principals at other schools they too have had similar rates of illness through their schools. This was affirmed when I went to the Chemist Warehouse in Eltham last week and they had totally sold out of the new 4 in 1 COVID tests that are now available. There are lots of sick people out there at the moment and we at SFX are not immune.

Schools are no longer mandated to report COVID cases to parents, however we still do this at SFX as it allows us to see if we have particular classes where there may be an outbreak. Schools are no longer provided with 'free' COVID tests by the Victorian Government. Schools are no longer mandated to isolate students for 10, 7 or 5 days if they are COVID positive. Schools have both staff and students who are health compromised and where any flu like symptoms can be fatal. I have asked SFX staff to go into COVID protocols by using the class air purifiers, hand sanitise students on a regular basis during the day and socially distance where possible.

So how can SFX families help us get through this?

As much as we want students being at school every day for learning, if:

- Your child is unwell at home, they will not suddenly get better at school without bedrest. Using the new 4 in 1 flu tests at Pharmacies will indicate how long your child should stay home whilst infectious.
- If your child returns a positive COVID test we still suggest a 5 day period where they stay at home in isolation or at least until their nose stops running.
- ♣ Your child's class teacher is away through illness there
 is a high possibility that they will not be replaced and
 the class will be split. The demand on CRTs
 (replacement teachers) is extra-ordinary.
- If you or your child shows any signs of illness you wear a mask. These are available from the school office.
- Your child is sick at home they are resting and not playing video games and enjoying 'work from home'

The upcoming school holiday, which is still four weeks away, will provide some sort of a circuit breaker for the transmission of illness at SFX school. In the meantime take any precaution necessary to keep everyone healthy and happy.

SEMESTER ONE PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS.

When: Thursday 3rd July 2025 – 2pm to 8pm

A crucial component of the way we communicate a child's academic, social and spiritual progress at SFX is through three formal communication opportunities through the year.

Meet the Teacher – held in February each year

Semester 1 Report and Parent Teacher Interview- held in July

Semester 2 Report and Parent Teacher Interview – held in December.

Most other schools normally offer two opportunities. At SFX we offer **three** formal opportunities to meet with your child's classroom teacher during the year.

On **Thursday 3rd July from 2.00pm to 8pm** our Semester One Parent Teacher Interviews will take place for all students. Semester One school reports will be distributed to all families on Monday 30th June. This will give families three days to dissect, interpret and absorb their child's report, and bring discussion points to the Parent Teacher interview. **Interviews are strictly for 10 minutes** so please be on time as this will keep things flowing on the evening

The portal to book your Semester One Parent Teacher interview will open on this Friday 13th June at 9am.

Interviews are allocated on a 'First in, First Served' basis with popular times going quickly. This will be the only day that interviews will be offered and due to the new E.B.A for Catholic teachers no other time can be offered as it now forms part of their Time In Lieu (TIL) requirements.

All 2025 Semester One Parent Teacher Meetings will be held here at school in face-to- face mode.

A reminder that we will be offering Parent Teacher interviews with LEEP Intervention teachers for the first time this year for those students who attended LEEP in Semester 1 2025. These meeting are booked on the same portal.

Parents will need to log into:

https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/z4gzs

LEARNING AND TEACHING

At SFX, we continue to implement the **MACS Vision for Instruction**, a system-wide teaching and learning strategy introduced in early 2024 across all Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools. You may have heard the term coined in the media lately about schools "heading back to basics."

2025 - GROWING INTO GREATNESS

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we share that focus on strengthening the fundamentals and we are doing so through a forward thinking, evidence-based approach. Our teachers are engaged in ongoing professional learning grounded in the latest research on explicit instruction, a clear, structured method proven to support all learners effectively. We pride ourselves on delivering a curriculum that is engaging and targets students at their point of need. Cognitive Scientist Daniel Willingham, in his article *Why Don't Students Like School?*, explains that the human brain is not naturally designed for deep thinking. Instead, it prefers to avoid effort, relying on memory and past experiences to make quick decisions. Thinking, particularly when solving new problems, is slow and can be frustrating. But for students to truly grow and learn, they must engage in this kind of thinking, and it is our

At St Francis Xavier Primary School we help our students by breaking tasks into smaller, manageable parts and use repetition including previous taught material, rephrasing questions, visuals, and consistent routines to help store information in their long-term memory. Supporting students at just the right level that is not too easy, but not too hard is key. Encouraging persistence, asking guided questions, and modelling thinking strategies can help students develop the confidence and tools they need to engage with challenging work.

role to help them get there.

One of the strategies you may notice, or your child may talk to you about is what we refer to as 'Cold Call' where all students' names are on an icy pole stick, ready to be called out after the teacher poses a question.

Teachers may do some teaching, ask a question, give some thinking time or give an opportunity to turn & talk to a partner & then call on students by pulling a stick out. The beauty of this strategy is that **EVERYONE** remains engaged and mentally active: not just those who usually raise their hand. It also gives teachers immediate feedback on student understanding and helps strengthen long-term memory by encouraging every child to think and respond.

Through these intentional and research-informed practices, we are continuing to support confident, capable, and curious learners here at SFX and we thank you for your continued partnership on this journey.

Patrizia Rinaldo (L&T Leader), Deb Butler (Literacy Leader)

PARENTS ASSOCIATION THANK YOU

Last week we were delighted to receive a \$40,000 Gift Card (cheques are now defunct) from our hardworking and dedicated SFX Parents Association. This pays off the Showcourt #1 resurfacing and basketball/netball tower replacement. All the fundraising that happens in 2025 will go to paying off Showcourt #2. The SFX students love our new safe, colourful courts that they use each recess and lunchtime. Last week we even used them for Interschool Sport for the first time. They are the envy of schools around us. Always know

that every cent of SFX Parents Association Fundraising goes into legacy items for the students that they use each and every day.



SFX CONCESSIONAL FEES

A reminder to parents that it is not too late to hand in your valid Health Care card. If applicable and approved you are eligible for concessional fees at SFX School. Health care cards must be received by no later than **20th June 2025**. Please note the card must be in the name of the parent with the child listed below to be eligible. If you have already provided us with your details, no further action is required.

Susy Perizzolo – School Bursar

WORRIED LITTLE TUMMIES!

"My tummy hurts." It's a phrase we hear often in classrooms especially before school events, tests, or even just a busy morning. While sometimes it might be hunger or a genuine bug, other times it's something else: anxiety.

As teachers, we know that children don't always say, "I'm feeling anxious." Instead, their bodies and behaviours do the talking. That's why recognising the signs of anxiety is so important for both families and educators.

At SFX, supporting student wellbeing is at the heart of what we do. Every day, our staff work together to spot early signs of anxiety, make thoughtful adjustments, and create an environment where every child feels safe, seen, and supported.

What Does Anxiety Look Like in Children?

Anxiety isn't always obvious. It can appear in a range of ways: frequent tummy aches or headaches (especially before school), avoiding certain activities, or saying they feel "sick." You might also see tears, meltdowns, or a child becoming easily overwhelmed. Some children ask constant "what if" questions or seek reassurance, while others may struggle to sleep or suddenly withdraw from friends. These are all signs that a child might be feeling unsure, scared, or overwhelmed even if they can't explain why.

The Brain-Gut Link: It's Not Just in Their Head

Modern science tells us that the brain and gut are deeply connected through what's called the gut-brain axis. This explains why children often feel physically sick in the stomach when they're worried or stressed. In other words, those "worried tummies" are a real and valid physical response not something imagined or exaggerated. Knowing this helps us respond with empathy and care, rather than brushing off their feelings.

What We Do at School and How You Can Help at Home

At school, we make small but meaningful adjustments for students experiencing anxiety. This includes offering calm, quiet spaces, building predictable routines, checking in with students one-on-one, and encouraging brave moments even if they're small. Our wellbeing team works closely with staff and families to ensure students feel secure and supported. At home, families can use similar strategies to support anxious children. Stay calm and listen, offering reassurance like, "I can see you're feeling nervous. I'm here for you." Help your child name what they're feeling "It sounds like you might be feeling anxious" and stick to routines that reduce uncertainty. Practicing calming tools together, like deep breathing or gentle movement, can also make a big difference. Most importantly, celebrate bravery when your child tries something hard.

Helpful Aussie Websites for Families

If you'd like to explore further, here are some trusted Australian resources filled with practical advice and support: **Raising Children Network** – Expert parenting info tailored to Aussie families

Beyond Blue – Healthy Families – Support for children's mental wellbeing

Kids Helpline (Parents) – Advice for carers and 24/7 support for kids

Smiling Mind – Free mindfulness app designed for families and schools

Triplep Parenting-news, posts routines

Let's Keep Working Together

We know that when schools and families partner closely, great things happen. If you've noticed changes in your child's mood, behaviour, or confidence, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can help every child feel confident, capable, and calm — one small step at a time.

Deb Butler – Student Wellbeing Leader

SPORTS NEWS

Interschool Sport

Last Friday we played Montmorency South Primary School Football Boys SFX 12 to MSPS 79 Girls 34 SFX to MSPS 33 Netball Boys SFX 25 to 0 MSPS Girls SFX 16 to MSPS 18 Tennis Boys SFX 8 to MSPS 4 Girls SFX 2 to MSPS 10 Teeball Boys SFX 20 to MSPS 10 Soccer Boys SFX 0 to MSPS 9 Girls SFX 0 to MSPS 4

Cross Country

Congratulations to the 14 students who represented the school at the Nillumbik division cross country last Thursday. They all showed great determination and resilience in their various events. Special mention to Claudia and Jaxon who finished in the top ten and continue on to the Northern Region event

WELCOME TO SFX MRS. NOLEN

Last week we welcomed Mrs Nolen, our new SFX Principal to SFX for the first time. Our School Captains Anna and Eli gave a beautiful speech and presented Mrs. Nolen with a new indoor plant for her office. The symbolism was that our school theme in 2025 was "Growing Into Greatness" and it is our hope that like the indoor plant, Mrs. Nolen will help the students grow and flourish into something strong and beautiful. Mrs. Nolen was given a quick tour of SFX School, had morning tea with the SFX staff and enjoyed a Finance Briefing with Phil Nguyen SFX Business Manager, Adrian Scutt MACS Senior Manager and SFX School Leadership. As well as receiving the healthy plant, Mrs. Nolen was happy to accept a school that is in a very solid, healthy, viable financial position going forward into her Principalship.



BELATED FAREWELL MS TINA

Ms. Tina, who has been a Learning Support Officer at SFX for the past 5 years, has moved to Sacred Heart School Preston. This school is only 3 minutes from home and will save many hours sitting in a car each week. Ms. Tina has been an exceptional staff member. When I arrived at SFX in 2019 I was



thrilled that Ms Tina followed me and brought her immense talents with teaching junior students our way. We will miss Ms Tina, but wish her great times at her new school.

STAFFING NEWS - YEAR 3 HS

With Ms Serra soon to be heading off onto Parental Leave to have her first child, we are pleased to have appointed a replacement teacher to take over Year 3HS for Semester 2. The Year 3HS parents will have an opportunity to meet **Ms Kate Gallagher** at the upcoming Semester 1 Parent Teacher interviews. This will form part of the student information handover process between Ms Serra and Ms Gallagher for next semester. We are thrilled to have found someone of Ms Gallagher's experience and calibre for this mid-year appointment. We expect that Ms Gallagher will formally begin as the Year 3HS class teacher at the beginning of Term 3 2025

TERM TWO 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday 16th June – LOTE Mandarin Day 2025
Tuesday 17th June – School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Wednesday 18th June – School Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7pm
Wednesday 18th June – Regional Cross Country
Wednesday 18th June – Q & A session Revised Maths Curriculum @9am
Thursday 19th June – School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Wed 25th June– School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Thursday 26th June– School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Friday 27th June – 2025 SFX Disco 4.30pm to 6pm
Monday 30th June – Semester One Report Distributed

Monday 30th June— School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Thursday 3rd July – Semester 1 Parent Teacher Interviews – 2pm-8pm
Thursday 3rd July— School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am
Friday 4th July – Term 2 concludes at 1pm
Monday 21st July – Term 3 commences for P-6 students @ 8.55am
Monday 11th August –Book Week - author visit & character dress up
Monday 4th August – Year 3-4 Oasis Camp Mt Evelyn
Tuesday 5th August – Year 4 Oasis Camp Mt Evelyn
Monday 8th September – 2025 School Musical – Peter Pan @ 7pm
Tuesday 9th September – 2025 School Musical – Peter Pan @ 7pm
Wednesday 10th September – 2025 School Musical -Peter Pan @ 7pm
Friday 19th September – Term 3 concludes @ 1pm
Monday 6th October–Term 4 commences for P-6 students @ 8.55am
Tuesday 16th December – Term 4 concludes @ 1pm

Dads - You're Invited!

A Night to Say Thanks to Phil Cachia
Join us for a casual catch-up to thank and farewell outgoing
SFX Principal Phil Cachia for his leadership and dedication to
the school community.

When: Thursday 12 June, 7:30pm Where: Upstairs at Montmorency RSL

What: Pot & Parma night with the dads — relaxed, informal, no speeches/fuss and a great chance to say thanks in good company.

RSVP appreciated to Nick 0408578762 so the RSL knows how many are coming. Hope to see you there!

Spirit of Jesus Awards

Term Two, Week 7, 2025

Class	Student	Reason
РВМ	Isaac S	For coming to school each day ready to learn. You approach every task with determination and never give up. I'm so proud of you! Keep up the fantastic work.
PJV	Thuta	For always sharing your knowledge and experience during class discussions. You also listen respectfully to others and acknowledge their ideas. Thank You for being such a responsible and respectful learner and class member Thuta!
PRJ	Mila A	For the wonderful effort you put into all you do and the respect and concern you always show for your classmates. You often reach out to others in need and support them. Thanks for your kindness Mila!
1CM	Alfie H	For always bringing great ideas to our class discussions. It really shows that you are taking responsibility for your learning and thinking deeply. Well done!
1KH	Felix S	For demonstrating responsibility by trying your best in writing. You are putting in a

		fantastic effort to record the sounds you hear in words. Keep it up!
1LC	Stella C	For demonstrating great focus and care in her work. It has been fantastic to see how you have taken responsibility for your learning. Keep it up Stella.
288	Cody B	For being a respectful student that has demonstrated keen attentive listening during explicit instruction time. I love your contributions during UFLI, Inquiry and Writing sessions. Awesome effort Cody!
2SK	Stella M	For always showing the value of resilience in her learning and completing tasks to her very best! Well done Stella!
2SM	Jacob L	For showing such strong leadership skills in your role as SRC, particularly as you lead classroom discussions this week about our school. Keep up the fantastic work!
3DH	Flynn Y	Well done for the respectful manner in which you always interact with your peers and teachers. You set an excellent example!
ЗНЅ	Maya G	For showing our school value of respect and always going out of your way to be a beautiful friend. Keep up the great work, Maya!
4DO	Nate H	For approaching each day with a willingness to try and to be his best self. Like Jesus, who grew in wisdom and strength, Nate shows us what it means to grow into greatness, with a kind, determined spirit and a humble attitude. We are so proud of you Nate!
4MA	Griffin T	For being engaged in your learning and always participating. You contribute thoughtfully and make the most of every opportunity to grow. Well done Griffin!
5EG	Evie K	For always completing your work to a high standard. Your quiet work ethic does not go unnoticed. Keep up the amazing work.
5SN	Jacob K	For displaying the value of Resilience by working through an injury with no complaints and learning to work around only having one hand. Great work!
6АН	Charlotte	For your dedication to improving your mathematical skills. It has been wonderful to see you using the new scientific vocabulary that you have learnt in your written work. Keep up the wonderful work Charlotte.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Social Justice in action at SFX

Last Thursday, as part of our Religious Education Social Justice focus, we were fortunate to have three representatives from St Vincent De Paul join us for our morning assembly. Rosemary, Darrell and Anthony presented James, one of our 2025 Jubilee Captains, with a certificate of recognition. This certificate recognised the very generous support from our SFX community for the Vinnies Winter and Christmas Appeals last year.

Darrell also officially launched the Vinnies 2025 Winter Appeal. SFX students learnt how important food donations are for families in need within our own community. If you are able to donate dry goods to the Vinnies Winter Appeal (pasta, tuna, rice, UHT milk, cereal, tinned soup, biscuits, pasta sauce etc.) they can be left at the SFX office until the end of term, and will be most gratefully received. We look forward to once again enthusiastically supporting this very worthwhile appeal for those in need this Winter. Thank you for your ongoing support. - Megan Bird, Faith Leader.





James, SFX 2025 Jubilee Leader.

WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS:
Cans of baked beans, pasta, tuna, rice, noodles, UHT milk, cereal, tinned fruit, spreadsvegemite, jam, tinned soup, dry biscuits, crushed tomatoes, pasta sauce etc.













Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that LOTE Day will be held on Monday 16th June! This is a special day dedicated to celebrating the rich languages and cultures of our community.

Students will enjoy a variety of engaging cultural activities throughout the day, including cooking, craft, and other hands-on experiences that bring learning to life. One of the highlights of the day will be a Sichuan Face Changing performance incursion, where students will witness the fascinating art of Bian Lian – an ancient Chinese dramatic art that is sure to amaze!

Students are encouraged to dress in costume inspired by Chinese culture. Students who choose not to dress up are expected to wear their school uniform. Some costume ideas include:

- Traditional Chinese clothing
- Colours of the Chinese flag (red and yellow)
- Language-themed T-shirts
- Cultural accessories
- Characters from Chinese stories or folktales

We look forward to a colourful and exciting day of cultural discovery and celebration!



GARDENING CLUB NEWS

Growing our garden into greatness

EXCITING UPDATE!!!!

At the end of Term 1, one of our incredible PA Presidents, Mary, worked with us to apply for a government grant to help our budding garden really flourish. With the input of our Environmental Leaders, Camden and Ari, we applied for the Indigenous Connection for Native Pollinators Paradise project, and are very excited to announce that we were successful in our application. The money, which comes in at just shy of \$3000, will allow us to purchase plants and resources to help attract native pollinators to our beautiful garden. We are particularly keen to have visits from the Blue Banded bees, the Teddy Bear bees and the elusive Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Enormous thanks goes to Mary for the amount of time, research and effort that was put into the _____ proposal, we could not have done this without you!













The boys scoping out where to put their dream greenhouse to grow these native shrubs

Another big thanks goes to Mrs Vanderwert for her big donation of pots, and Emily Z, mum of Hazel and Holly, who kindly donated seeds at the start of the year. We have loved watching them sprout and grow. Our lettuce continues to thrive and our flower beds will look amazing



Veggie stall this week

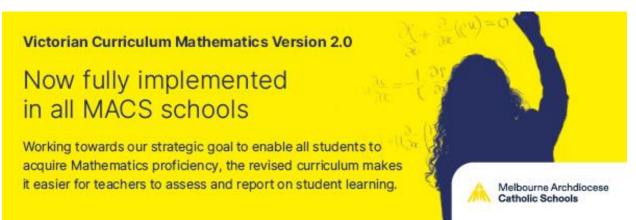
It's harvest time! We have some lovely lettuce, lemons and limes ready to be picked. These will be for sale after school on Friday 13/6 in front of the hall. Cash only.

All money raised goes straight back into vegetable purchases (which are not covered by our grant)





Important Update: Revised Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0



Dear Parents and Guardians.

We are excited to inform you about the latest update from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). The revised Mathematics Curriculum, Version 2.0, is now fully implemented in our school. Here are the key points you need to know:

- **New achievement standards:** The revised Mathematics Curriculum includes changes to the achievement standards used by teachers to assess and report student learning from Foundation to Year 10.
- **Aggregated reporting:** Under the new curriculum, teachers will report against the achievement standard as a whole, providing a single, aggregated score in Semester 1 and Semester 2.
- Alignment with local curriculum: Our school's teacher judgements align with our Mathematics Curriculum program.
- The initial Semester 1 report will <u>only show achievement</u>, while the Semester 2 report will display both achievement and growth for the strands covered in Semester 1.
- **Strand-level information:** Our school has recorded and used information from each of the six strands in Mathematics Version 2.0 to provide feedback on student progress.
- Guidance for reporting: As a school we decided to share strand-level achievement data within
 your child's school report, through outcomes marked against a five-point scale, as has been our
 practise in previous years.
- Holistic judgement: As a school our teachers use learning evidence from the strands taught each semester to make a holistic judgement that accurately reflects where your child is on the learning continuum for Mathematics Version 2.0.

We believe these updates will provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of your child's progress in Mathematics. If you have any questions or need further information, our Mathematics Leader, Sarah Karakaltses, will be holding an informal Q & A session on Wednesday 18th June at 9:00am in the staffroom which parents are welcome to attend.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thanks to Carmen Chehade who drew all our back drops in preparation for them to be painted at our parent musical working bee this Saturday! They look amazing!



We appreciate all parents who can offer any time!

<u>'Peter Pan' Parent Working Bee at SFX,</u> <u>Saturday 14th June (11-3pm)</u>

If you know you are able to attend part or all of Working Bee this Saturday it's 11-3. Please can you email Miss Beamont abeamont@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au. Any help is much appreciated!

Just a reminder if you are planning to come to please head to Performing Arts room to get signed in so Miss Beamont can delegate you a job!

Thanks in advance.

Hand-me-down to the Uniform Shop!

Got growing kids? Don't let too-small uniforms languish in the too-full cupboards - give them new lives, thanks to the SFX Uniform Shop!

You can donate any second-hand uniform items to the Uniform Shop, open Mondays 8.30am - 9am and Thursdays 3.15pm - 3.45pm, or to the Office labelled 'Uniform Shop'.

All donated items are passed onto grateful new owners for gold coin donations to the Parents Association - our Term 1 stall raised \$330 in just 30 minutes!

Stay tuned for the next second-hand stall coming soon!



FEATURING DJ PHIL ONE LAST TIME!

Friday 27th June at 4:30pm

Cost: \$15

Lolly bag will be given out to all students at the end of the night

6pm Pick Up A-K Families

6:15pm Pick Up L-Z Families

Book your tickets using QR code or via link: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1408135



Please note there will be no food provided on the night, please ensure your child is given a snack prior to arrival to get them through all the dancing!

Please ensure you bring a labeled drink bottle for the night as we have no cups for water on the night.

Rerross Pizza Fundraiser





Take the night off cooking!

PRE-ORDER ONLINE before 5pm on 20/06/2025

www.pierrosseltham.com.au

and write "St.Francis Xavier" at Checkout.

20% of all sales are donated back to the School and go towards paying off our Basketball Courts.

TERM 3 PA DATE -SAVERS/ SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Father's Day Stall - Thurs 4 Sept

Dads Day & Footy Colours - Fri 5 Sept

Tony's Pies Drive - Fri 5 Sept

School Musical - 8 - 10 SeptWant a starring role in the program?

Share your ideas for more fun events and fundraisers!



@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au