

## NEWSLETTER NO.23

7<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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

Dear Parents,

This will be my final newsletter as Principal of St. Francis Xavier School Montmorency. My estimates are that it is newsletter 880 in my career as a Principal of over 8000 teaching days since graduating from Mercy Teachers College Ascot Vale almost 40 years ago. I have seen tremendous changes in education over that time. Many new educational initiatives, many of which have gone the full 360° over that time. I have seen thousands of children move through my schools over the past 22 years as Principal.

I am grateful to have served the students and families of SFX. Our current Year 6 students were in Year Prep when I began here in November 2019. Thank you to Father Michael Sierakowski, who was my employer at the time, who had faith in me to lead his school. I am grateful that God has given me good health and longevity in the industry.

I sincerely thank the SFX community, members both past and present of the School Advisory Committees and SFX Parents Association, the families, the SFX Leaders and teachers, staff and students for allowing me to guide this community to great success and growth over the past 6 years, especially during the dark years of COVID and Remote Learning in 2020/2021. Special thanks to my support team in the school office, Ms Rinaldo, my Deputy of over 14 years, Ms Butler in Student Wellbeing, Ms Susy and Ms McCallum. They are outstanding and exemplary people

My number one objective over my career is to leave school each day knowing that I have improved the school in some way and leave a legacy. I hand on the keys of SFX Montmorency to Mrs Nolen; a school community that is flourishing, vibrant, focused on learning and is the ultimate school of choice in the Montmorency area. Thank you and may God bless you all.

*Mr. Cachia*

### **SFX ACHIEVES ITS BEST EVER NAPLAN SCORES**

Congratulations to our Year 3 & 5 students, their class teachers Ms Serra, Mr Heddle, Ms Gillogly and Mr Nugent, their Learning Support Officers, our English and Maths LEEP staff and all the teachers who have taught these children as a cohort in previous years for achieving these exemplary overall NAPLAN scores. It is a team effort that comes through a lot of hard work both at home and at school to achieve all ten areas of English and Maths (5 areas for Year 3 and 5 areas for Year

5) in the **GREEN** and above the Victorian averages. It is reported that in 2025 Victorian scores were the best in Australia. So when the National scores are released later in the year, the SFX NAPLAN scores will look even more complimentary. For those that may not be aware, our NAPLAN history has been quite patchy. This has especially changed over the past four years in particular:

**2014 – 6 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2015 – 5 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2016 – 7 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2017 – 5 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2018 – 6 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2019 – 4 out of 10 in the GREEN**

**2020 – No NAPLAN due to COVID**

**2021 – 8 out of 10 in the GREEN**

And then SFX students showed their true potential in the areas of English and Mathematics.

**2022 – 10 out of 10 in the Green**

**2023 – 10 out of 10 in the Green**

**2024 – 10 out of 10 in the Green**

**2025 – 10 out of 10 in the Green**

We are very proud to announce our scores for 2025.

| YEAR 3                | SFX Average | Victorian Average | +/- Variation | YEAR 5                | SFX Average | Victorian Average | +/- Variation |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Spelling              | 429         | 414               | +15           | Spelling              | 507         | 494               | +13           |
| Grammar & Punctuation | 445         | 422               | +23           | Grammar & Punctuation | 522         | 507               | +15           |
| Reading               | 452         | 417               | +35           | Reading               | 534         | 503               | +31           |
| Writing               | 450         | 424               | +26           | Writing               | 519         | 494               | +25           |
| Numeracy              | 466         | 418               | +48           | Numeracy              | 526         | 503               | +23           |

In the area of Numeracy that was our weakest 5 years ago, through great professional development and curriculum leadership by Ms Karakaltses and Ms Rinaldo, this area is now one of our strongest. We have been working as a school on lifting our spelling results over the past 18 months. Even this is showing early signs of improvement which is great reward for our Literacy Leader Ms Butler.

Our core subjects at SFX are English and Maths which is why such a high percentage of the teaching week is devoted to these two areas. These two core subject areas set up our students for life. Our school community (*and current Principal*) should be so happy and proud of our 2025 NAPLAN achievements.

Congratulations SFX – NAPLAN champions 2025

**2025 – GROWING INTO GREATNESS**

## **2025 SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION 'PETER PAN'**

We are so looking forward to our School Musical Production 'Peter Pan' that will be held at:

**Venue: Magis Performing Arts Centre - Loyola College**

**Dates: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm**

Tickets for all three nights open for sales on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 9am. Unlike previous years, this year there will be no limits on the amount of tickets you can purchase from the word go. By adding a third night we feel that we have sufficient capacity to be able to accommodate all attendees. However the SFX community always surprise me with how fast tickets sell so I would not delay if you intend to purchase multiple tickets for family and extended family. Even better this year, by having unrestricted sales, all family members will be able to sit together and choose where they sit. But you have to get in quick.

We have decided to keep ticket prices the same as in 2023.

**\$38 per adult ticket      \$22 per child/concession**

**Peter Pan Program - \$10**

SFX students who are performing will not need to purchase a ticket in the audience. Your ticket cost includes a link to the video of each of the productions. No more add on video sales. Now that's great value and a great memento for each family. Tickets can only be purchased through the QR code below or through this link:

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



This promises to be one of the great SFX highlights of 2025. Our Year 5/6 lead actors have been rehearsing during their lunchtimes, our costumes look amazing, and our performance will bedazzle you. There's lots of hard work and preparation ahead. Ms Beamont our Performing Arts Teacher, Ms Kristina our Choreographer and the SFX staff are looking forward to giving you a night to remember. So now let's get on with the show!

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **Thanks**

Thank you to all parents for your support getting the core costumes ready for the photoshoot day. The photoshoot last Wednesday with Vanessa O'Connell went so well and the students looked amazing. Thanks to Vanessa O'Connell for all the photos taken for this. Also thank you to Belinda McParland who helped Miss Beamont on the day.

#### **Core Costumes – to school by Week 5**

Please can students bring in their core costumes by Week 5 in a labelled bag and give to their class teacher. These will be handed back to students the day of the first performance and students are to wear their core costume to the theatre each night of the shows.

#### **Items needed for props**

If anyone has any of the following items, please can we borrow them for our forthcoming show of Peter Pan. They will be returned after! 3 oars for small boat. 2 x small wooden stools

### **LETTER OF THE MONTH**

The staff love to receive emails such as this. It is an acknowledgment of their efforts and encourages to continue to go beyond what is expected of a primary school. Please keep sending them. They are always a great sign of a positive, appreciative learning community.

*Hi Prep Team – teachers and LSO's  
My child woke up so excited morning for today and was not disappointed. Finishing off the day with, 'today was the best day ever!'. Thank you for making such a milestone day, a very special one for all the kids. The huge effort was noticed by all – the posters, the decorated rooms, your costumes, 'party' bags and the activities throughout the day. We are so grateful for you all and for all you do.*

This is in reference to the Prep celebration of 100 days of school at SFX. What a blast.....

**2025 – GROWING INTO GREATNESS**

# Spirit of Jesus Awards

Term Three, Week Two, 2025

| Class | Student         | Reason   |
|-------|-----------------|--|
| PBM   | Chloe L         | For the kindness you show to others. Your actions make those around you smile and feel valued and included. Well Done Chloe!   |
| PRJ   | Ari M           | For being a caring member of Prep RJ. He is always willing to help others in need and shows kindness to them when they are sad or hurt. Thanks Ari!  |
| 1CM   | Tommy L         | For showing resilience and always trying your best during our UFLI sessions. Your determination to sound out words shows how much your confidence and commitment to learning is growing. Keep it up!     |
| 1KH   | John C          | For always showing a kind heart and being a wonderful encourager to others. You brighten our classroom with your positive words and caring spirit. Thank you for helping others feel happy and included. |
| 1LC   | Cleo G          | For demonstrating this term's value of kindness in all that you do. It has been wonderful to have such a caring and considerate student in 1LC. Keep it up Cleo!   |
| 2BB   | James K         | For staying focused during learning time and trying super hard to understand new concepts in UFLI and Reading. Keep up the good work you little legend!  |
| 2SK   | All of Year 2SK | For the incredible effort you have been putting into our assembly rehearsals. I know you will be amazing! 😊  |
| 2SM   | Isabella K      | For the fantastic engagement you show for your learning each and every day. You are always listening, volunteering and showing a positive and bright attitude. Keep it up Bella!                         |
| 3DH   | Whole class     | Well done for the time and effort you put in at school and at home to practise your parts for our class assembly. Great work!  |

|     |            |  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 3HS | Elliott J  | For always putting in your best effort and working hard to complete your tasks to a high standard. Well done, Elliott!   |
| 4DO | Benjamin B | Ben lives out the kindness of Jesus each day through his gentle nature, generous heart, and willingness to care for others. He always looks for ways to include those around him and brings peace and positivity to our classroom. Ben's actions remind us of the way Jesus loved others—with patience, understanding, and compassion. |
| 4MA | Eliza K    | For always trying your best and giving things a go, even when something feels new or challenging. Your courage and positive attitude make a big difference. Well done Eliza!   |
| 5EG | Liliana D  | For demonstrating kindness by always offering to lend a helping hand to others and showing maturity by working well with anyone.   |
| 6AH | Ayden FJ   | For working hard to complete your tasks on time and to a high standard. You've made an impressive start to your Memory Book—keep up the great work!  |
| 6DM | Matilda M  | For showing a focused and determined attitude towards your learning. I was particularly impressed with your effort to understand Cartesian planes. You should be proud of your consistent approach Matilda!  |

## SPORT'S NEWS

### Interschool Sport

This week we travelled to Montmorency South Primary School. Results are as follows:

| ROUND 2 - 1st August |     | Basketball                                  | Volleyball                      | Cricket   | Downball      | Softball     |
|----------------------|-----|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| Montmorency South    | SFX | MSPS Boys Won 79-22<br>MSPS Girls Won 41-10 | MSPS Boys Won<br>MSPS Girls Won | MSPS Boys Won 179 - 90<br>SFX Girls Won 95 - 85 | SFX Won 9 - 5 | TIE: 11 - 11 |

This week we have a Bye.

2025 - GROWING INTO GREATNESS



### Teeball

This Thursday our Teeball team will play Upper Plenty at Mill Park Diamond on Thursday at 10:15am

### Athletics

On Tuesday 12th our Athletics team will compete in the Montmorency District Athletics carnival at Meadowglen. Notes have been sent home to those students who have been selected.

### Active To School

This week our Sport's Captains have been collating results of our efforts over the four weeks in being more active in the way we have travelled to school. These results will be published next week. We congratulate all students who took part and thank the parents who have supported this initiative. Hopefully now that the weather is starting to improve more by continue do this.

### STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS

SFX will be participating in the government initiative **Bullying No Way: National Week of Action** from **Tuesday 12th August to Friday 16th August**. Throughout the week, students will engage in a variety of activities during their wellbeing sessions to promote kindness, respect, and a sense of belonging. This year's theme is

**Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up**, encouraging everyone to play a role in preventing bullying by fostering safe and supportive environments. As part of our participation, we ask that students wear a touch of **purple** on **Thursday 15th August**—purple is the campaign's hero colour, symbolising peace, strength, and a united stand against bullying.

*Ms Deb Butler – Student Wellbeing Leader*

### TERM THREE/FOUR 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August – School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Farewell Mass for Philip Cachia @ 12.30pm / Feast of Mary MacKillop – Australia's first Saint  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Welcome Mrs Nolen – Principal of SFX  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August -Book Week - author visit & character dress up  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Musical Tickets 'Peter Pan' on sale (TBC)  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August–School Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7pm  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August–School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 9.30 am - Welcome Mass Mrs Nolen / Feast of the Assumption  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August –School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Parents Association Meeting @ 7pm  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September – 2025 MACSSIS Survey opens for parents  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September–School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Fathers' Day Stall  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Fathers' Day Breakfast/Footy Colours Parade  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September – 2025 School Musical – Peter Pan @ 7pm  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – 2025 School Musical – Peter Pan @ 7pm  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – 2025 School Musical -Peter Pan @ 7pm  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September – School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September — School Tour for Prospective Parents @ 11.30am  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – MACSSIS Parent Survey closes  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Term 3 concludes @ 1pm  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October–Term 4 commences for P-6 students @ 8.55am  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Term 4 concludes @ 1pm



**FIREBALL TENNIS!**

GROUP LESSONS, PRIVATE LESSONS  
& SQUADS NOW RUNNING!

BOOK A **FREE TRIAL LESSON** NOW!

**0422 270 224**  
memberservices@fireballtennis.com.au  
fireballtennis.com.au

YALLAMBIE TENNIS CLUB, SFX TENNIS CLUB  
& GREYTHORN PARK TENNIS CLUB

BOOK HERE: 

*This is a paid advertisement in the school newsletter*



**BOYS**  **GIRLS**

**RIVERSIDE CRICKET CLUB  
JUNIOR CRICKET 2025/26**

**REGISTRATION OPEN**

**UNDER 10 - UNDER 16**

 **REGISTRATION QR CODE**

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS CONTACT  
JUNIOR COORDINATOR STEPH TAVELLA  
**TEXT 0422 018 356**

**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**

**2025 – GROWING INTO GREATNESS**



# 100 DAYS of school

**On 31st July, our Preps celebrated 100 Days of School.**

**These first 100 days have been filled with discovery, determination, and joy. Students have learned new words, solved problems creatively, built friendships, and shown kindness each day.**

**We are so proud of our Preps and the confident, curious learners they are becoming.**







# ATTENTION PARENTS

**YOU ARE WELCOME  
TO JOIN US IN  
THE DISCOVERY  
CENTRE AUG 11 @  
12:30 TO LISTEN TO  
MORRIS GLEITZMAN  
PRESENT**

Bring along any copies of his  
books for book signing



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRESENTS....

DAILY  
TREASURE  
HUNTS  
+ PRIZES

## BOOK AN ADVENTURE

BOOK WEEK 2025

YEAR THREE-FOUR  
AUTHOR VISIT:  
GEORGE IVANOFF

TREASURE MAP  
MAKING  
FRI 15<sup>TH</sup> @ RECESS

PAPER PLANE MAKING  
TUES 12<sup>TH</sup> @ RECESS

BOOK CHARACTER  
PARADE  
MON 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 9AM  
ON BASKETBALL COURT

COLOURING  
COMPETITIONS  
+ PRIZES

PREP-YEAR TWO  
TREASURE HUNT  
INCURSION

WEEKLY QUIZ  
+ PRIZES





# Farewell & Best Wishes Mr Cachia!

May God bless you with good health and happiness as you begin your retirement journey. With grateful thanks from the staff, students & families at SFX.

## A prayer for a happy retirement

Dear Father God,

Thank you for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank you for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, for the wisdom that comes through experience, and for the freedom that is given with retirement.

Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that has come from the work of many years, and thank you that you still anoint and use us always, in all seasons. We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life.

And now Lord, we ask for your blessing. May there be good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forwards and each day that follows.

In Jesus name,  
**AMEN**

*Farewell Mass  
for Mr Cachia* &  
*Feast of St Mary  
of the Cross MacKillop*  
**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025  
12.30PM**

*St Francis Xavier Church*





# Sign up for PA's big Sept!

45K

We know it's a big term - and the Parents Association has helpfully put all its Term 3 events in one big week!

On **Thursday 4 September** it's the **Father's Day Stall** AND **Tony's Pie Drive**!

Then **Friday 5 September** is the **Dads' Morning and Footy Colours Parade**!

We need 30+ volunteers to support these fun events - please sign up if you can spare an hour, or more!

Much thanks to parents volunteering their time and creativity to lead these events:

Father's Day Stall: **Susan Roberts**

Pie Drive: **Jane Fraser**

Dads Morning/ Footy Colours: **Brooke Nankervis, Emma O'Malley, Renee Dellar**

Thank you!

[volunteersignup.org/CDM8K](https://volunteersignup.org/CDM8K)



## FATHER'S DAY STALL

Shifts 8am - 2pm, Thurs 4 Sept

Fun one-hour commitment to help students select and buy gifts for dads, grandfathers, pops, etc! Or, lend muscle for set-up, pack down.

## TONY'S PIE DRIVE

1pm - 3.30pm, Thurs 4 Sept

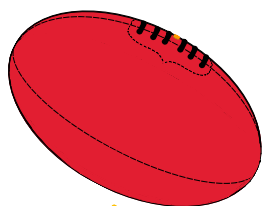
Sort the bulk delivery to meet orders for this popular money-spinner, and make sure pie bundles reach the happy customers!



## DADS' MORNING & FOOTY COLOURS PARADE

7.45am - 9.30am, Fri 5 Sept

Set-up, serve sweet treats, sell raffle tickets, help run handball comp and other activities, to give our dads and granddads a fun morning with the kids!



**Father's Day Stall, Footy Colours & Pie Drive are the big PA events in Term 3 - thanks for supporting! (Paid-off sports courts getting closer...)**

30K

20K

10K





## St Francis Xavier

We have organised with **Tony's Pies of Essendon** to conduct a fundraising pie drive. Tony's Pie's will supply us with a range of their freshly baked pies, pasties, quiches and sausage rolls on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**.

**Last day to order is midnight, Monday, September 1, 2025.**

All the products will be freshly baked and will be suitable to go straight into the freezer if you wish.

So order up BIG. Remember, the more you order the more we make.

We **need** the support of **everyone** to make this fundraising a success.

| Product Per 1/2 Dozen          | Our Instore Retail Price | Special Pie Drive Price To You | Family                         | Our Instore Retail Price | Special Pie Drive Price To You |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Steak Pies                     | \$45                     | \$39                           | Steak Pie                      | \$20                     | \$18                           |
| Steak & Mushroom               | \$45                     | \$39                           | Steak & Mushroom               | \$20                     | \$18                           |
| Steak & Cheese                 | \$45                     | \$39                           | Steak & Cheese                 | \$20                     | \$18                           |
| Chicken & Vegetable            | \$45                     | \$39                           | Chicken & Vegetable            | \$20                     | \$18                           |
| Bacon, Tomato & Cheese Quiche  | \$45                     | \$39                           | Bacon, Tomato & Cheese Quiche  | \$16                     | \$14                           |
| Spinach, Onion & Cheese Quiche | \$45                     | \$39                           | Spinach, Onion & Cheese Quiche | \$16                     | \$14                           |
| Pasties                        | \$45                     | \$39                           | Pasties                        | \$20                     | \$18                           |
| Sausage Rolls                  | \$27                     | \$24                           | Apple Pie                      | \$15                     | \$13                           |
| Party Pies                     | \$15                     | \$12                           | Apple/Blueberry Pies           | \$15                     | \$13                           |
| Spinach & Cheese Rolls         | \$29.40                  | \$26                           |                                |                          |                                |
| Mac & Cheese Rolls             | \$29.40                  | \$26                           |                                |                          |                                |
| Lasagna Rolls                  | \$29.40                  | \$26                           |                                |                          |                                |
| Apple Pies                     | \$45                     | \$39                           |                                |                          |                                |
| Apple/Blueberry Pies           | \$45                     | \$39                           |                                |                          |                                |

To start ordering open your smartphone camera and hold it over the QR code till the link pops up.



Or copy and paste the link below into your browser to start ordering on your PC.

<https://tonyspiedrives.com.au/fundraiser/st-francis-xavier-2>



## What's been happening...

The children have been enjoying some fantastic activities and the smiles say it all.

These have included Science experiments, Shaving Foam art, Cooking club (Pinwheels-the recipe is nearby), making Christmas craft such as cards, reindeers etc and fun in the hall and the great outdoors.

With Chanel due to return soon we bid Sammy a fond farewell (she will be back on Monday afternoons) and thank her for the wonderful job she did in keeping the service running.

Linda and the team helped the Preps celebrate 100 days of Learning and look forward to spending even more time with the children providing exciting activities to keep them happy and engaged.

Our menu included chicken and corn soup, vegetable spring rolls, toasties and all served with Fresh Fruit and Veg platters.

Hopefully we will see you at the service very soon so we can share more adventures.

## Recipe for you at home

### PINWHEELS

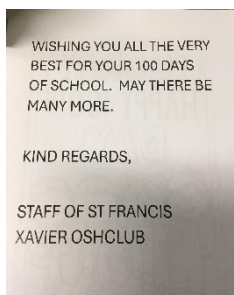
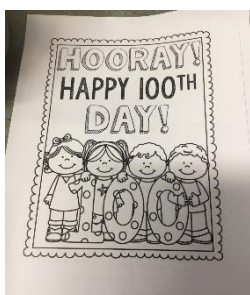
#### Ingredients:

Puff Pastry Sheets  
Vegemite  
Tomato Paste  
Shredded Cheese

#### Method:

1. Thaw pastry sheets.
2. Spread entire sheet with a light layer of Vegemite or Tomato paste.
3. Sprinkle with Shredded cheese avoiding the edges.
4. Roll tightly length ways.
5. Cut into bitesize portions and place on baking paper covered tray.
6. Cook in pre-heated oven (180c) for 20 mins or until golden brown.
7. Enjoy.

## Photo gallery...



## Coming up...

**STEM Activities:** This week as listed below. These come at NO EXTRA COST to families.

### **Clubs:**

**Tuesdays Stay and Play**

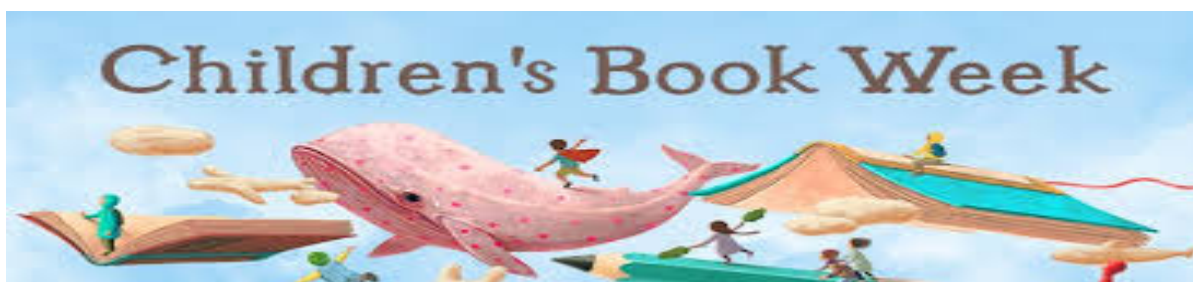
Science Activities – Elephant's Toothpaste

**Thursdays Stay and Play:**  
Cooking Club - Icecream

**Friday Rise and Shine AND Stay and Play:**

Fridav Fundav (new theme each week)

## Book Week 2025 Quiz #3



**Drawn August 13th @ 11:50am**

**Name:**

**Class:**

*Answer the following questions to go into the draw to win a prize! Entries must be handed in by Wednesday 13th August 9:00am. Entry box located out the front of the Discovery Centre. Drawn after Recess.  
Good luck :)*

### QUESTION 1

**I followed a white rabbit, fell down a hole, and had tea with a mad hatter.**

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### QUESTION 2

**I'm a spider who writes words in my web to save a pig's life.**

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### QUESTION 3

**I wear underpants, I fight talking toilets, and I'm actually a school principal in disguise!**

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