

## NEWSLETTER NO.1

30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

Dear SFX Families,  
Welcome back to school and 2025. The Year of Jubilee in the Catholic Church calendar. A year of 200 great school days in the year ahead. We welcome new families to our school. We hope that your stay with us is a rewarding and fruitful experience and that your children flourish in their learning in the years ahead. We welcome all the new staff to SFX school. This year we have added a further 10 staff as a result of the growth in student numbers. We now have 54 SFX staff, who in their own roles, have been looking forward to the beginning of the school year. The students have returned to a fantastic looking basketball/netball court. They are now safe to use and are of competition quality. Thanks to the SFX Parents Association, who with your support, have raised around 50% of the cost of the courts, with the other 50% of the funds being raised in the 2025 school year. (Total cost \$85,000). It is so wonderful to give SFX students high quality learning and recreational facilities at the school.



Our school theme for 2025 is:

## **GROWING INTO GREATNESS**

Indeed I have felt the impetus of this energy of growth and change since I began my Principalship at SFX in November 2019. Even faced with the difficult COVID and Remote Learning years of 2020/2021 we soldiered on and tried to put our best foot forward as a school and we were successful. Now suddenly the fruits of our endeavors, the changes and new processes are showing signs of success and families are flocking to us as the destination school in the Montmorency area. Thank you for having this faith in us and the direction we want our school to head in. Last year as a school, our students, staff and parents sat down and developed a new Vision and Mission statement 2025-2030. Today we launch our new Vision and Mission statement into our community. It says so much about where we want to take our school over the next 5 years, what our ambition is for SFX school and the students. I hope you like it too. It will guide our actions and direction and that of all our stakeholders: staff, students, parents, School Advisory Committee, SFX Parents Association.....everyone.



**St Francis Xavier Primary School Montmorency**

**Vision Statement**  
St Francis Xavier Primary School: A **faith** community inspiring all learners to thrive today, excel tomorrow and lead with **compassion**.

**Mission Statement**  
**Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, St Francis Xavier Primary School is an integral part of Risen Christ Parish.**

We are a community built on a strong foundation of faith, kindness and compassion. We develop positive relationships and a strong sense of belonging.

Through high quality explicit teaching and diverse educational opportunities, we provide an engaging and exciting curriculum.

We nurture and support students to be happy, inquisitive, determined and confident learners.

At St. Francis Xavier Primary School, we welcome and respect all.



### **MEET THE TEACHER YEAR PREP TO 6**

This will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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/b64hs> or you can QR code to open the link on a phone. Please note that registration for these interviews closes on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9am.



### **SFX SCHOOL PROTOCOLS**

St Francis Xavier School goes to extraordinary lengths to keep all children safe and secure. Some of the things you can do as parents to assist in running our school are:

- Children are to be at school no earlier than **8.40**

*2025 - GROWING INTO GREATNESS*

**a.m.** This is when a teacher begins Kiss & Drop Duty and the yard duty teacher goes onto the basketball courts to begin supervision. Don't forget that OSHClub runs a great service to parents and is open from 7am each school day. (*Charges apply – Please be enrolled in the service*)

- Children are to be picked up at the end of the day by **3.40pm**. There will be two staff members rostered on the Kiss & Drop area until 3.40 pm. Any child not picked up by 3.40 p.m. will be taken to OSH After School Care for their own safety (*Charges apply – Please be enrolled in the service*).
- Parents should ensure that if children are running late for school and it is after 8.55am, **parents get out of their car and accompany their child to the office to sign the child in using the Passtab machine in the office.** Please note that the school gates are locked at 9.15am each day and the only way to access the school after this is through the Mayona Road gate.

- Parents should ensure that they drive slowly and safely into Kiss & Drop when dropping off and picking up their child. Be patient, courteous and conscious of little children who do not have the same peripheral vision and experience around traffic that adults do. Parents need to be conscious that we live in a neighbourhood and that we need to respect the rights of neighbours entering and exiting their properties. You can do this by parking legally at all times and never in front of someone's driveway.

- If you choose to park your car in the school carpark for afternoon pick up, you need to enter the carpark before 3:20 pm and you **MUST** pick up your child from inside the school grounds and walk them safely to your car, using the crossing.

**At no point are children to be waved across the road to you waiting at the car past Kiss and Drop oncoming traffic. This is a dangerous practice and puts your child's life and that of others at risk. Crossing between the Kiss and Drop cars is also not a wise or safe practice.**

- **If parents have a concern or question, the first port of call is always the classroom teacher.** 99% of concerns are resolved at this level. As Principal, I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss any matter or concern, however I limit these Parent meeting times with the Principal to 9 am, 9.30am and 10 am each morning. This allows me to devote equal times to other parts of my work: the staff, the students, administration and observing student learning. I will always ask whether you have spoken to the teacher FIRST about an issue, prior to coming to me with a concern or question.

### THE MOST IMPORTANT SCHOOL PROTOCOL FOR PARENTS

Parents should never approach a child or the parents of that child about a school related matter.

If a parent has a concern or issue they must always raise this with the classroom teacher.

**Your child's safety and security are paramount.**

Please consider the implications of not following these school expectations.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school it is important that you go onto the school website and click the **"ABSENCE"** button. Fill in the required information and send. It is crucial that you do this **BEFORE** 9 a.m when attendance rolls are taken in all classes. Under Victorian Government legislation you will be informed by SMS if your child has not arrived at school and you have not informed the school by email or by phone. The form that you fill in on the website also forms part of the Student Absence documentation required to be kept by schools for the next 7 years.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT 2025

St. Francis Xavier School expects high standards with student behaviour at all times. This allows all students to learn in a happy and safe school environment. The students of SFX are very well versed on the four values of being **Respectful, Resilient, Responsible & Kind**. (*Parents will have noticed that we have changed one of our school values to "KIND". This came out of consultations with the SFX community, in particular the students, when devising our Vision/Mission statements last year*)

Underlying these values is always a set of rules and expectations that make our school and learning spaces happy and productive for all. There are six school rules for the children to follow and my #1 expectation which is **"Hands Off!"**. When followed this prevents about 95% of all problems and injuries that occur at school.

1. **Follow all directions**
2. **Use your hands, feet and objects in an appropriate way**
3. **Listen without interruption**
4. **Speak appropriately**
5. **Treat all people and property with care**
6. **Move safely around the school**

As part of this week's learning, students have been breaking open what our values and school rules mean to them. I would ask that all parents reinforce these values and rules with the children, maybe even using them as a springboard at home as they have always been shown to have a dramatic effect on improving student behaviour.

Each term we also focus on one of our school values, to better understand what it means and reward students who show these values in day to day school life.

## UPDAT-ED: THE SFX SCHOOL APP



Updat-Ed is part of our communication and Emergency DISPLAN system here at school. We are able to communicate instantly with parents through PUSH NOTIFICATIONS. The Updat-Ed app is free and is downloaded from the App Store. Newsletters and other important information is shared with any school parent who has a mobile phone. Please take the time to download the App especially if you are a busy parent who just needs a little prod every now and then through a PUSH NOTIFICATION (*like me!!!!*)

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

The School Newsletter will be published on a weekly basis in 2025 and distributed on a Thursday. It is our main form of communication with families and it is important that families read it to keep up to speed with what is happening at school. Many of the calls the office takes each week are questions that have been addressed in the weekly school newsletter. So that we have comprehensive coverage across all families, weekly newsletters will be published in **five** forms;

1. **Newsletter in hardcopy.** If you wish to **opt out** of a hardcopy newsletter each week please email [principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au). I understand that environmental reasons may be of concern, but for some a newsletter that sits on a kitchen counter at home until it gets read is better than an email that will simply get deleted or sit in a spam folder.
2. **Newsletter by email.** If you go onto the School website at [www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au) there is a button where you can subscribe to this feature. This is our E-Newsletter.
3. **Newsletter on the School website.** Go to the School Newsletter button to view the current and past newsletters
4. **Newsletter on the SFX Updat-Ed App** directly to your mobile phone
5. **Newsletter on the SFX Parents Association Facebook site** is uploaded each week.

By publishing the weekly school newsletter in these five formats we get maximum communication coverage and then there are few excuses from parents to say that they were not informed.

## **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 on the upper playground rather than play with their friends around the playground.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### **Beginning of Year Mass**

We warmly welcome families to join us next Tuesday 4th February, 9.30am in the SFX Church, for our Beginning of Year Mass / Staff Commissioning Ceremony. All welcome!

### **2025 Sacramental Program**

A note regarding the 2025 Sacramental Program has been sent home today for children in Years Four, Five and Six. Please note these important dates in your diary. Our 2025 Sacramental Program will commence with the Reconciliation Faith Formation Night for parents *and* students, on Monday 10th February at 7pm in the SFX Church. Please see the Sacramental Program note for further details. Thank you.



*Megan Bird - Faith Leader*

## **CSEF – CAMPS , SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND**

For those families who hold a current and valid Health Care Card, the Victorian Government gives you \$125 per year that you can pay towards your Student Levy (excursions) and School Camp if your child is in Year 3,4,5 or 6. This really assists those families who may struggle to send their child to school camp or pay for the excursion component of their Student Levy. All you need to do is produce a copy of your Health Care Card at the office and fill in the attached link. It's as easy as that....all families, even those who filled in the form last year, must fill in the 2025 form to qualify.

Here's the link to the 2025 form: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/resources>

Please note that late applications cannot be accepted.

## **ASSESSMENT & TESTING DAY – FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY**

Rather than having a delayed start to the school year as many schools do these days, we at SFX school want students at school for as many days as possible. Tomorrow all students in Year 1-6 will take part in a series of English and Maths assessments with their classroom teacher. This will give us an early picture of the starting point for each child in each class. Please ensure that:

- Your child is at school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January as per usual
- That they are well rested and have a nutritious breakfast
- That they are at school on time

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We are so looking forward to working with you and your family during the 2025 school year. We will continue to 'Grow Together in Greatness' with each school day in a true learning partnership. Supporting each other through positive words and actions.

Philip Cachia  
Principal

**INTERESTED IN  
PLAYING U10  
OR U12 GIRLS  
FOOTY IN  
2025?**

**JOIN THE  
MAGPIE  
ARMY!**

CONTACT OUR  
COORDINATORS TO  
BE KEPT UP TO DATE  
ON PRESEASON 2025!

**GIRLSFOOTY@MJFNC.ORG.AU**

**2025 – GROWING INTO GREATNESS**

# PERSONNEL 2025



|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Parish Moderator</b> | Father Michael Sierakowski |
| <b>Principal</b>        | Philip Cachia              |
| <b>Deputy Principal</b> | Patrizia Rinaldo           |

|                      |                     |         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| <b>YEAR PREP RJ</b>  | Rosemary Johnson    | Room 6  |
| <b>YEAR PREP JV</b>  | Joanne Vanderwert   | Room 7  |
| <b>YEAR PREP BM</b>  | Brianna Morgan      | Room 8  |
| <b>YEAR ONE CM</b>   | Caitlin Moore       | Room 4  |
| <b>YEAR ONE LC</b>   | Lauren Cassar       | Room 1  |
| <b>YEAR ONE KH</b>   | Kate Hoseason       | Room 3  |
| <b>YEAR TWO SM</b>   | Stephanie Mezzalira | Room 15 |
| <b>YEAR TWO SK</b>   | Sarah Karakaltses   | Room 17 |
| <b>YEAR TWO BB</b>   | Bridgeen Bourke     | Room 16 |
| <b>YEAR THREE DH</b> | David Heddle        | Room 12 |
| <b>YEAR THREE HS</b> | Hannah Serra        | Room 11 |
| <b>YEAR FOUR MA</b>  | Michelle Ahn        | Room 19 |
| <b>YEAR FOUR DO</b>  | Daniela Overton     | Room 18 |
| <b>YEAR FIVE EG</b>  | Emily Gillogly      | Room 23 |
| <b>YEAR FIVE SN</b>  | Stephen Nugent      | Room 22 |
| <b>YEAR SIX DM</b>   | David Mithen        | Room 20 |
| <b>YEAR SIX AH</b>   | Anna Hanley         | Room 21 |

### SPECIALIST TEACHERS & PROGRAM COORDINATORS:

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Learning &amp; Teaching Leader P-6</b> | Patrizia Rinaldo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |
| <b>Faith Leader</b>                       | Megan Bird                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                    |
| <b>Student Wellbeing/Diversity</b>        | Debra Butler                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                    |
| <b>Numeracy Leader</b>                    | Sarah Karakaltses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                    |
| <b>Literacy Leader</b>                    | Deb Butler                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                    |
| <b>School Counsellor</b>                  | Bernadette Douglas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                           |
| <b>LOTE - Mandarin</b>                    | Mengyi Qi<br>Joyce Fang                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Year 2- 6<br>Year P,1                              |
| <b>Visual Arts teacher</b>                | Briohny O'Connor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |
| <b>Performing Arts</b>                    | Alexandra Beaumont                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                    |
| <b>Discovery Centre</b>                   | Siobhan Morello<br>Erin Loader                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Year 2 – 6<br>Year Prep /Year 1                    |
| <b>Discovery Centre Technician</b>        | Barbara Johnston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |
| <b>Physical Education</b>                 | Brian Anderson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                    |
| <b>Digital Technologies</b>               | Michael Park<br>Siobhan Morello                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Year 2 - 6<br>Year Prep / Year 1                   |
| <b>STEM</b>                               | Michael Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                    |
| <b>Year Prep</b>                          | <b>English Intervention</b><br>From Semester 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Mathematics Intervention</b><br>From Semester 2 |
| <b>Junior Intervention Year 1,2,3</b>     | <b>English Intervention</b><br>Claire Jenkinson<br>Megan Bird                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Mathematics Intervention</b><br>Gisella Tierney |
| <b>Senior Intervention Year 4,5,6</b>     | <b>English Intervention</b><br>Carmel Vadala                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Mathematics Intervention</b><br>Kate Godden     |
| <b>Year 1 – 6 Enrichment</b>              | Kate Godden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                    |
| <b>POL Release –</b>                      | <b>Maths Leader</b> Sarah Karakaltses<br><b>Marketing, Media, Promotions (0.5)</b> David Mithen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Alexandra Beaumont<br>Erin Loader                  |
| <b>Learning Support Officers</b>          | Prep JV Prep BM Prep RJ → Nancy Carabella ( M,T) / Lina Radatti (W,TH,F) Sarah Hale (M → F)<br>Year 1 KH Year 1 CM Year 1 LC → Tina Marino ( M,T,TH,F) Sue (W)/ Vanessa Burns (M → F )<br>Year 2 SM Year 2 SK Year 2 BB → Silvia Gruevski (M, W,TH) Brigitte Maguire (T, F) / Grace Waldron (M → F)<br>Year 3 DH Ruby McCallum (M,T,W) / Sue Kennedy (TH,F) Year 3 HS Lyla Hussey (M → F)<br>Year 4 DO Brigitte Maguire (W,TH) Izabella Sensi (M,T,F) Year 4 MA Jacob Krins (M → F)<br>Year 5 SN Susan Velkovski (M→F) Year 5 EG Bernadette Douglas (M, T, W, F) / Barbara Johnston (TH)<br>Year 6 AH Sue Kennedy (M) Joel Anderson (T, W ,TH, F) Year 6 DM Danielle Stackpoole (M → F) |                                                    |
| <b>School Office Manager</b>              | Anne McCallum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                    |
| <b>School Bursar/Icon Database</b>        | Susy Perizzolo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                    |
| <b>Maintenance Manager</b>                | Michael Angiolella                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                    |

# SFX PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2025: COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, FUN!

Who is the SFX Parents Association? If you're a parent or caregiver of an SFX student - it's you!

Every school family automatically has membership of the PA, which exists to encourage **community** and **connection**, and to **fundraise** for school projects. (In 2025, funds raised will pay for the second half of our spectacular new basketball/netball courts!)

Just as important, in 2025 we want to keep the focus on **fun** - with events and activities to include all students, parents and the wider SFX family!

All parents are invited to share their ideas, feedback and contributions - email [president.sfxpa@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:president.sfxpa@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au) anytime - or come and say hi at the first monthly meeting, **7PM on Wednesday 12 Feb** at the SFX Office. (Message Mary on 0423 889 068 to be added to the SFX PA Whatsapp, to get updates on agendas and projects.)

Whether you're a new family, or just keen to grow participation, the PA welcomes you to volunteer in whatever capacity works for you!

See you at SFX, and thanks for helping make sure our kids and our community thrive.

- PA Exec 2025: *Deborah Vega, Mary Bolling, Liz Blair, Deanna Makhoul, Danielle Christou*

## 2025 PA EVENTS IN TERM 1:

- PA Meeting, Wed 12 Feb
- Welcome Picnic, Tues 18 Feb
- Pancake Day, Tues 4 March
- Trivia Night, Sat 15 March
- Blokes Bowls, Fri 28 March
- Girls on the Green, Sun 30 March
- Easter events

... STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

# SFX PA TRIVIA NIGHT

Join for great fun and prizes, community, and to help fund new SFX sports courts!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
(TIX ON SALE 6 FEB!)

**SAT 15 MAR**  
**7PM - 11PM**

Run a business? Sponsor and promote!  
Email [sfxpa.president@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sfxpa.president@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)



St Francis Xavier  
Catholic Primary School  
MONTMORENCY



St Francis Xavier  
Catholic Primary School  
MONTMORENCY

SFX 2025

# WELCOME PICNIC

TUESDAY 18 FEB

5PM - 7PM

SFX OVAL

**Fun for all our families!**

BYO food and drinks, picnic rugs  
- no alcohol, no camp chairs please

NO RSVPs, just turn up  
and connect with old  
friends and new ones!