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SFCC Newsletter #6 - 11th May 2021

Message from Mr Abernethy

The Importance of Mothers



I know the card's funny because despite what our kids think, it is rarely true. Kids are hard work. We get moments of joy and pride but on average, parents and especially mums are taken for granted. Mums come in all shapes and sizes. No two mums are the same. Our experience of our mums is very different and it is hard to write about mums without making unhelpful broad sweeping generalisations. Some mums are fantastic carers, some are highly successful professionals. Many are both. One thing that all mums seem to have in common is that they are multi-taking super wizards who always have their hands full. Their work never stops and most often they work to support everyone other than themselves. Whilst I agree that it is the duty of mothers and fathers to take the best possible care of their family (tasks performed endlessly and usually happily), children need to realise that they do not live with a robot. That is why the students of St Francis were encouraged to take some time to show their appreciation of their mums, grandmothers and influential women in their lives this weekend. Hopefully you were shown some expression of how invaluable you are in your young person's life. A moment of gratitude.

A huge thank you to all the mums, grandmothers, teachers and women who are significant in the lives of our school community for what you do. You are priceless and despite the fact that it seems like a largely thankless job, your work really does matter and it does pay off. My 30 years of experience as an educator tells me that children who have experienced the strong love of influential women are far more likely to be happy and successful. If attendance at our Mother's Day liturgy on Friday is any indication, the students of St Francis are in good hands.

Gratefully yours- Simon

Bus Driver Needed

The College is looking for a casual bus driver to drive our school bus to various functions and events. At the moment a driver would be required at least one day per week but it is often going out more frequently. Other Macarthur Catholic schools have expressed an interest in hiring a driver casually and as such, there may be an opportunity for further work.

A light-rigid licence or greater is required. Drivers would also need a valid Working With Children Check. If interested please email info@sfccdw.catholic.edu.au and leave an indication of your availability and driving experience.

Simon Abernethy
College Principal

New Bus Route 859

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1872/bus_route_859_1_.pdf

School Photos

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1870/photos_st_francis_catholic_college.pdf

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1869/advancedlife_instructions.pdf

[Order School Photos link](#)

Noone Uniform Shop trading hours

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1877/noone_trading_hours.pdf

News from the Junior Years Religious Education Leader

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1868/newsletter_term_2_week_3_2021.pdf

K-4 Literacy Spotlight

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1859/k_4_literacy_spotlight_wk_3_.pdf

Renaissance Reading

The Renaissance Reading program continues in Term 2, and Years 5-8 have continued to enjoy regular reading in class. A reminder to all MYL students that when you finish reading a Renaissance book, be sure to log into the Renaissance AR Quizzes and complete the quiz for your book. Make sure you are visiting the library regularly to keep up your reading - books in the library marked with a blue dot show you that there is a Reading Quiz available. Doing the quizzes will help you track your progress as a reader and let you know if you are improving, as well as allow you to earn STAR points to reach your target! You can find out more information on this process on the Middle Years Website - Reading Hub.



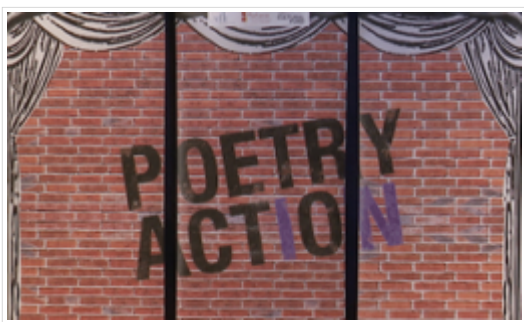
STAR ☆ Readers

Welcome back to Term 2! We would like to acknowledge the achievements of our Renaissance Readers - some students have been reading prolifically at school as well as over the holidays and have completed upwards of 10 books and quizzes so far this year - this is a fantastic effort! Special shout out to Year 5 and 6 who are really enjoying the Renaissance program. The following students who have been recognised for their reading achievements - you are our 'STAR ☆ Readers' for the past few weeks! Well done!

Year 5	Ava T, Myles S, Rafael A, Daisy B, Tayte H, Aameek G
Year 6	Evan D, Devika A, Shaun B, Jean C, Srivats S, Grace L
Year 7	Varad D, Eva R, Michael M, Athena J, Venice M, Thea M, Sophia B, Vevina K, Arielle Z, Lucy T
Year 8	Brooklyn, Mariah V, Lavent D, Isaiah O, Avani S, Tejas A, Yutong S, Nevan B

Yours in Literacy,
Ms Courtney Spencer

Poetry Action



Earlier this week, Year 9 English students had the opportunity to attend a live performance of the 'Poetry In Action' theatre company's "Words of War" which took us on a journey through the experience of World War 1 through the creative re-enactment of renowned poet Wilfrid Owen's life.

Intertwining poetry with sprinkles of humour and thought-provoking narration was an engaging way for students to gain greater knowledge on how poets convey their stance on the divided topic of war through their own unique lense, whilst leaving room for individual interpretation in the reader.

Through showcasing the different perspectives of the three narrators, the audience was able to develop their own personal truth on the reality of war, a topic that remains relevant in the political landscape of contemporary society.

The experience provided a powerful link to the unit currently being studied by Year 9, by exploring the issues of war through language that conveys the intensity of emotion, and aids in the depiction of both pro and anti-war stances.

Year 9 students unanimously agreed that this was a highly effective way of presenting complex themes in a way that was both enjoyable and informative.

- Danielle & Jessica , Year 9

Year 1 History Excursion

In Week 2, Year 1 had the pleasure of attending an excursion to the Schoolhouse Museum in North Ryde. They are currently learning about life in the past and comparing it to the present. Year 1 students have had the opportunity to write about their exciting day. See some of their recounts below:

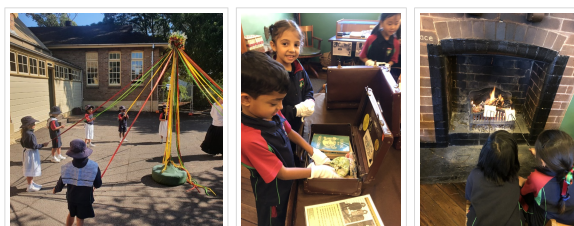
"On The 30th of April we went on an excursion. First we went into the 1910 room and I toasted bread. My face was burning hot from the fire! Next we ate the bread with some golden syrup. The bread was delicious. Then I played with the toys. After that I looked in suitcases. Then I did some puzzles. Next I did a treasure hunt. My favourite part was toasting bread". - Amanda J, 1G.

"First we sang the queen a song. Then we saw some childrens work from the past. We wrote letters on a slate board with rock. After that we practiced our times tables. I knew that kids in the olden days got hit if they made poor choices. Then my whole

class got to write with ink and we had to use blotting paper if we got it wrong." - Prish G, 1R.

"On the excursion we got to dance the MayPole. Firstly we held the ribbons and skipped around the pole. We also exercised with dumbbells and got to play Fly. That is where you put 7 sticks on the ground and you have to jump over them. The sticks need to be put higher. I fell over playing Fly but I still had fun and liked skipping with a rope." - Luna M, 1B

Mr Sebastian Diaz
Year 1 Teacher



Diocesan Secondary Cross Country

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1854/diocesan_secondary_cross_country_2021.pdf

Year 9/10 PASS Incursion

On Thursday 29th April, as part of the Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) stage 5 elective subject students learnt about sports for people with disabilities.

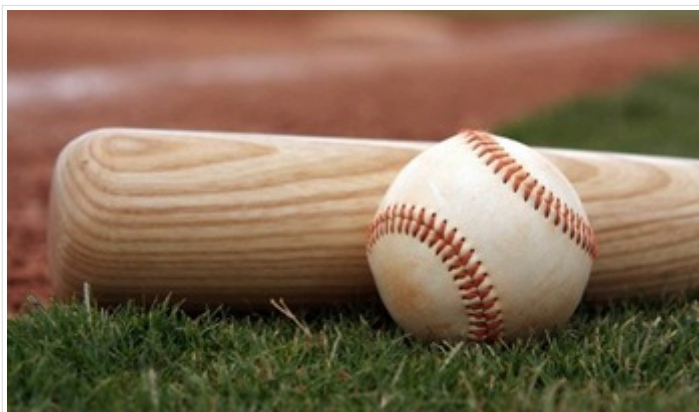
Our Year 9 and 10 PASS students had a great time partaking in a Wheelchair Sports NSW incursion where they learnt about life with a disability and had the opportunity to have a go at wheelchair basketball.



Transitions and Pathway News

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1861/year_11_work_experience_.pdf

Student Achievement



Congratulations to Ryan H in yr 9 who with his baseball team have been selected to compete in the 2021 Australian Junior League Championship, which will be held on the 16th May-20th May at West Beach, Adelaide. The qualifying winning team set to represent Australia at the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan USA.

We wish Ryan and his team the best of luck!!!!

South West Sydney Mental Health Education

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1846/south_west_sydney_mental_health_education_sessions.pdf

Learning Labs 2021

https://sfccdw.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1876/uow266654.pdf

National Families Week



To celebrate National Families Week CatholicCare is running a five-part webinar series to celebrate family and make the most out of family life. Each webinar will have a different focus.

Family Resilience

Understand what a resilient person and family looks like, and how you can build resilience within yourself and your family.

Family Values

Understand what values are and why they are important. By identifying our family values we can better understand and connect.

Family Connection

With our lives so busy we can struggle to keep connections within our family, learn why connection is important and how to sustain or build family connections

Family Self-Care

Learn why self-care is so important and how looking after ourselves, has a flow-on effect on the whole family.

Family Mindfulness

Learn what mindfulness is and the benefits it provides, not just for ourselves, but also the benefit it has on our family.

For more information and to register visit:

<https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/services-and-programs/family/family-care/courses/national-families-week-webinar-series/>

Camden Brick Show

If your child is into LEGO and building this event is calling your name! Over 20 Master Builders from NSW and the ACT will be travelling to Camden on the 29th and 30th of May to showcase their brick building skills using LEGO. There will be over 60 tables of custom built LEGO displays!

There will be children's play tables, LEGO R/C racing cars, LIVE mosaic building as well as a monster LEGO raffle.

Tickets are \$10 and all profits from this event go to the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation Charity. If you wish to purchase tickets they can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/camden-annual-brick-show-2021-tickets-147489869169>