Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

A recent survey revealed some interesting attitudes of parents about the purpose of education. They believed that many of today’s children were growing up in an unkind world and that learning to be kind is even more important than getting good grades.

But when it came to defining kindness the attitudes of parents were more complicated. The survey used words like empathy, helpfulness, thoughtfulness and good manners in its description of kindness. The results revealed that many parents thought that their children were good on empathy but not so good on thoughtfulness and manners.

When asked which is more important empathy or good manners, the majority of parents chose good manners. However, teachers had a different opinion and they overwhelmingly chose empathy.

Of course it is not an either-or question. Being kind and getting good grades are not exclusive to each other. We all know that high academic achievement and being kind towards each other can both be done at the same time. Perhaps they may even benefit each other. It is well documented that when we help other people our own self esteem rises, which puts us in a better frame of mind, which can only be advantageous when we undertake the important things in our lives, including schooling.

The concern about growing up in an unkind world may, in truth, be quite accurate. The media is full of stories and incidents where presence of kindness is hard to see or even completely missing.

If we look at social media usage then the concerns about growing up in an unkind world may also be valid. There is much evidence to conclude that the prevalence of people inflicting pain upon others is widespread and ongoing over the internet. Social media can easily become a dark domain where any form of kindness is totally non-existent. Indeed, being unkind can be even admired by many who access social media.

Therefore the supportive role of families, schools and good friends becomes more and more important in the lives of children as they grow into adulthood. It is here that they learn the value of kindness, in all its forms, and are able to practise being kind without the threat of ridicule or exclusion.

Br Robert Sutton
Principal
YEAR 12

Thursday, 27 October - Friday, 4 November
St Francis Xavier’s College
  St Vincent de Paul Society
  Spring Food Appeal
  (refer to details opposite)

Wednesday, 2 November
Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
  1:30 pm – 7:00 pm
  College Library

Friday, 25 November
Year 11, 2016 Major Awards Ceremony
  10:15 am
  College Hall

Friday, 2 December
St Francis Xavier’s Feast Day
  College Mass and Celebrations
  Students dress in Christmas Theme Clothing

Tuesday, 13 December
Last Day of Classes

Wednesday, 14 December – Tuesday, 20 December
St Francis Xavier’s College
  Staff Professional Days

Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:10 pm
Telephone: 4961 2110
Email hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au

All student related phone calls can be made directly to the Student Office.
If the phone is unattended please leave a message.
Helping others may be of high or low importance in our everyday lives and we often struggle to determine what we can do to help others around us in need. What if we could actively participate in a way to help better our society? That’s where the College’s St Vincent De Paul Society comes in. Vinnies group is the most fun and rewarding way to give back to our community by participating in community service, family visits and guided tours around Islington’s St Vincent De Paul Society centre.

During family visits we are given an insight into the struggles that many people in our community face; they might need help with food, furniture, paying bills and even shelter. The Vinnies group is provided a small glimpse into the reality of our local community and an opportunity to help however we can, even if it is just providing a friendly, supportive voice to those in desperate need. Vinnies also assists by running an Easter Appeal, Vinnies Day Appeal, Winter Appeal, Spring Food Appeal and Christmas Appeal. All of these programs provide the Vinnies group with a rewarding experience to help and talk with real people about their experiences and after seeing the look on the people’s faces and hearing the stories they have to share, you realise it’s worth every minute of your time.

The Vinnies group also helps out by giving back to our school community as well, by getting more involved in House Days, Feast Days and school activities. So, if you are looking for a way to become more actively involved in the wellbeing of your local community and our school community, I encourage you to please come and join our Vinnies group. Our meetings are currently held in B116 on Thursdays at lunchtime. Everyone is welcome to join at any time to contribute to this wonderful group. If you want to be a part of a rewarding experience, come to Vinnies. You won’t regret it.

Temarah Smith

Spring Food Appeal

The 2016, St Vincent De Paul Society Spring Food Appeal is here: from Thursday, 27 October till Friday, 4 November. Please help support struggling families and others in need by bringing in non-perishable food items. Students are asked to donate canned items such as: soups, beans, spaghetti, pears, pineapple, peaches, corn etc. All donations will be greatly appreciated, so open your pantries to see how you can lend a hand to those in need this spring!

Charnice McGrath and Helena Wilson
Legal Studies Guest Speaker

On Wednesday 21 September, Year 11 Legal Studies students attended a presentation on Juvenile Justice by Mrs Peta Lowe from the Department of Juvenile Corrections. Our classes have just finished a unit on Young Offenders and the presentation brought the classwork to life with many real life examples. Students learned what a day in Detention was like, the reasons that juveniles offend and the programs in place to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders back into the community. Thanks to Mrs Anicich for organising the event and to Mrs Lowe for her informative presentation.

Year 11 Business Plan Challenge Newcastle University

Twenty students submitted their plans into this competition. Four of these were placed in the top thirty from a field of 417 entries.

Congratulations to Phoebe Smith as she is one of four finalists. Phoebe will present on Friday, 18 November before a panel of three judges. The winner will be announced at this presentation. Meanwhile Phoebe has picked up a $1000 cash prize and the College has been awarded a $500 cheque. Phoebe’s prize will double if she is successful.

Best wishes from the College!

Volunteer Opportunity

If you have an interest in the wellbeing of children and believe the love of God can be shared with them, consider being a SRE volunteer in your local government school. The Catholic Church along with other faith groups and churches is offering training and support for suitable people to take up SRE classes around Newcastle. One hour a week is all it takes to make a lasting contribution to the lives of children and their families. If you are interested in this opportunity or wish to know more please contact the Office of Life and Faith 4979 1328 or sre@mn.catholic.org.au

61st Annual Newcastle Combined Schools ANZAC Service

“Forget Me Not – the Hunter Boys of Fromelles”

Lord Mayor’s Reception of Thanks
Wednesday, 12 October
Newcastle Town Hall

Two students, Jordan Clarkson and Boyd Williams-Styles represented the College at the Lord Mayor’s Reception of Thanks. Jordan and Boyd were on the Combined Schools ANZAC Committee.

Mr Ray Collins, Director of Catholic Schools, Boyd Williams-Styles and Jordan Clarkson
Welcome to Year 12!

When the students arrive for their first Term of Year 12, for many there is a definite shift in their focus and commitment. If this is NOT the case maybe you would like to come and talk about your future direction?? Or maybe you are on track but need some help to research how best to reach your goals.

Mrs McLoughlin is available all day, everyday for advice and guidance. After the Year 10 Interviews are over!! All you need to do is put your name down on the booking sheet outside my office.

School Portal
This week you will find under the Careers file:

- The latest part time and full time employment opportunities are placed on here every week.
- Some Christmas part time work advertised.

Emails
I have sent the new Year 12’s a number of emails- it’s wise to check these on a regular basis.

Thus far I have sent:

- An offer to an Open Day at the Newcastle Design School.
- Subsidised Pre Traineeships offers through HVTC.
- Nova Skills offerings.
- An offer to be a part of the Newcastle University Research project.

Last term, two of our Year 11 students competed at the NSWCCC Athletics Championships in Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush.

Rose Davies, an accomplished long distance runner, competed in both the 800m and 1500m races. Rose ran tremendously on the day, setting an incredible pace in both her races putting her in a convincing lead. Rose won both her races and will progress to the next level of the competition.

Emily Whelan, a highly accomplished athlete, was selected as part of the Diocesan team to compete in both High Jump and Triple Jump at the NSWCCC Athletics Carnival. Emily set a new High Jump record at the MN Diocesan Carnival jumping an incredible 1.7m. Emily once again set her sights high at the NSWCCC Carnival placing first in her High Jump Division.

Both girls will now represent NSW at the All Schools National Athletics Championship held in Canberra in December this year. We at the College are very proud of the girls’ talents and efforts, and wish them all the best at Nationals.
PAYMENT OF YOUR ACCOUNT WAS REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2016.

Your Term 3 reminder statement was issued on 7 September. Statements were sent home by email, the subject was ‘St Francis Xavier’s College Reminder Fee Statement’, sender details: Hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au

Please ensure emails from the College do not go directly to your spam account.

It is your responsibility to ensure you receive the statement.

If you have not received an email please contact the Finance Office immediately.

Please ensure any overdue accounts are paid immediately.

However if you are making regular payments by direct debit or BPAY please ensure accounts are finalised no later than end of Term 4 for Year 11 students and end of Term 3 for Year 12 students. If you are making regular instalments a St Francis Xavier's College Fee Calculator has been provided to enable you to check your payments will finalise your account by the required date. Alternatively please contact the Finance Office to assist you in calculating a weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment.

METHOD OF PAYMENT OPTIONS

QKR is now our preferred option to receive school fees alternatively BPAY. The Biller Code and Reference Number can be found on your statement. Your nominated deduction amount must finalise your account in full no later than the end of Term 4 for Year 11 students and end of Term 3 for Year 12 students.

Excursions and sport payments cannot be paid via BPAY but can be paid using the QKR App, details of which are available on our website St Francis Xavier's College website. Please take the time to read the information and download the App as this provides a secure method of paying for excursions and fees and is in use across the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese schools.

Credit Card / EFTPOS The College accepts Mastercard or Visa only. Please be aware that if you are paying by credit card you can email, fax, post or telephone your credit card details to the College. An authorisation slip is provided at the bottom of your statement each term.

In Person: Parents are welcome to pay directly at the Finance Office between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm. Students can only pay before the start of school and in their lunch and recess breaks.

Direct Debit: Please contact the Finance Office.
The Basics of Acting

Are you fairly new to acting and want to develop new skills or are you a seasoned performer looking to get back to basics? Do you find yourself constantly playing the same characters? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then join ASPIRE Artistic Director Anna Kerrigan in this engaging 4 week course for young actors. The focus of the program is you, the actor, with a focus on developing skills in voice, movement and how we turn these skills into characters and best serve script with them. It’s a great opportunity to learn new things, enhance existing knowledge and skills and just have fun with like-minded performers. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so call Anne Atkins on 02 4979-1331 or email anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu as soon as possible to secure your space.

Please note participation in this course does not guarantee acceptance into the ASPIRE performing arts program.

This 4-week course will be held at the Factory, St Pius X High School, Adamstown from 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm at the start of Term 4. Dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 11 October 2016
- Tuesday 18 October 2016
- Tuesday 25 October 2016
- Tuesday 1 November 2016

The cost for this 4 week course is $80.00 and can be paid via the new Qkr APP. If you require assistance in using this app please contact us. Please note payment is not required until acceptance into the course.

Biography of Anna Kerrigan

Anna trained at Bretton Hall in the UK and gained a BA (Hons) in Theatre Acing in 2002. As an actor Anna has worked with a number of companies in the UK and Australia including Wigan Pier Theatre Company where she was a company member for two years, Whiplash Theatre Company (Production: Oh What a Lovely War), Powerhouse Theatre (Production: Company) Experimental Theatre (Productions: East, A Dolls House) Pickles Productions (Production: Schools Tour), Catapult Theatre Company (Production: Catapult Cream) and the New Theatre (Productions: A Servant of Two Masters, Bazaar and Rummage). She has also featured in a number of short films and commercials and has extensive experience as a singer in cabaret. As a director Anna has worked on a large number of scripted and devised productions with and for young people, through Wigan Pier Theatre Company, Barking Gecko Youth Theatre Company, Tantrum Theatre Company, Mad Cow Theatre Company, Australian Theatre for Young People, Stone Gang Show (Musical Direction) and as an assistant director for Sydney Theatre Company - Next Stage.

Anna has extensive experience in the youth theatre sector working as a freelance facilitator for a large number of companies and schools over the past 10 years. She has held positions with Barking Gecko Theatre Co (Participation Co-ordinator), Tantrum Theatre Co (Workshop Co-ordinator) and Australian Theatre for Young People (Workshop Manager).