



Lighthouse

Volume 31 Number 13

4 December 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

Last Christmas, Pope Francis reflected upon the state of the world. In particular he lamented the widespread violent atrocities that were being inflicted on innocent people, in many countries, throughout the world. He used the words,

"Truly there are so many tears this Christmas...."

The Pope spoke about the turmoil that was prevalent in parts of the Middle East, Ukraine and Africa. He also voiced his concern for those who were enduring hardship throughout the world, especially, the sick, homeless and elderly.

It seems that the Pope could use the same speech this Christmas. This is a sad reality that the world hasn't really changed much over the past year in terms of its capacity for violence and destruction.

During the First World War there was the famous truce along the trenches between the Allied and German forces. The historians report that opposing soldiers laid down their weapons, left their trenches and exchanged Christmas greetings. There were also reports of the opposing soldiers singing carols together and sharing their food. There was even a story that make-shift soccer balls were fashioned and impromptu games were played, although this has not been officially confirmed.

It seems that none of this was planned or organised. Rather, it was a spontaneous action that began in different locations along the front and soon spread to include about two thirds of all the troops.

So despite all the horrors and death of this terrible battle, ordinary soldiers managed to end the hostilities and bring a temporary peace to the land. Peace was possible and it was achieved through the willpower and actions of determined individuals. But, it took plenty of risk, trust and determination for all involved, especially those who took the first steps.

It will take these same qualities to end the hostilities that keep raging across the world. Let us hope, and pray, that world leaders are able to take steps towards peaceful resolutions in order to end the death and destruction that has been plaguing many nations.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2015



Last day for Students

- Friday, 11 December

Staff Professional Development Days STUDENT FREE DAYS

- Monday, 14 December – Friday, 18 December

College Switchboard/Reception will be opened in the last week of Term 4 on the following days from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm

- Monday, 14 December until Thursday, 17 December

Finance Office

Last day to receipt payments for 2015

- Friday, 11 December

College will be closed

- Friday, 18 December



Merry Christmas

*The staff of
St Francis Xavier's College
sends their best wishes to our
students and parents / guardians
for a Happy Christmas Season*

HAVE A NICE SUMMER VACATION!

2016

OPEN

College Switchboard, Reception and Finance Office will be opened from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

- Monday, 18 January – Friday, 22 January

College Switchboard, Reception and Finance Office will be closed

- Monday, 25 January and Tuesday, 26 January



Staff Day Only – NO STUDENTS

- Wednesday, 27 January

Year 11 Students Only

- Thursday, 28 January and Friday, 29 January



Year 12 Students Commence

- Monday, 1 February

All students at school



The Uniform Shop

(02) 4962 4423

stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au

Uniform price list & online shopping available at www.alintaapparel.com.au

January Shop Opening Times

- Tuesday, 19 January: 8:00 am – 12 noon
- Thursday, 21 January: 8:00 am – 12 noon
- Wednesday, 27 January: 8:00 am – 12 noon
- Thursday, 28 January: 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Normal Shop Hours Resume

- Tuesday, 2 February: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, 4 February: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Happy New School year!



Sophia Castro

**Nomination for
Lake Macquarie
Junior Citizen of the Year**



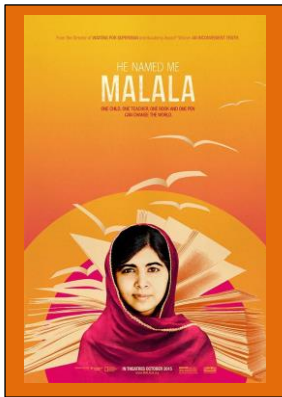
Sophia Castro has been nominated for the 2016 Lake Macquarie Australia Day Awards for Junior Citizen of the Year.

We would like to congratulate her on this nomination and wish her all the best.



Chelsea Gilbert and
Jarod Clarkson at the
Lord Mayor's reception in recognition of service
on
All Schools ANZAC Committee





ENGLISH STUDIES STUDENTS SHINE A LIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!

On Monday, 16 November, 44 English Studies students attended a special screening of "He Named Me Malala" at the Tower Cinema in Newcastle, as a part of their 'Big Screen' Unit. They were presented with a range of information from the University, TAFE and Amnesty International on the serious subject of human rights violations and responded with

great maturity. Mrs Picton and Mrs Thornton were proud to receive compliments from an ex-principal and other members of the general public, on the responsible, adult approach to the viewing of this confronting and profound documentary, particularly in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Well done one and all!



Writers' Festival Comes to SFX!

The **Extension 2 English** students were privileged to share the wisdom and experience of accomplished journalist and the founder of *The Newcastle Writers' Festival* **Rosemarie Milsom** (back left) in the Conference Room on Tuesday, 17 November. Liz, Alex, Olivia, Josie and Nadia together with Mrs Picton and Mrs Millen were privy to Rosemarie's many insights into the art and craft of the writing process. This offered the students an enrichment experience to prepare them for their Viva Voce assessment tasks which are to be held in Week 9 of Term 4.



Applications are now called for the 2015 Bishop's Award

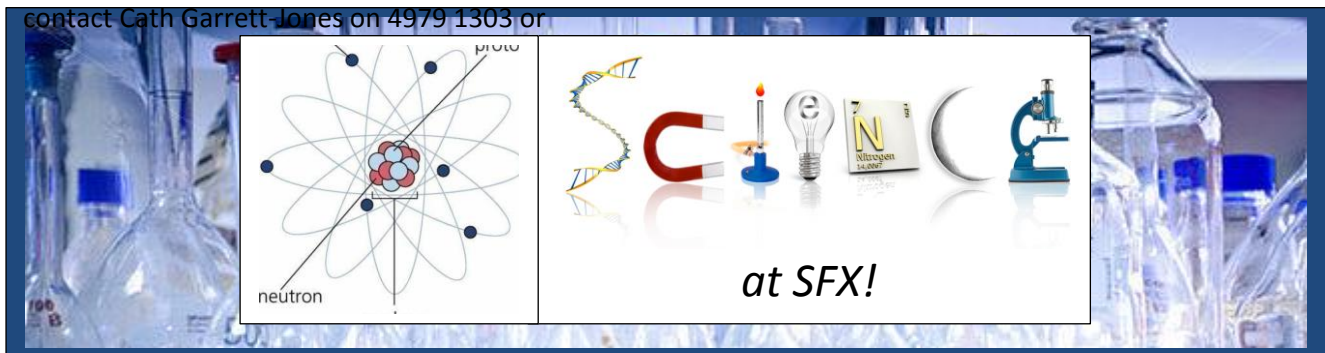
Students currently enrolled in catholic secondary schools within our diocese in Years 7 – 11 are invited to collect a **Bishop's Award Information and Application pack** from their schools administration office and discuss their application with their Priest, Deacon, Minister or church leader as well as their school Principal.

Applications are to be forwarded to the Catholic Schools Office and be received no later than **18 December, 2015.**



For further information, please don't hesitate to
contact Cath Garrett-Jones on 4979 1303 or

email: cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au



NATIONAL YOUTH
SCIENCE FORUM

Emily Reed

National Youth Science Forum Participant

Not long to go now until the National Youth Science Forum 2016 program kicks off and you can be assured that it is going to be outstanding experiences for the young people involved.

During the year, organisers have worked hard on refreshing and reshaping the program, resulting in an extra lab and/or site visit for students in 2016 – now up to seven, and a program that focuses on three central ideas: ways of engaging with science, technology, engineering and maths – STEM in action; understanding the role of STEM in society; and preparing the next generation of STEM professionals.

Emily will participate in a set of activities, lectures and visits that aim to build an improved understanding of the role of science in our lives, and how studying STEM at a tertiary level can lead them in many different directions – it's not just about lab coats and research grants.

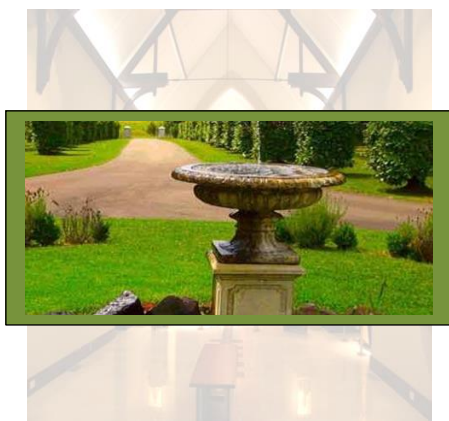


Meanwhile, a little closer to Science@sfx. Builders will be completing the finishing touches to the renovations of four science laboratories and preparation spaces. Students in 2016 will work in a science environment that is much more reflective of science in today's world.



*The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge
but imagination. (Albert Einstein)*

Can you imagine our new laboratories!



*Marist Student Leaders Gathering
Mittagong 2015*





Students Visit Wambo Mine Opportunity for the future



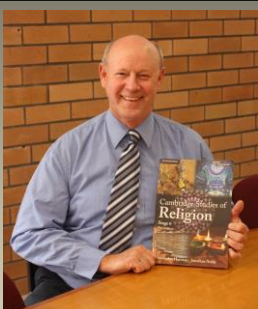
David Sekunzi



Joel Okumu

On Monday, 19 October, two of our students, **David Sekunzi** and **Joel Okumu** visited Wambo Open Cut Mine at Warkworth organised by Career-link. The students departed the College and were joined on the day by students from Callaghan College and Singleton High School. Students were given the opportunity to observe firsthand the workings of a local Open Cut mine and to gain information about the various career opportunities available in the mining industry. Both boys were impressed about the range of career opportunities available in the local mining industry.

Thank you to Career-link and Wambo Mining for their assistance.



Rev Jonathan Noble
Religious Studies
Coordinator

SFX Textbook Author

The third edition of the *Cambridge Studies of Religion* text book has recently been published. Written by Dr Christopher Hartney (of Sydney University) and the

Religious Studies Coordinator at St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton, Rev Jonathan Noble, this text has been designed for the HSC Studies of Religion Course. Rev Noble said this new edition involved 18 months of careful research and revision of the previous editions to include updated statistics and developments in world religions. Rev Noble is also an author of the *Cambridge Checkpoint – HSC Studies of Religion*, an HSC study guide for teachers and students with suggested solutions to recent HSC examinations.

From the Careers Desk



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Careers Coordinator

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Some "activities" that you may be interested in putting into your diaries for 2016.....

For the science heads!!

The University of Sydney Science Experience

13 to 15 January

University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

Three day hands on forensic science workshop murder mystery.

<http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/high-school/experience/index.shtml>

For those keen on trying for Medicine intake in 2016!!

UMAT 2016 Registrations open soon

Closes Friday, 3 June 2016

UMAT test on Wednesday, 27 July 2016

For medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs.

<http://umat.acer.edu.au/>

Interested in fashion???

University of the Arts London - Sydney Visit

22 to 25 February

Leading world arts and fashion institutes.

Free workshops and interviews.

Contact: ual@bcic.co.uk

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/international/your-country/australia/>

Want to understand the expectation for 2016... these might give you some inspiration!!

Artexpress: Top HSC Artworks

16 March to 15 May, Art Gallery of NSW

9 September to 30 October, Maitland Regional Art Gallery

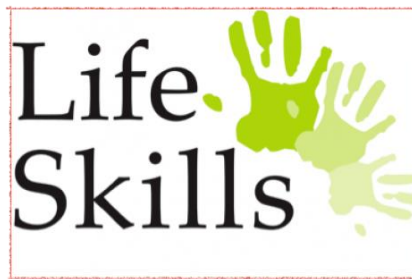
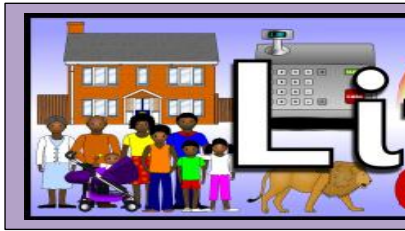
<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/exhibitions/>

Textstyle: Top HSC Textiles and Design Major Projects.

3 to 6 March, 10:00am till 4:30pm

The Stitches and Craft Show, Rosehill Gardens

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/exhibitions/>



Term 4 Experiences for Life Skill Students



WHITE RABBIT GALLERY



On Wednesday, 18 November Year 12 Life Skills HSIE, English and Creative Arts students travelled to Sydney for an excursion to the Contemporary Chinese 'White Rabbit Art Gallery', and a walk through the Chinatown precinct. This excursion was to consolidate the students' understanding of how a culture is shared through story, ceremony and multimedia. At the Gallery, students viewed artworks and sculptures from contemporary Chinese artists. The current exhibition's theme was exploring ideas of "Heaven" and "Hell" and how Eastern culture melds with Western culture. Over three levels the Gallery boasts beautiful, interesting and interactive artworks. There were holographic photographs, moving pictures in frames that surprised the viewer, marble sculptures, animated sketches and a 'Mission Impossible' style laser room. Students participated in tasting a variety of Chinese teas in the Tea House of the Gallery.



Art and beauty was also seen in the Tea House as one of the teas had a special blossom flower that only opened in hot water to signal that the brew was ready to drink. This was a significantly different excursion for the students due to the cultural experience.

During the day students were also able to take in the environmental beauty of the Central Park Green Urban precinct. Here they saw the *Halo* kinetic sculpture and *Duo Tower*, the tallest vertical garden in Australia, with its solar panels rising above directing natural light to the inside apartments. Students had fun playing on the old fashioned and surprisingly low-tech lawn games set up on the community green space that surrounds the Central Park Shopping Centre. Before returning to Newcastle by train, students enjoyed lunch in Chinatown.

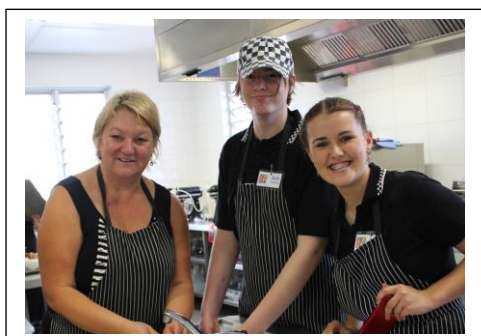
Thanks to the teachers for this wonderful experience.



High Tea Finale to Life Skills Café Work Experience



Term 4 Life Skills 'Work in the Community' unit engaged students in tasks on workplace safety and, for some students, their first work experience. All Life Skills students completed 5 weeks of morning shifts in the school café. Then as a finale to this experience the students prepared, cooked, plated and served a High Tea menu of quiches, brownies, carrot cake, scones and a selection of fresh sandwiches. Notably, the carrots for the cake were grown on site, in the Life Skills Community Garden.



The High Tea event was for an invited parent/family member and an invited member of staff. Students catered to 20 invited guests in total including the Principal and Deputy Principals. It was an uplifting experience for everyone involved. Special thanks to Mrs Samantha Middleton and Mrs Christine Ward in the Hospitality faculty. Their patience, enthusiasm and willingness to have fun was greatly appreciated and allowed the students to shine. Students developed skills, knowledge, confidence and passion over the past 6 weeks; culminating in this all-encompassing event. Parents, teachers and the students themselves, are very proud of their efforts and achievement.



The final two weeks of this Term will see the Work in the Community students participating in a pre-course First Aid unit and completing a one day workshop of practical bandaging and CPR skills. No doubt this experience will also develop further their communication and team work skills.

