



Lighthouse

Volume 32 Number 4

1 April 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

The theme of education has again been the centre of some debate in the Australian media.

One newspaper has been running an argument about the relative achievements of the Finnish education system. It has highlighted that students in Finnish schools have been out-performing Australian students when it comes to international tests, such as the well-recognised PISA test (Programme for International Student Assessment).

The debate has also mentioned that children in Finnish schools are enjoying their education and have much greater liberty to learn by self-discovery and play. It goes on to report that teachers are held in much higher esteem, that physical activity is formally embedded into the curriculum and that people are not obsessed with nationalised testing.

Another newspaper has been reporting on the use, or over-use, of technology in schools. It has presented an argument that technology has become too intrusive into the classroom and that students are better served by developing their hand-writing skills and relying on their teachers, and texts, as their sources of information.



I believe that these debates, in the main, can be useful for schools. For the reflective educator, parent and student they can actually challenge thinking and make people re-evaluate their practices.

If you take technology in schools, for example, then there are a few obvious questions. What is the place of technology in the classroom? Is it a useful tool? Can it be a source of distraction? Is the information reliable? Are there better sources of information? What would the classroom be like if it was removed? These are all good questions and they should be asked on a continual basis. But if it is true that technology should be questioned, then the same questioning should also apply to other practices.

Of course education is not the only activity that is in the process of constant re-evaluation. It is apparent in the field of medicine when new treatments become available and more is learnt about different diseases. Evaluation and re-evaluation are part of our modern world, and if they are kept in proportion and don't lead to disorientation, then they can be a worthwhile source for progress and growth.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal



Friday, 8 April 2016

Term 1 Concludes



**Term 2
commences**

Tuesday, 26 April 2016

YEAR 12

Friday, 29 April - Friday, 13 May

Parent Teacher Online (PTO) open for parents to book interviews

Wednesday, 18 May

**Year 12 Student/Parent/Teacher Subject Interviews
(1:30 pm - 7 pm)**

Friday, 20 May

Year 12 Academic Awards Ceremony beginning at 10:15 am in the College Hall

Monday, 23 May – Wednesday, 25 May

Year 12 Retreats

Thursday, 26 May

Year 12 Home Study Day

Friday, 27 May 2016

Staff Inservice Day - Pupil Free Day

Thursday, 30 June 2016

**University of Newcastle Open Day
No Scheduled classes for Year 12**

Friday, 1 July

Term 2 Concludes

YEAR 11

Monday, 23 May – Wednesday, 1 June

Year 11 Exams

Friday, 27 May

Year 11 Exams as per Exam Timetable

Staff Inservice Day - Pupil Free (except for students scheduled for exams)

Thursday, 30 June

**Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews
(1:30 pm - 7 pm)**

Friday, 1 July

Term 2 Concludes



SURVEYING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Dear Parents

This year our school is in a review year. The purpose of the review is for the school to reflect on its practice and identify areas for improvement and to stimulate action to ensure this happens. As part of the review process our school is seeking feedback from our community – parents/carers, staff, students and clergy.

An on-line parent/carer survey will be sent to you shortly via email. We would be most grateful if you could complete this survey (it only takes about 10 mins!). The online survey is administered by an independent organisation, Hunter Research Foundation.

Your responses will be treated confidentially and your privacy respected.

The more surveys completed the greater the feedback received which will inform our future journey towards school improvement.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE PRESENTS...

Mark Medoff's

BIG MARY



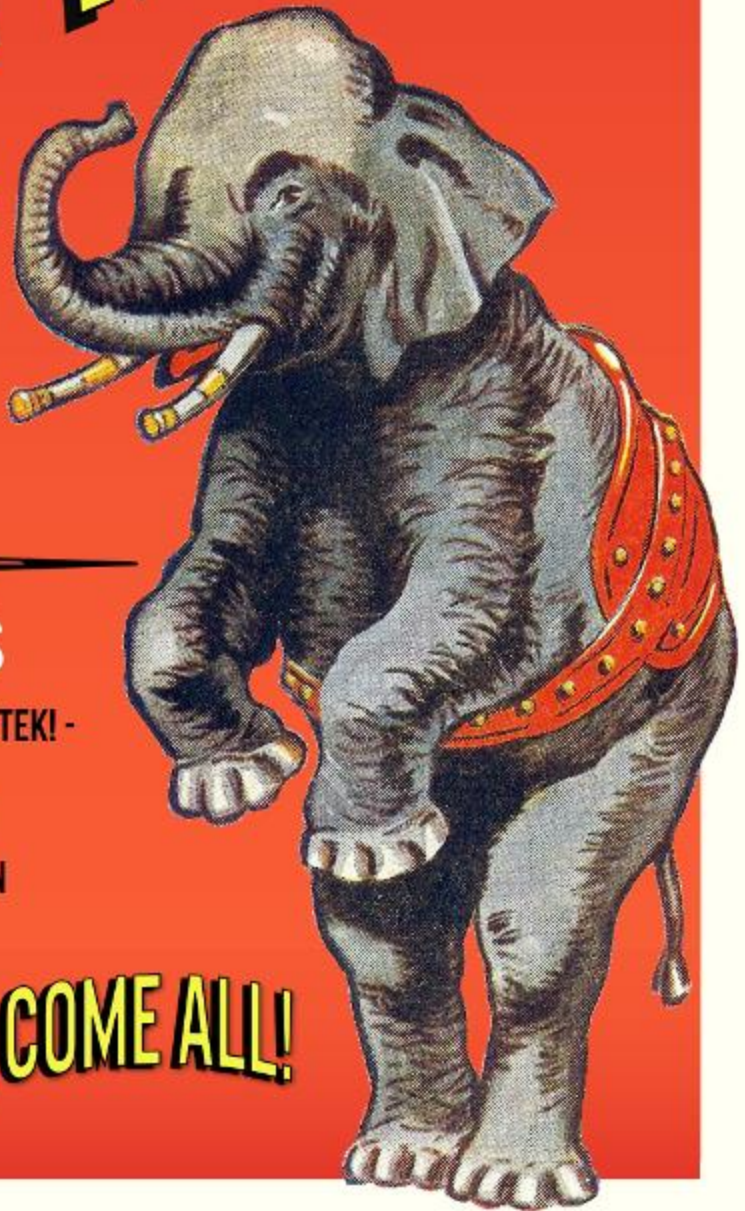
SHOWTIMES

- MATINEE -

5TH AND 6TH MAY

- EVENING -

6TH AND 7TH MAY



TICKETS

- PURCHASE ON TICKETEK! -

\$25 ADULTS

\$15 CONCESSION



COME ONE, COME ALL!



From the Finance Office

Finance Office Hours

8:30 am to 3:00 pm – Monday to Friday

E: hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 Statements were emailed on 15 February with a due date of 7 March. For all accounts not paying under an agreed payment plan please ensure your account is finalised immediately, by BPAY, cash, cheque, EFTPOS or QKR.





Payment Method Update



**For your convenience QKR is now
available for College Fee payments.**

Qkr! by MasterCard can be downloaded for free from Apple's app store for iPhones, iPad users can also download the iPhone app or from Google Play for Android phones. Simply:

<p>Step 1 Download Qkr!</p> <p>on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app</p> <p> AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID Google play  AVAILABLE ON THE APP STORE</p>	<p>Step 2 Register</p> <p>Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register</p>
<p>Step 3 Find our school</p> <p>Scan the QR code or search for our school name. Our school will also appear in "Locations Nearby" if you are within 4kms of the school</p>	<p>Step 4 Register your children</p> <p>When first accessing your school menu, you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school orders on their behalf.</p>

For more information about QKR visit our website www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au/. (Click on Information, Fees, select QKR information.) Or Hyperlink to QKR video.



An initiative by ANZ and the
Brotherhood of St Laurence, with The
Smith Family

Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500.

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Cynthia Culhane your local Saver Plus Worker
(02) 4032 4703 / 0418 699 646
cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au

College St Vincent de Paul Society - Easter Egg Appeal, 2016

Many thanks to all students, staff and families who supported this appeal so generously over the last couple of weeks with a huge number of donations. Thanks also to the students who delivered the eggs on the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 March, to about 430 residents at Fronditha Aged Care at Mayfield, Bethel Aged Care Facility at Waratah, St Martin de Porres Hostel at Waratah, Charles O'Neill Hostel at Mayfield West, BUPA Care Services at Waratah, St John's Villa at New Lambton and Mayfield Aged Care. Easter Eggs were also donated to St Joseph's Home at Sandgate, St Pius School at Windale and the House of Hospitality at Broadmeadow.

The students involved in the delivery were *Mil Brooks, Clare Butler, Keely Godfrey-Smith, Sean O'Connor, Gillian Pfeiffer and Perri Webber* from Year 12 and *Samantha Anderson, Chloe Ashton, Madeline Bull, Vincent Bush, Shelby Candian, Georgia Clarke, Jordan Clarkson, Rose Cousins, Liam Edwards, Ruby Girvan, Sophie Gonano, Tim Harrison, Tallis Haydon, Courtney Haynes, Phoebe Maguire, Lily Mason, Charnice McGrath, Heulwen Spencer-Goodsir, Glenn Stevens, Chris Turner and Bianca Woodley* from Year 11.

A special thanks to *Mrs Horton, Mrs McLoughlin, Mr Mitchell, Br Pat, Mr Pichler and Mr Wakely* who assisted with transport and supervision.

Br David



Keely Godfrey-Smith, Vin Bush, Clare Butler and Perri Webber at St John's Villa, New Lambton

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS



Entertainment Books can be ordered through the College. \$12 from each book sold goes towards our commitment to the La Valla Community in Cambodia (the College contributes at least \$5000 each year to pay for the rice needs of the students and staff at La Valla).

Books cost \$60 and will be available for collection from the College from approximately 4 April 2016.

Digital or paper options are available.

Get in early to get the benefit of the 'Early Bird Special Offers'!

We're fundraising with Entertainment™

"I love this Book! I'm discovering places I have never been before."

The *entertainment* Book

"I have the Entertainment™ Digital 'Book' on my smartphone and I love it!"

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giving you over
\$20,000
of value!

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80+ Contemporary Dining Offers!	\$45 value	\$40 value	\$30 value	\$40 value	\$45 value	\$40 value
160+ Casual Dining Offers!	\$30 value	\$30 value	\$40 value	\$30 value	\$25 value	\$40 value
160+ Takeaway and Attraction Offers!	2 for 1	2 for 1	25% off	2 for 1	2 for 1	2 for 1
2,000+ Retail and Travel Offers!						

Up to 50% off Retail, Travel, Leisure and Accommodation

We receive 20% from every Entertainment™ Membership sold. Purchase yours today!

St Francis Xavier's College - Hamilton

Contact: Cassie Mowbray Phone: 0249612863 Email: cassie.mowbray@mn.catholic.edu.au

To order your Book or your Digital Membership securely online visit: www.entbook.com.au/3484k6

Alternatively, please complete your details below

Name: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

The 2016/17 Newcastle, Central Coast and the Hunter Edition is \$60 each including GST

I would like to order: ☐ Digital Membership ☐ Book Membership ☐ Add \$12 Postage = Total Enclosed \$ _____

I am paying via: ☐ CASH ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Credit Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: ____/____/____ CVV*: _____
*CVV is the last 3 digits on the back of your credit card

Cardholder's name: _____ Signature: _____

From the Careers Desk



Mrs Julie McLoughlin
Careers Coordinator

P: 02 4961 2863

F: 02 4961 2384

E: julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au



Mrs Mac is holding a UMAT session on Thursday, 7 April at lunch time in the Theatrette



Two Day Interior Decoration Master Class

Tuesday and Wednesday
19 & 20 April respectively
9:30am – 4:30pm
Cost \$330

2/40 Oxley St, St Leonards

Contact: Bella Taylor
info@sydneydesignschool.com.au
or call 02-94371902

A two day introductory course into the world of interior decoration. Learn from Textile Designer, Grace Garrett and put together a scheme including planning your layout, selecting furniture, furnishings and lighting as well as creating a dynamic colour palette.



Program closes
30 June 2016

For those over 16 years who want to experience life overseas. Runs early December to mid January.

<http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/ye/overseas-destinations/>



School Holiday Workshops

1. Creative Coding

Tuesday, 12 April: 10:00am - 1:00pm - FREE

Contact: Damien Nedeljkovic: d.nedeljkovic@unsw.edu.au

This workshop is for those interested in using computer programs to create things that are expressive and not just functional. This workshop will provide an introduction to the world of creative coding and expose students to a toolkit. Taught by Dr Ollie Bown. This workshop will include a tour of the campus. All participants must be 15 years or older. Register via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creative-coding-tickets-22753843358>

2. Creative Computing

Wednesday, 13 April: 10:00am - 1:00pm - FREE

Contact: Damien Nedeljkovic: d.nedeljkovic@unsw.edu.au

In this workshop you will create your own unconventional touch interface for controlling sounds and images using everyday objects like vegetables and tinfoil. You'll also explore possibilities of working with computers and electronics. This workshop will include a tour of the campus. All participants must be 15 years or older. Register via:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creative-computing-touch-sensor-trickery-tickets-22753973748>

3. Art & Design Portfolio Workshop

Friday, 15 April: 10:00am - 1:00pm - FREE

Contact: Damien Nedeljkovic: d.nedeljkovic@unsw.edu.au

Every creative practitioner needs a succinct, clear and well-presented portfolio. It is essentially a collection of your accomplishments, skills, and experiences. It needs to make a good impression. The workshop will provide insight into building a portfolio that puts you and your work in the best light. This workshop will include a tour of the campus. All participants must be 15 years or older. Register via: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/build-the-best-possible-portfolio-tickets-22754239543>



YOU need in today's workforce

Harvard's -Tony Wagner

1.



All students are going to need to learn how to think critically. That means students need to know how to ask really good questions. *In today's world being able to ask really good questions is much more important than memorising easy answers.*

2.

COLLABORATION

The second skill that is really important is the ability to collaborate. Increasingly all work is done collaboratively.

3.



Both oral and written communication skills are important. But the ability to listen is just as important for good communication.

4.



Is the skill in highest demand.

5.



Empathy, Perseverance and a Strong Moral Outlook

Being able to be empathetic is extremely important in today's world, essential for good team work, and a sense of what's inherently right and wrong.



US University Standardised Test Requirements- new SAT and ACT

Students interested in studying at university in the USA are encouraged to read the article outlining the new SAT and the ACT standardised tests which are used for admission purposes to most USA universities.

<http://www.internationallyeducated.com.au/#!learn/cfpx>

Contact for assistance if you are considering studying in the US.

www.internationallyeducated.com.au or 02 8006 9737



Gap work experience in hospitals in Tanzania, Thailand, Poland and Croatia.

<http://www.gapmedics.com.au/>



The ADF Gap Year program is an excellent way for students to experience military life and to gain a greater understanding of what's involved. On completion they can continue serving in the Navy, Army or Air Force, or offer the skills and experience they've acquired to an alternative career path. In 2017 there are 11 roles to choose from, ranging from admin to artillery, and flight crew to logistics.

✚ Details of all the Gap Year roles are available at defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear

✚ Employment commences early 2017

✚ Applicants must have completed Year 12 and be aged between 18 and 24 as of 1 April 2017 (Navy), 31 May 2017 (Army), or 7 April 2017 (Air Force).

Adamstown Army Reserves Information Session

Tuesday, 19 April at 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Location: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

RSVP's are essential Email: cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au

Include in RSVP: Adamstown and Your Name.



**The Charles Stuart University Representatives
will be at the College on
Tuesday, 5 April at lunch time
in the Theatre**

The first of the MY Day events in Communication will be held at the Bathurst Campus on Monday, 11 April 2016 (*first week of the NSW school holidays*).

This will be an interactive day giving students a taste of living and learning on campus at CSU. The Communications day is one of the more popular events.

Registering: All the details and registration have been emailed to students AND can be found on the School Portal under Careers.

This event is for students who may be considering study in the Advertising, Journalism, Media Practice, Public Relations, Radio, Sports Journalism and Theatre Media fields.



**OPEN DAY
FRIDAY, 6 MAY 2016**

Open Day will give you a sense of what it's like to study on campus at UNE and get the complete university experience: a vibrant, supportive community; small classes; and access to lecturers.

Students will have the opportunity to find out about degree options that may be of interest to them, meet the lecturers, and get a feel for campus life.

There will be a number of activities on Friday including:

- Free breakfast in the colleges
- Academic advice and information sessions
- Degree and discipline-specific tours, demonstrations and activities / tours
- Free games and entertainment
- Free morning tea & lunch

More information on the specific program of activities will be made available at www.une.edu.au/openday or by contacting your UNE Schools Liaison Officer at study@une.edu.au to discuss your accommodation requirements.

www.une.edu.au/open or by contacting your UNE Schools Liaison Officer at study@une.edu.au



Open Day

Saturday, 7 May 2016

2pm - 5pm

82 Cope Street, Waterloo

<http://www.sydneyfilmschool.com/news-events/events/may-open-day.aspx>

Get an insider's perspective with teachers, current students and graduates on hand to share their experiences. See student films, take a tour of the school and hear about courses: Diploma of Screen and Media / Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media.

