From the Principal
Mr Paul Desmond

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
I am very pleased to introduce to the College community more of our outstanding Student Leaders for 2011:

Liturgy Captains
Danelle Dias: A former student of Mary MacKillop Primary School, Danelle is a deeply committed student here and an active REMAR and Youth Ministry member. She is undertaking units of study in Religion & Society, English, Literature, Further Mathematics and Physical Education. Danelle aspires to a career in the Police Force after studying criminology at university. Her role models in life are REMAR Gap, Jack O’Sullivan and Mr Len & Mrs Loretta Cooke.

William Aupito-Iuliano: With life interests which focus upon his faith, music and family, William looks to a future in which he can contribute in some way to a better world and serving God to the best of his ability. Having spent his primary years at Trinity Primary School, William is now concentrating his academic skills in Texts & Traditions, English, Further Mathematics, VET Multimedia and IT: Software Development.

Justice Captains
Ashleigh Schneider: After completing Year 12 with a focus in RE: Social Justice, English, Biology, Chemistry, Further Mathematics and Literature, Ashleigh wishes to study medicine at university, specialising in paediatrics. A former student of Pakenham Consolidated School, her interests include music, Youth Ministry (especially the Soup Van commitment) and attending the gymnasium. Ashleigh’s main role models are her mother, grandmother and Mrs Rhonda O’Connor.

Justin Hester: A former student of St James’ Primary School in Nar Nar Goon, Justin aims to pursue a mathematics course at university one day. His Year 12 course is comprised of RE: Social Justice, English, Specialist Mathematics, Maths Method, Accounting and IT: Applications. Justin has already completed Unit 3&4 Japanese as a Year 11 student. Justin’s parents are the greatest inspirations in life for Justin and he cites their persistence and integrity in all things as the reason.

Environment Captain
Karen Alarcon: With a busy final year studying Religious Education, English, Maths Methods, Specialist Mathematics and Chemistry, Karen devotes much of her spare time to environmental issues. She has a love of dancing and tennis and wishes to travel widely after completing her course at university. Karen attended Mary Mackillop Primary School, and sees her big brother and parents as her main role models in life.

MARCH
Monday 14  Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 15  Year 11 Information Night – 7.30 p.m. in the College Hall
Wednesday 16  Year 7 camp commences (first group)
Wednesday 23  Year 7 camp commences (second group)
COLLEGE BOARD ELECTIONS
A reminder to parents from the Parishes of Berwick, Pakenham and Koo Wee Rup that nominations for one Parent Representative on the College Board from each of these Parishes close tomorrow Friday March 11. Nomination Forms are attached to this Newsletter and must be submitted to Mrs Lesley Lancaster, Personal Assistant to the Principal by 4.00 p.m.

THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
There is some agitation at present regarding the funding provided by the Commonwealth Government to non-government schools such as ours. While any debate may be viewed as healthy, it is important that such debate is balanced and reasoned. A Catholic school such as St Francis Xavier College operates on less money provided by government than a government-funded school. I attach for your interest a response to those who argue that we are over-funded or should not receive the financial support of public money. I ask parents to take some time to read and be informed of the reasons governments continue to support both government and non-government education.

UNIFORM
Most students are to be commended for the manner in which they wear their uniform. Nevertheless, a small number of students have not been adhering to the uniform policy. Students are reminded that the jumper or vest must not be worn as the outer garment while travelling to and from the College. Girls are expected to wear appropriate footwear and socks. Socks with lace trim are not to be worn. Please note: T-Bar school shoes will NOT be considered appropriate footwear at St Francis Xavier College from 2012. Parents are asked to take this into consideration when purchasing new school shoes this year.

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVALS
On February Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 the Senior and Junior Campus Inter-House Swimming Carnivals were held respectively. Each event was a great occasion – we were blessed with beautiful weather, high student spirit and involvement and very well organised days. Thanks are extended to Miss Siobhan Taylor (Beaconsfield Campus), Miss Amy Tivendale (Berwick Campus) and our AFL Trainee, Mr Cameron Furlong, along with Sports Captains Rebecca Magdich and Nick O’Sullivan.

STUDENT SAFETY
Primary and secondary schools in the region have been working closely with Victoria Police to assist in the apprehension of a man who has approached a number of children as they head home after school. Issues surrounding student safety as they walk from their bus stop have been addressed in our classrooms and a letter advising parents of safe behaviours was sent home with students last week.

YEAR 7 CAMP
Our newest members, the students of Year 7, are off to Licola for the annual Year 7 Camp. Miss Amelia Boyle and Mr Justin Meade have been working for some months to put together an exciting program to aid the students in their transition into secondary school.

PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT INTERVIEWS – EARLY DISMISSAL
On Thursday April 7, all students will be dismissed from class at 1.00pm to allow progress interviews to be held with parents. Parents will be informed in the near future of changes to the bus times to facilitate early dismissal. Interviews with teachers are offered on the afternoon and evening of April 7 and the morning of April 8. Specific details to follow.

ASH WEDNESDAY
All students attended ceremonies yesterday to receive the ashes, signifying the start of the Season of Lent. All students have the opportunity to contribute to the lives of those who are less fortunate via Project Compassion, sponsored at both Campuses by Thomas House and McDonagh House.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
• Relay For Life – Over 2000 walkers took part in the Relay For Life, held last weekend at Akoonah Park in Berwick with the aim of heightening awareness and raising money for cancer research – over $22,000 was raised. Our College had more than 50 students participate in what was a very uplifting event, these students have also shown themselves to be responsible citizens and outstanding role models.

Students from our College who participated were Rebecca Allen, Lauren Arthur, Jess Beard, Julie Bladier, Dani Broadhurst, Rebecca Broadhurst, Stephanie Bull, Nick Bull, Ashley Cipriani, Saoirse Conlon, Maddy Dickson, Paul DiLollo, Celeste Donisi, Hayley Donohue, Nicholas Dovile, Courtney Dunn, Casey Dunstone, Joel Dunstone, Mollie Gawley, Brodie Green, Katelyn Grima, Jess Hancock, Rebecca Hancock, Liam Hancock, Rochelle Hayes, Kirsten Hussey, Shaun Johnson, Niamat Kamar, Nick Kingma, Rachael Kloprogge, Aaron Krylov, Damian Krylov,
Victoria Athletic Championships – Congratulations go to Ben Kelly, Year 9 (CGA) who was placed 1st in the 200m Steeplechase and 5th in the 3000m race and Emily Pimlett, Year 11 (SST) who was placed 3rd in the 400m Hurdles and 8th in the 400m race.

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia – Over the weekend of March 4-6, a number of our young people led a Youth Ministry leadership conference in Hobart in order to train the students of Tasmania. Guided by Mr Kevin Woodhouse, Mrs Rhonda O’Connor and Mr James Fitzpatrick, our students excelled and showed their true commitment to this Faith movement. I commend William Aupito-Iuliano (12 MDA), Cassie Gawley (12 SMU), Danielle Dias (12 DCO), Ashleigh Schneider (12 PMK), Daniel Grulke (11BMU) and Dominic Velten (11 MOC) – each of whom is also busy with the demands of senior studies.

Sustainable Living Festival – 15 of our Year 12 students, led by Mrs Pamela Ramos and Mrs Julie Clarke, attended the Dr David Suzuki Force of Youth conference at Federation Square, Melbourne in mid-February. One of our students, Environment Captain Karen Alarcon (12 CFL), was asked to speak at the conference and delivered a keynote address on the effects of unsustainable growth on the world economy and the impact upon the environment. This tribute to a deeply committed young woman also provided her with the opportunity to meet Dr Suzuki, world renowned zoologist and environmentalist.

We are praying for:
St Francis Xavier College is a large community of thousands of students and staff, both past and present, and their families. Our community has had cause in recent weeks to both grieve and rejoice:

Bereavements:
• The repose of the soul of Mr Jack Spruitenbury, father of our colleague Ms Naomi Spruitenbury.
• Mrs Sue Nichols, member of the College teaching Staff, as she recovers from a serious illness.
• Stacey Colebrook of Year 12 as she continues treatment for Leukemia.

Your prayers for the families of each would be very greatly appreciated.

Hold fast to What is Good

WORLD YOUTH DAY
Mrs Rhonda O’Connor – Pastoral Associate

This is a unique opportunity to participate in an International event and travel with the safety and support of the School and Diocesan Community. The cost is $5400 and includes all expenses.

This is a lot of money, so we are actively fundraising to enable as many students to go as possible. Please support our pilgrims through the fundraisers and through your prayers and encouragement.

LAST CHANCE

TO BOOK

Contact Rhonda O’Connor
NOW if you want to join us

Registrations close early April.
March 1, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

You may have noted the page one story in the Age on February 28, ‘Catholic schools’ $39m bonanza’. The article, based on an interview with Australian Education Union (AEU) lobbyist Trevor Cobbold, made a number of erroneous claims about Catholic school funding. Unfortunately the claims ignore the fact that, like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to Catholic schools according to need.

Much of the funding attributed to the Catholic schools in the article is re-allocated to support schools with disadvantaged students, students with a disability, indigenous students, refugees and rural and regional schools.

This analysis appears to be part of an orchestrated campaign to influence the Australian Government’s review of school funding and secure more funding for government schools at the expense of Catholic schools. A number of organisations are likely to continue spreading misinformation during the funding review. It is therefore important that Catholic school parents understand the facts on Catholic school funding. These include:

- The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd estimates that total government funding to Catholic schools is less than 80% of the per student cost in government schools, although this percentage varies between schools.
- In the most thorough reconciliation available Ernst & Young reported that education costs in Catholic schools are 93% of per student costs in government schools in Victoria.
- 93% includes the fees paid by parents and any other sources of income that schools access such as fundraising.
- Like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to schools according to need.
- This has been the practice for many years and we believe this is the best way to meet the needs of schools and students which can vary from year to year with changing circumstances.

Catholic schools have nothing to hide and nothing to fear from the real story of school funding being widely understood and I encourage you to share the above facts with your friends. Catholic education strives to welcome students from every background and walk of life and this is only possible with fair funding.

The recent state government bi-partisan commitment to fair funding recognised the right of parents to be supported financially in their education choice. We hope that the federal funding review will also recognise this right and ensure Catholic schools receive a fair share of government funding.

Further information on school funding will be available in coming months. If you have any questions relating to school funding please contact the Catholic Education Office Melbourne via email at: <director@ceomel.catholic.edu.au>

Yours sincerely,

PAUL G. DESMOND
Principal

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE
Hold Fast to What is Good
2011
Thursday 3 March 2011

**Catholic schools save taxpayers $391 million**

The release of My School 2.0, including new financial data, has confirmed that Catholic schools in Victoria performed above state averages in national tests and saved Victorian taxpayers almost $400 million.

“The information on My School confirms that the lines pedalled by the Australian Education Union and its allies about school funding are untrue. These latest figures put the debate in perspective in terms of total government funding,” said the Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder.

“Total government funding for Victorian Catholic schools is less than 80 per cent of the funding received by government schools. The large disparity in government funding means Catholic school parents are forced to pay five times the fees, charges and parent contributions of parents at government schools, just to keep up with the cost of education in government schools.”

“This significant commitment from parents saves taxpayers $391 million per year in education funding.”

Victorian Catholic schools average net income per student is 91 per cent of the Victorian average for government schools, including fees paid by parents. My School 2.0 shows that in 2009, average net recurrent income per student in government schools in Victoria was $10,179 compared to $9,300 per student in Catholic schools.

“The simple fact is that in 2009, State Government recurrent funding for Catholic schools was about $1600 per Catholic school student, which was the lowest of any state in Australia,” said Mr Elder.

“The quality of Catholic schools and the professionalism of principals, teachers and other staff are reflected in the new data. Parents continue to demonstrate their commitment to Catholic schools through fees, and fund raising through such activities as trivia nights and school fetes. Catholic school communities all know their schools are much more than just test results.

“Catholic schools continue to perform well with less, but the latest data confirms the importance of government funding. Catholic education. Only the continued support of government can keep school fees reasonable for parents at Catholic schools.

“My School 2.0 also shows that Catholic schools rolled out the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program on time and on budget. This is something Catholic schools should be proud of.”
Mr Elder, however, again urged caution about My School 2.0. “The data on the website is not the whole story. “It is difficult to compare schools in Victoria because they operate under such varied circumstances and serve communities with differing needs and costs.

“Catholic schools cater for the unique needs of all students and families, welcoming students from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Victoria.”

Mr Elder said overall the My School website confirmed what principals and teachers in Catholic schools already knew. “Catholic schools are doing a great job focussing on the needs of every child, in learning, in life and in faith.

“In 2010, Catholic schools throughout Victoria again scored well above state averages in national tests.”

*Further information from David Ahern, Catholic Education Office Melbourne Media, on 9267 0228 or 0418 351 383.*

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**TEACHING & LEARNING; FAITH & LITURGY**

Mr Malcolm Joseph – Deputy Principal, Mission

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**CURRICULUM VISION**

Several years ago when developing a Curriculum Vision for the College we came up with a number of attributes that we would like to nurture in our students. Three years ago we revisited them to see if they had stood the test of time. After some consideration, it became apparent that we saw no need to modify them. This year the College goes through a process of renewal which is actually a review of all we do in the College with a view to developing a vision and strategic plan for the next five years. In the light of this, I would be most grateful for your comments.

**Hopeful Learners.** We have hope in ourselves, hope in each other, hope in the future and hope in a loving and compassionate God. We are aware of our call to serve and believe that, with God’s help, we can make a difference.

**Spiritual Learners.** We are capable of making moral and ethical decisions and are developing a greater awareness of our spiritual needs and our relationship with God and the universe. We are aware of and cherish our Catholic beliefs and traditions.

**Physical Learners.** We are aware of the need to become ‘whole’ by caring for our physical well being by participating in health promoting activities.

**Responsible Learners.** We have a clear sense of responsibility to our community, our environment and ourselves. We accept responsibility for our own learning and contribute to the learning of others.

**Independent Learners.** We are capable of goal setting, collecting and analysing information, communicating ideas, problem solving, reflection and critical thinking.

**Inter-dependent Learners.** We are capable of working in a collaborative manner. We value teamwork and have developed conflict resolution techniques. We are capable of planning and organising activities.

**Creative and Confident Learners.** We are capable of creative expression and are aware of the need for imagination and creativity in our lives, and to have the confidence to share our creativity.

**Historical Learners.** We are capable of making links between the past and present, and of learning from experience to build a better future.

**Global Learners.** We have a global perspective. We are aware that we are not only Australians but also members of the wider world community.
Cultural Learners. We value the importance of understanding, accepting and respecting our cultural differences.

Happy Learners. We enjoy and value learning. We accept the need for life-long learning and, therefore, practice a style of learning that is success oriented.

Successful Learners. We learn for personal and professional enhancement and enrichment.

P/T/S INTERVIEWS – ONLINE BOOKING
Once again. As we did last year, Parent/Teacher/Student interviews need to be booked online. This will give parents the opportunity to view all available times and to choose those which are most suitable.

Interviews will be held at the following times:
- 2.00 – 8.00pm on Thursday 7 April and
- 9.30 – 1.00 pm on Friday 8 April.

The system will be open to use from 9.00 am on Friday 25 March and will close at 4.30pm on Wednesday 6 April. For parents who do not have internet access, computer kiosks will be available at Reception at both Campuses. Students who have written permission from parents may also have access to these kiosks.

If there are no suitable times available on the schedule for a specific teacher, parents will need to contact the classroom teacher directly to arrange an alternative interview time outside of the allocated schedule. Parents wishing to change their interview time/s after the closing date should contact the College directly.

Instructions regarding login procedures will be published in the next Newsletter.

Parents and students are urged to participate in this important activity. It not only demonstrates family/school partnership, it also gives parents, students and teachers the opportunity to determine what each one can do to achieve desired outcomes.

DIRECTOR OF FAITH & LITURGY
Mr Kevin Woodhouse

Wednesday March 9 marks the beginning of Lent, the season in the Church calendar that leads to the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. All students began the day by participating in the Ash Wednesday ritual, where ashes are placed onto the forehead as a symbol of repentance, renewal and preparation. This ancient ritual was part of early Christian practice and the simplicity of ash is a powerful symbol that speaks to us all in Australia.

We know the power of fire, and the affect on our nation. By embracing the symbol of ashes we commit to being faithful to the message of Jesus, who proved his faithfulness to his mission by spending forty days fasting and praying in the desert. We can actively display this commitment to life by supporting the Caritas Project Compassion campaign, which distributes one hundred percent of the funds donated to projects in Australia and around the world.

We can also support our local soup van by donating wool for Mrs Sally Andrew’s Textiles classes to create scarves for the homeless of our local area. Wool can be brought to the front office at any time. More information can be found about Caritas at http://www.caritas.org.au. Our activities for Lent will include fundraising for Caritas, facilitated at both Campuses by Thomas and McDonagh Houses. In the last week of Term we will present the Stations of the Cross as part of a Holy Week prayer, and there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Second-hand Uniforms
Second-hand uniforms are always required in the Uniform Shop. Please have them cleaned and bring them in. Alternatively, if you would like to donate your old uniforms or second-hand current books, there are always needy families that would appreciate your generosity.

Rhonda O’Connor, Pastoral Associate
Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA)

HOBART RETREAT
Last weekend members of the Senior Youth Ministry Team went to Hobart to run a Retreat for five Tasmanian Schools. The students attending the retreat ranged from Year 9 to Year 12 who are beginning the CSYMA course at their schools. Danelle Dias, Will Aupito Iuliano, Cassie Gawley, Ashleigh Schneider, Dominic Velten and Daniel Grulke were accompanied by James Fitzpatrick, Rhonda O’Connor and Kevin Woodhouse.

Our students were asked to assist in a range of activities: leading icebreaker games and small group discussions, presenting dramas, sharing short testimonies about their faith, growing in their gifts and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All this was combined with fantastic music led by Kevin Woodhouse, Daniel and Dominic. The retreat was a great success and gave the Tasmanian students a wonderful model of what Youth Ministry is about and how young people can live their faith in an active, fun-filled and joyful manner.

Congratulations to the six students who led the retreat – their professionalism, respect and enthusiasm made them exceptional role models for the younger students. The weekend was finished off with a wonderful trip up Mt Wellington and a snowball fight! A big THANKYOU to the Archdiocese of Hobart for their invitation and hospitality, in providing this opportunity for our students. Hopefully we will have the same opportunity in 2012.

SALE DIOCESE YR 10 RETREAT
On Monday this week 62 Year 10 students and 8 Year 11 student leaders attended a two day Retreat at Marist Sion College in Warragul. We were joined by students from Catholic Colleges from across Sale Diocese. All 190 students are beginning the CSYMA program in their RE classes and the ‘Catch the Wave’ Retreat was an opportunity for all students to start reflecting on their journey of faith.

Our students were asked to think about their faith using the analogy of surfing – they had to picture themselves somewhere on the beach. They were asked to circle where they were regarding their faith – watching from a distance, dipping their toes in, paddling out slowly or surfing the big waves. All students were encouraged to be open to discover their faith and the Gospel message of God’s love for them in a new way. The response and participation of all students was exceptional and they are all to be commended for their participation.

One of the highlights of the Retreat was on the Tuesday morning when we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bishop Christopher Prowse and 5 priests attended. They were amazed at the student response as almost all students went forward for Reconciliation or a blessing. Seeing students lined up in a long queue for Reconciliation is not the usual experience for the priests! Congratulations and thanks to Daniel Grulke and Dominic Velten who went straight from the Hobart retreat to the Warragul Retreat and led all the music on both retreats with Mr Kevin Woodhouse. Thanks also to our other Year 11 leaders: Rhea Ferrier, Teresa Bailey, Tina Dahanayake, Jason Gerdei, Lauren Arthur and Gemma Morison.

St. Francis Xavier College, 2011 – Hold Fast to What is Good
Missed SAC’s – Excerpt from the VCE Handbook

Students are required to attend School Assessed Coursework (SAC) tasks on the day and at the time at which they have been scheduled. Students are to give School Assessed Coursework tasks priority over all other events.

When a student, owing to illness, is unable to attend a School Assessed Coursework task, a medical certificate must be given to the subject teacher so that alternative arrangements can be made, where possible.

Student Absence on the day work is due

If the student is absent on the day a SAC or an outcome is due, his or her parent/guardian must telephone the College Reception before 8.45AM. Reception staff will notify the relevant subject teacher/s and the Director of Learning/VCE. If this does not happen, the student receives a provisional N (Non satisfactory). If possible, someone else should submit the work to the subject teacher. Otherwise, on returning to school, the student should bring:

- the outcomes task/work requirement
- a doctor’s certificate
- A parental note explaining the absence and acknowledging that an outcome task was due during his/her absence.

The Beaconsfield Campus offers teachers the opportunity to have those students in their class who have missed VCE work (illness, approved absences) to re-sit tasks in a supervised exam environment.

Details below for the AFTER School session:

Day: Every Wednesday - Day 3 and Day 8
Time: 3.30-4.45pm

Details below for the IN School session: Unit 3 subjects ONLY

Day: Every Thursday – Day 4 and Day 9
Time: 1.55 - 3.10pm

Parental permission must be obtained. Students will not be permitted to attend if they do not have a signed permission slip.

Interim reports

Interim reports are to be distributed to students on Friday March 25. The College has planned for Parent/Teacher/Student interviews in the last week of Term 1 so that any issues that stem from interim reporting can be discussed with the teaching staff. We hope meeting the teachers will assist parents in understanding the issues and requirements surrounding senior studies. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and perhaps clarify how you can help your child achieve their best.

How to Succeed in your VCE Year

My message for the senior students this fortnight is to be brave.

Persevere

Whenever times get difficult and tough (which they will), do not give up, just push through it. When you don’t understand something (and there will be plenty of that), seek help. The answer might only be a question or two away but the answers will not find you, you have to actively seek them out. You’ll learn something new and feel like you have accomplished something.

Interact and study with different people

Something many Year 12 students often do is study on their own or with a close group of friends, but more often than not our friends are not in our subject or may have just as much trouble with the same tasks as we do. You may have to network with people you don’t know to be able to learn and understand the material.

Be unafraid, proud and fearless

Be proud of yourself and all your accomplishments and build off them. Lastly be fearless of the scope and reach of your goals and don’t settle for anything other than success.
Year 11 and 12 Study Skills Session
Providing students with valuable insights into effective ways to achieve VCE is important to us. Our Year 11 and 12 students will join us for a presentation by Elevate Education on Friday March 18. Elevate is Australia’s largest provider of study skills programs in Australia. They have conducted extensive research into the habits of the state’s top students to identify exactly what these students do to ace the VCE.
Elevate will address the following issues:
• Motivation
• Effective study skills
• Time Management
• Avoiding the distraction of technology
• Realising goals

Information Sessions
It was a pleasure to host the annual "Keys Please" information session for our Year 10 students and their parents recently. Driving is a complex task for new drivers and the strategies suggested during the course of the evening were practical and should help to alleviate the anxiety felt by many learner drivers and their parent instructors. Our presenter, Paul Thorne from VicRoads provided advice and information regarding the best methods to utilise the mandated 120 hours of practice to assist learners to become safe drivers.

Year 11 students and their parents are reminded to attend the Year 11 Information Evening, incorporating Presentation Ball information on March 15 beginning at 7.30pm in the Beaconsfield Hall. This compulsory session will include important information regarding senior studies for all Year 11 students. I look forward to seeing you all on this occasion.

Tax File Number Applications
Upon commencement of employment, it is a requirement of all employees to supply a Tax-File Number (TFN) to their employer. Students beginning work for the first time who do not have a TFN can complete a special student’s TFN Application Form available from Student Services (Berwick & Beaconsfield). Upon submission of the form, a TFN will be mailed home in about 6 weeks.

Early Dismissal
All Year 12 students will be participating in a Study Skills Session facilitated by Elevate Education on March 18. Regular timetabled classes will also be held. As a result, all students will be dismissed at 3.20pm on this day.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
Go to sfx.vic.edu.au then click on “News & Events” then “Newsletters” then “Subscribe” and fill in the information
Parish Primary Schools
Recently I had the pleasure of visiting one of our newest feeder primary schools, St Brigid’s. Officer to meet with the Year 5 & 6 students to discuss enrolment procedures for Year 7 at St Francis Xavier College in 2012.

It was wonderful to see the strong sense of community that has been established at St Brigid’s in its very short history. As Year 7 student Patrick Barker returned, there was an overwhelming sense of welcome and joy from the St Brigid’s staff and students alike as they were reunited. Patrick described his Year 6 year as a foundation student of St Brigid’s as “the best year of his life”.

Other current Year 7 students have also accompanied me on visits to their past primary schools. Emilie King and Anthony Interlandi returned to St Patrick’s Pakenham, Aiden Penn and Stephanie Tomkins to St Michael’s Berwick, Rohana Taylor, Diandre D’Silva, Caitlin Di Benedetto to Don Bosco, Tony Clamant and Shenae Chamberlain to St Catherine’s Berwick. These students spoke about their recent experiences of transition to secondary school at St Francis Xavier College and they answered many queries from the Year 6 students. All students presented themselves in an accomplished and informative manner and were a tribute to both the College and their primary school. These school visits will continue next week to our other Parish feeder schools presenting information for enrolment in Year 7, 2012.

Year 7 Enrolment 2012….REMINDEERS
- **Parent Information Evening** – Tuesday March 29 at 7.30pm. Berwick Campus Hall
- Berwick Campus Tours (available from 6.15 - 7.15pm – prior to the Information evening; leaving from Hall Hospitality area

Final closing date for applications for Year 7 enrolments is **Friday April 8, 2011.**
It is essential that all enrolment applications for places in Year 7 2011, be submitted by this date.

City of Casey Teenage School Holiday Program offers an exciting range of activities suitable for young people aged 12-17. The program includes:
- **Ice Skating** at Docklands (Mon April 11) 
- **Luna Park** (Tues, April 12), **Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre**, Splash out Session (Wed April 13) 
- **Rock Climbing**, Carrum Downs (Thurs April 14), **Hip Hop Dance Workshop** (Cranbourne Mon April 18), 
- **Go-Karting**, Oakleigh (Tues April 19), **Werribee Open Range Zoo** (Wed April 20), 

To book or for more information: contact City Of Casey 9705 5200. Bus pick up and drop off available.

Remar students from all caravels joined with fellow students and the wider community to participate in the Relay for Life held last Friday and Saturday at Akoonah Park. The level of local participation in this event had to be experienced to be believed.

While the subject of cancer is never to be taken lightly there was a wonderful balance between festival, raising awareness and celebrating the lives of those who had been taken by this insidious illness.

Our students brought a vitality, yet respectfulness to the event. Special thanks to Bec Hancock for organising the Hearts & Hands team. All who participated are to be congratulated for their energy, good cheer and persistence in completing the 24 hour relay.
Congratulations!
On Thursday February 24, I was lucky enough to witness a really fantastic event that included everybody from the Berwick Campus – The Junior Swimming Carnival. It was such a positive, vibrant community focused event that ran so well, I just feel it necessary to congratulate everyone involved, from the organisers to the participants. We received great praise from the Monash Aquatic Centre staff for the behaviour of the students and the general organisation of the day. All Inter House competitions provide wonderful opportunities to develop and nurture House spirit and this was evident in the way students made contributions on the day. Those who contributed by competing in swimming events, barracking, entering the Points Swim, staying with the House as a show of strength, keeping their respective areas clean, etc. are to be congratulated for their contribution in fostering school and community spirit.

Congratulations and thanks to:
• Miss Amy Tivendale and Mr Cameron Furlong for organising the day,
• Burgess for winning the competition
• Schneider for winning the House Spirit Award
• Ed Support staff and students for refreshments
• All staff and students for their involvement and contribution to ensure such a successful day.

Upcoming Events
Year 7 camps are coming up in a couple of weeks, and I am sure that all the students involved will have a great opportunity to get to know more people in their House and Year level. Miss Amelia Boyle and Mr Justin Meade, with the support of the House Coordinators and staff, have worked tirelessly to make sure everything is organised and ready to go! I hope the excitement is building for what I am sure will be a memorable experience. I am looking forward to visiting again this year to witness for myself the wonderful opportunities camp presents to our Year 7 students.

Drop off and pick up of students
The Director of Excelcon constructions came to see me last week to voice his concern and frustration regarding parents who are dropping off and picking up their children in front of his building site on the Clyde Road corner opposite St Catherine’s. He told me that some cars are stopping in inappropriate and dangerous spots, blocking the entrance to his construction site and generally causing havoc. He came to tell me that he has notified the police and the council, who have responded by saying they will monitor and fine people who are stopping in unsafe and illegal areas. This is a timely warning and reminder to all parents to drop students off in the correct and clearly labeled areas for the safety and consideration of all.

It has been reported to me by the staff doing morning Yard Duty on the basketball courts that there are some parents who are driving too fast in this area. Please SLOW down when you are on College property to ensure the safety of our College community. Thank you.
The Parents and Friends Association of St. Francis Xavier is a great opportunity to hear more about what’s going on at your child’s school as well as meet new people and offer help, ideas and support in a friendly environment. Everyone is welcome so please join us...
Enquiries can be made to Lorraine on 9707 5274.

**FUNDRAISING 2011**

After the success of last year’s Clover Cottage Fundraiser Dinner, the P&F are going to hold another one later this year. Dates and more information will be confirmed in the newsletter a.s.a.p.

**TERM ONE FUNDRAISER**

This week a ‘*Garden Express – Spring Flowering Bulb*’ fundraising form will be sent home via Care Groups at the JUNIOR CAMPUS. Any Senior Campus Families who would like to purchase the bulbs can get a form from the office otherwise phone Lorraine on 9707 5274 for more information.
The closing date for orders will be **Friday 1st April** and the bulbs will be sent home in the first week of Term 2.

*Thank you for your support*

**SECOND HAND BOOK SALES UPDATE**

All funds from the sale of second hand books will be credited to school accounts. Refunds are now being processed and should appear on your next school statement. Thank you for your patience.

**P&F MEETING DATES FOR 2011**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Wednesday 6th April</td>
<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4th May</td>
<td>Wednesday 12th October</td>
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<td>Wednesday 1st June</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd November</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3rd August</td>
<td>Wednesday 7th December</td>
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The Year Seven Camp is being held at the Licola Wilderness Village in Licola. The dates are:

Gallagher, McKenna, Synan and White  Wednesday March 16 – Friday 18
Burgess, McDonagh, Schneider and Thomas  Wednesday March 23 – Friday 25

While on the Year Seven Camp, students will undertake a number of outdoor activities. These will include initiatives such as Giant Swing, Flying Fox and Canoeing. These activities will be conducted by trained staff from the Licola Wilderness Village.

All students are expected to attend the Year Seven Camp, as St Francis Xavier College values the opportunities it provides to our young people in fostering new friendships, new experiences and to challenge each individual to move outside their comfort zone.

All students are expected to arrive at St Francis Xavier College on the morning of their Camp between 7.30 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. for an 8.00 a.m. departure and will return back to school on the final day by 3.20 p.m. Lunch will be provided on the first day.

Any medications are to be given to your child’s House Coordinator clearly labelled and with instructions on dosages and times etc.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the camp, please do not hesitate to contact the College, during school hours, on 9702 6588.

Congratulations

Jessie Hilder won first place in the Senior section of the Berwick Star Search Competition held at the Berwick Show. Jessie played her guitar beautifully and sang Like the Way I Do, by Melissa Etheridge.

Shanelle Jacobs took third place singing Big, Blonde and Beautiful.

West Side Story

Many students and staff have been putting a lot of hours into our College Production and it looks fantastic! Tickets go on sale for this fabulous production in a couple of weeks. The performance will be at Cranbourne Community Theatre on Thursday May 5, Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7 at 7:30pm. Save the date as you will not want to miss out on this wonderful show!

SIS Big Night Out Concert

Students have begun rehearsals for the SIS Big Night Out Concert. The concert has many of our students performing in the Concert Band, Dance teams, Choir, Guitar Ensemble and a VCE Group is representing the College. The evening is on Tuesday April 5 at the Drum Theatre in Dandenong. For tickets call the Drum Theatre on 9771 6666. We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 7 Concert Band

We have many new recruits for our Concert Band at the Year 7 level and are looking for more. The Parents and Friends Association have generously provided us with the funds to give free instrumental music lessons to students who take on a Concert Band instrument. The instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Patricia Dulude at the Beaconsfield Campus. Places are limited, so get in quickly to avoid disappointment.

Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental music lessons have begun at the College with many students taking up the opportunity to learn an instrument. The College offers tuition in voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass guitar, drums and piano. For more information contact our instrumental coordinators Miss Leah Anderson at the Berwick Campus and Mrs Sally Oliver at the Beaconsfield Campus.
It has proved to be a big start to the year with swimming carnivals, lunch time sports and SIS sports all being held during the past few weeks, not to mention what is still to come this Term.

Both the Senior and Junior Swimming Carnivals were held last week on Tuesday and Thursday respectively. While the senior students dressed to impress in House colours, the junior students chose to earn House points through dancing on the sidelines to the Macarena. Participation was the key to successful events, with all students doing their bit either in the pool, organising a team for each race or supporting on the sideline. However at the end of the day there could only be one winner at each Campus. Burgess House triumphed at both carnivals, proving too strong for the other Houses. The House spirit award was won by Synan at the Senior carnival and Schneider at the Junior carnival. Well done to all students who had a go and contributed to such great days, it was great to see participation at its premium.

The SIS Noble Park Swim Relay Carnival was held on Friday February 25 with students from Years 7 to 12 representing the College in the pool. While points didn’t count on the night it proved to be a great opportunity for the team to prepare for the up and coming MSAC Swimming Carnival. The event also gave the students an idea of their opponents for the MSAC Carnival. Well done to all students involved.

SIS weekly sports have begun with teams at both Campuses representing the College in a range of sports. Good luck to all teams for coming rounds.

Inter-House weekly sport has been running at both Campuses. It has been great to see the commitment from each House and students who are always willing to participate. Currently the ladder leaders for each year level are: Yr 12 Gallagher, Yr 11 Gallagher, Yr 10 Schneider. As the Junior Campus has only playing a few games there are no clear cut leaders, however, each game has been greatly contested with high levels of participation.

Still to come this Term is the MSAC Swimming Carnival, Cross Country and, in preparation for the season, Rugby training is starting. Please watch this space for more information on these events.

 OUR PARISH MASSES

| Berwick:  | Sat. 6.00 p.m.  
| Narre Warren:  | Sat. 6.00 p.m., Sun 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.  
| Pakenham:  | Sat. 6.00 p.m., Sun 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m.  
| Koo Wee Rup:  | Sat. 7.00 p.m.  
| Iona:  | Sun. 11.00 a.m.  
| Lang Lang:  | 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.  
| Nar Nar Goon:  | 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.  
| Maryknoll:  | 4th & 5th Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.  

 UNIFORM SHOP
Beaconsfield Avenue, Beaconsfield  
Mrs Vicki Lister

Hours
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8.30am – 4.00pm  
Every Saturday  
9.00am – 12.00pm

Telephone Orders Welcome
Please call 9707 3111 (Tuesday or Thursday)
HOST FAMILIES 2011

Are you interested in hosting a Japanese student? Well, here is your chance. St. Francis Xavier College will be hosting Japanese students from our sister school in Tokyo, Japan in two blocks this year. We are also lucky enough to have students from another region of Japan (Shikoku) visiting us for 2 nights/3 days.

2 nights: between 26th July – 1st August (Shikoku)
1 week: 26th August – 31st August (Tokyo)
1 month: 24th July- 20th August (Tokyo)

A host family is required to provide a bed and meals to the student. All other activities etc are organised by the College. If you are interested please return the bottom of this form, with your details to your Japanese teacher as soon as possible.

Kind Regards
Miss Kate Buttigieg
Learning Area Leader - LOTE

Please return this slip to your Japanese teacher.

I ___________________________ of _______ Care Group am interested in
First and last name
hosting a Japanese student.

(Please circle the length of time you would like to host a student for)

- 2 nights
- 1 week
- 1 month

Contact details:
Parent Name: _____________________________
Phone Number: __________________________ Email: __________________________

St. Francis Xavier College, 2011 – Hold Fast to What is Good
YEAR 12 CAREER INTERVIEWS Started this week. The purpose of these interviews are to help students set goals for 2011-2012 regarding further study and employment opportunities. Students will be given course information for University and TAFE Institutes and ATAR Scores where required. If there is a clash with interview time and a SAC, students must attend the SAC and make a new interview time.

REMINDEERS:
- National Careers & Employment Expo, 9am-4pm, Fri 25 March & 10am-4pm, Sat 26 March; discuss study options, source information from industry and employers, speak to major employers; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Southbank; www.eocexpo.com.au; 1300 667 121 for information.
- University of Melbourne Veterinary Science Open Day - Sun 27 March, (see 2. below)

OPEN DAY DATES FOR 2011 – Attending Open Days is a great way to find out more about universities and TAFE Institutes; see facilities, find out about courses, collect information. Here are some dates for your diary. More information and dates as Open Days get closer.

- Sun 27 Mar - Veterinary Science Open Day, Werribee
- Sun 17 July - Burnley Gardens Open Day, Burnley Campus, Uni of Melbourne, 500 Yarra Bvd, Richmond
- Sun 26 June – Victoria University (well ahead of the other universities this year)
- Sat 6 Aug – Monash Uni (Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula campuses)
- Sun 7 Aug – La Trobe Uni (Melbourne); Monash Uni (Malvern, Clayton and Parkville campuses); William Angliss TAFE
- Fri 12 Aug – La Trobe Uni (Shepparton)
- Sun 14 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne); Deakin Uni (Warrnambool); La Trobe Uni (Mildura); RMIT (University and TAFE)
- Sat 20 Aug – Holmesglen TAFE
- Sun 21 Aug – Deakin Uni (Geelong); La Trobe Uni (Albury/Wodonga); Uni of Melbourne; Swinburne (Hawthorn, Lilydale and Prahran)
- Sun 28 Aug - ACU (Ballarat); Ballarat Uni; Box Hill Institute; Deakin (Burwood); La Trobe Uni (Bendigo)

ATTENDING Open Days is really important, especially if you intend to apply for a course that requires an interview, folio presentation or audition. You will be at a serious disadvantage if you have never visited the institution involved.

NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE AND IT DEGREES AT RMIT – RMIT has new degrees for 2012
- Bachelor of Computer Science (Database Systems) covering the management, development and implementation of data systems and
- Bachelor of Computer Science (Network Computing) covering the creation, implementation and maintenance of network application software

These four-year degrees have been developed with industry and combine a solid theoretical and practical background with real world experience gained during a year-long internship.

Info: www.rmit.edu.au/compsci/newprograms

TRIAL-A-TRADE AT WILLIAM ANGLISS TAFE – This program will give students a hands-on feel for working life as a chef, baker, waiter, barista, confectioner, butcher or patissier. Who: 14-18 yo; When: 5.30-8.30pm, Thurs 10 March; Where: William Angliss Institute, Bld A, 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne; Cost: $28; Book: 9606 2111; Info: 9606 2111 or info@angliss.edu.au (program a part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival).

FIND OUT ABOUT ENGINEERING CAREERS – at the 2011 Engineering Careers Expo. Engineers Australia, Victoria Division invites you to attend the Engineering Expo. Attend seminars, 70+ exhibitors, careers and professional advice. When: 2-7pm, Thurs 31 March; Where: Etihad Stadium, Melbourne; Cost: Free; Register: www.engineeringexpo.org.au; Enquiries: Noel Dos Santos, 9321 1726.

DO YOU WANT TO STUDY MUSIC? What sort of skills are you after? If you want a career in a band, in sound or in performance in the music industry, then a TAFE diploma may suit. Box Hill Institute and NMIT, for example, offer Music Industry (Business), Music Industry (Technical Production) and Music Performance diplomas (and some full-fee degrees). RMIT University also offers a Music Industry degree. On the other hand, if you wish take your music performance to a high level, a university degree may suit. For example, Monash, Melbourne (incl the VCA and Music) and ACU offer music degrees. You will need to audition for the degree(s) that interest you, and a Grade 7 level is required (Grade 5 for voice). Make sure you check out the course that interests you at Open Day.
During the last fortnight our VET Sport and Recreation first year students have been busy qualifying themselves with 'Sports Medicine Australia.' Heather Callahan came to us and spent three days training and testing our students in First Aid and assisting them in gaining their Sports Trainers Certificate.

We now have 14 qualified First Aiders who may be willing to assist on College occasions or out in their local sporting communities. The completion of two more courses in the next fortnight will see these students further their knowledge and expertise in both Sports Massage and Advanced Taping for the prevention and alleviation of pain resulting from soft tissue injuries.

It wasn't all study and strapping over the three days – a lot of laughs were had as students improvised being the victims of sporting accidents while their peers had to treat and tape them.

Thank you goes not only to Heather but to my 14 students who were punctual, proficient, interested, interesting, knowledgeable and courteous throughout the courses.
February 22, 2011

Dear Parents

ELECTION OF PARENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COLLEGE BOARD

In order to ensure a continuity of experience on the College Board, parent representatives are elected for a two-year period with the possibility of one further term of two years. This year there are elections for three parishes.

The parishes which require election of a parent representative this year are:

BERWICK: presently represented by Mr P Macreadie (not eligible for re-election)
PAKENHAM: presently represented by Mrs A Daraio (not eligible for re-election)
KOO WEE RUP: presently represented by Mrs K Morgan (not eligible for re-election)

Nominations are therefore requested for these three positions.

The attached Nomination Form must be returned to the College, duly completed, no later than 3.30p.m. Friday March 11, 2011. This will enable a ballot to be conducted with voting closing at 3.30p.m. on Monday April 4, 2011 at 3.30p.m.

The successful candidates will be expected to attend the meeting of the Board on Wednesday April 27, 2011, and thereafter once per month (normally on a Wednesday evening).

Those eligible to vote are parents residing in a particular parish who have a child or children attending the College.

The Board would like to express its appreciation of the efforts of the current parent representatives for their endeavours over the 2009/2010 school years and trust that parents will appreciate the necessity in making nominations, of ensuring that this high standard of representation is maintained over 2011/2012.

Please Note:

NOMINATION TO BE RETURNED BY: Friday March 11, 2011
VOTING CLOSES 3.30PM: Monday April 4, 2011

PAUL G. DESMOND
(Principal)
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE BOARD ELECTION

NOMINATION FORM

This Nomination Form must be returned to the College
NO LATER THAN 3.30P.M. FRIDAY MARCH 11, 2011
in an envelope marked for the attention of
Mrs Lesley Lancaster, Returning Officer.

I wish to nominate __________________________
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

from the Parish of __________________________

for the position of parent representative on the College Board of
St. Francis Xavier College.

NAME: __________________________

SIGNATURE: __________________________

DATE: __________________________

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSON NOMINATED

I, __________________________, accept the above nomination for the
position of parent representative on the College
Board of St. Francis Xavier College.

NAME: __________________________

SIGNATURE: __________________________

DATE: __________________________