

St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 2nd March 2020
Term 1 Week 6

PO Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2020 Key Dates

Term 1

Jan 28 – March 27

Term 1 Week 6

Monday 2nd March

Personal Development
Parent Meeting (5/6)
Year 5 Cyber Safety and
Chromebook Boot camp -
Parent Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March

Parent Forum Meeting #1
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 4th March

Foundation Children at
Home

Friday 6th March

School Assembly Program –
Year 5

Term 1 Week 7

Monday 9th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 10th March

Year 6 Camp
School Board Meeting
Parent Helper Meeting (2)

Thursday 12th March

School Open Day 3

Friday 13th March

P & F Mix and Mingle Night

Term 1 Week 8

Tuesday 17th March

School Photos

Friday 20th March

School Assembly Program

Term 1 Week 9

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Our **School Athletics** day last Monday was a great success. Thanks to Mr Carroll for his organisation of a very smooth running and enjoyable day. Many thanks also to all our parent helpers who each year ensure the success of the day for the children by volunteering time and energy.

Thank you to all involved in our **Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meetings** over the past 2 weeks. Feedback from all involved was very positive. These meetings were a great opportunity to spend 5 minutes of dedicated 1:1 time to meet and for you to share your child's strengths, passions, your concerns, and aspirations and anything else you think will help your child to be successful! We look forward to our **Student Led Conferences** at the beginning of Term 2.

Last week, **Ash Wednesday**, marked the beginning of Lent. We attended Mass at St. Alipius where we were all marked with the sign of the cross, in ashes, on our foreheads. The ashes symbolize that we are followers of Christ and the Lenten season is a time for reflection and consideration for how we live out our Christianity.

Lent is also a special time when you as parents can share the concepts of giving and forgiving with your children. Consider as a family how you might help others in need. Lent is a time for us to reflect within the warmth of our families about how we live our lives and how we concern ourselves for others.

A Reflection for Lent

One day, two friends were talking. They both wanted to change the world. "Everyone will know who I am if I become the richest person in the world." said one of them excitedly. "I would have power! I could do anything I wanted. I could buy anything I wanted. Don't you think that would be great?"

The other friend didn't answer. It was not how the world was going to be changed. After thinking about it, the quiet friend finally gave an answer: "The only way to really change the world is to change our hearts. Change begins in the heart."

School Open Morning / School Alive Tours – Thursday 12th March

Our next **Open Morning and School Alive Tour** of St. Francis Xavier will take place on Thursday 12th March from 9.30am – for families enrolling children in Prep for 2021.

This day will allow prospective families to meet with the School Leadership Team and Foundation Teachers and to familiarise themselves with our school programs and facilities.



Tuesday 24th March
Sovereign Hill - Costumed
School Program Year 5LL

Thursday 26th March
Sovereign Hill - Costumed
School Program Year 5JC

Friday 27th March
Casual Dress Day
Holy Week and Easter
Prayer
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2
April 14 – June 26

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 13th April
Easter Monday Holiday

Tuesday 14th April
First Day of Term 2
School Board Meeting

Friday 17th April
Foundation Enrolments
2021 close

Term 2 Week 2

Tuesday 21st April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 1

Wednesday 22nd April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 2

Thursday 23rd April
Confirmation Preparation
Meeting 1

Friday 24th April
Casual Dress Day
School Assembly Program

Saturday 25th April
ANZAC Day

Monday 27th April
Student Free Day - Staff
Professional Development
Day

Tuesday 28th April
Foundation Reading
Workshop

Wednesday 29th April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 3

Thursday 30th April
Confirmation Preparation 2

Mix n Mingle Friday 13th March

Have you got your tickets yet?
Tickets are now available via
Flexischools, get yours ASAP and
we look forward to seeing you all
on the night!



Summer Lunch Menu Starts Friday 6th March

The P&F are excited to bring you our new
Friday Lunch Menu for Terms 1 and 4 and it's
coming this Friday! Place your order now via
Flexischools.

All orders must be placed by 10am Thursdays
mornings.



Friday Lunch Helpers

Friday lunches will be available this year during Terms 2, 3 & 4. The children love their hot lunches during the cooler terms, and this year we will also be offering wraps & scrolls during term 4, but to enable this to happen we need helpers!



If you have ½ hour to spare on a Friday morning between 11:00 – 11:30am, and would like to help out, this is a great way to get involved in the school community and meet other Mums.

The more volunteers we get means your time may only be needed once per term. Without your involvement we unfortunately cannot proceed.

If you interested and can help, or would like to know more, please contact Karen Nunn on 0438556686 or karenbrit@bigpond.com

Remember...the ones that benefit most from your involvement are **YOUR** children!
Kind Regards,
P & F Committee

2020 Tuition Fee Raffle

What a fantastic start to the year if you won \$1,500 off a year's tuition fees for one student!

- **Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20**

In keeping with the mission of the Parents & Friends, proceeds of the raffle will go towards the annual fundraising target which contributes to projects which will benefit all students.



To purchase your tickets, please complete the tickets attached and/or sent home, enclose them in an envelope with your money and return to the P&F Box located in the school office before Tuesday 10th March, 2020.

The Raffle will be drawn at the **P & F Mix and Mingle Night** on Friday 13th March, 2020.

Friday 1st May
School Assembly Program

Term 2 Week 4

Tuesday 5th May
P & F Meeting

Thursday 7th May
Confirmation Preparation 3

Friday 8th May
Mather's Day Liturgy

Sunday 10th May
Mother's Day

Term 2 Week 5

Tuesday 12th May
NAPLAN – Year 3 & 5
School Board Meeting

Friday 15th May
School Assembly Program

Term 2 Week 6

Monday 18th May
Student Free Day - Staff
Professional Development
Day

Term 2 Week 7

Monday 25th May
Catholic Education Week

Friday 29th May
Casual Dress Day

Term 2 Week 8

Tuesday 2nd June
P & F Meeting

Friday 5th June
EE World Environment Day

Term 2 Week 9

Monday 8th June
Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday

Tuesday 9th June
School Board Meeting

Thursday 11th June
Year 3 Camp

Friday 12th June
School Assembly Program

Term 2 Week 10

Monday 15th June

School Photos – Tuesday 17th March

Last week you received your child's personalized photo envelope from MSP Photography. If you wish to purchase photos please ensure your child has the photo envelope on photo day with the correct money or alternatively there will be an option to order photos online. Family Photo envelopes will be available from the Office.

Photo day is **Tuesday 17th March** and children will be required to be in full summer uniform (not sport uniform).

SFX 2020 Parent Forum - Tuesday 3rd March 2020

As a result of our 2016 School Review, St. Francis Xavier staff have made a commitment to enhance relationships and partnerships with the St. Francis Xavier Community.

We have listed the following goals as strategic actions over the next four years:

1. Provide opportunities for parent voice in the school in order to build a sense of dual-partnership
2. Seek feedback from parents regarding school programs and practices
3. Encourage parent access and involvement in classroom programs



over

To continue this process we are going to hold a number of Parent Forums where you can offer your feedback and questions. The Parent Forum will be a chance for you to meet in a group with the Principal to discuss your ideas and questions.

The main aim of the Parent Forum is:

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues
- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions
- To make plans that support the ways the school wants to develop and improve outcomes for our children

We invite you to attend the first 2020 Parent Forum opportunity :

Parent Forum Meeting 1

Time: 9.30am – 10.30 am

Date: Tuesday 3rd March 2020

Where: St. Francis Xavier Primary School

We also invite all families to provide feedback through an online **Google Form**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFJg6FGfH6RyLYVoadA7jIX6PCT48Wd_je3ew01tbOXWyoaw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Moving Beyond asking “What did you do at School?”

Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school?

- “So, how was your day?”
- “What did you do at school today? What did you learn?”

If these are your default questions the chances are that you'll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.”

These answers don't really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don't ask a great deal.

Year 1 & 2 Performance
Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 16th June
Bravehearts incursion -
Foundation, 1s and 2s

Thursday 18th June
Year 1 & 2 Performance –
Matinee and Evening

Term 2 Week 11

Friday 26th June
Casual Dress Day
Last Day of Term 2

Term 3
July 13 – Sept 18

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 7th September
Year 5 & 6 Performance -
Dress Rehearsal

Thursday 10th September
Year 5 & 6 Performance -
Matinee & Evening

Term 1 Week 10

Term 4
Oct 6 – Dec 16

Term 1 Week 7

Monday 16th November
Year 3 & 4 Performance -
Dress Rehearsal

Thursday 19th November
Year 3 & 4 Performance -
Matinee & Evening

Term 1 Week 8

Term 1 Week 9

Term 1 Week 10

Term 1 Week 11

**All other Calendar Dates
for 2020 have been
updated and can be
accessed live on the
Skoolbag App or by visiting
the School Website.**

So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child's school life but also an indication of your child's interests, social skills and welfare.

Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess today?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where's the best place to hang out/play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What's something you learned with a friend today?
13. What's your teacher's most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

Next time you ask a clichéd and dull question about your child's day stop yourself before you utter the words. Instead think outside the square and ask questions that may stimulate a response beyond "Fine" or "Nothing." And remember they may not feel like talking, which is fine too. Like adults, kids need to be in the right mood and the right environment if they are going to share a meaningful conversation about their day.

St. Francis Xavier School Finances - Explained

Understanding the complexities of the funding of a Catholic school is often confusing. In particular, the relationship between Government Grants, school fees and income from fundraising is better understood when explained more fully. **(Please also find attached an explanation sheet).**



Basically, a Catholic school's income is derived from three sources:

1. Government Grants (both Commonwealth & State):

These cover such areas as salaries, superannuation, Work Cover, interest on capital debts and Catholic Education Office levies.

2. Local Contribution:

This is made up of school fees, parish contributions, interest and donations, i.e., Parent Club fundraising. It is an expectation of Governments that, in order to qualify for Government funds, school communities must contribute financially to their parish school, and thus ensure that a satisfactory standard is maintained, both in the education of the pupils and also in the administration and maintenance of the school.

3. Classroom Income:

This is made up of: (1) Government Grants (both Commonwealth & State). These grants are used to provide materials used by the children in the classroom.

(2) Student Fee. These are charged at the beginning of each year.

School Fees

The School is advised by the Catholic Education Office regarding school fee structure and the School Board approves any changes to these fees.



Student Fee

This fee is charged per pupil.

Along with the Government Grants, it meets the costs of running the classrooms for the year. Funds are used for:

- Student Requisites/Stationery & Materials
- Religious Education Resources
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Numeracy Resources
- LOTE
- Intervention Programs
- Integrated Curriculum
- Environmental Education/Kitchen Garden
- Student Wellbeing
- Library/Resource Centre Resources
- Art/Craft
- Music
- Physical Education
- Membership of Sovereign Hill

Tuition Fee

This fee is charged per family.

The Tuition fee is approved each year by the School Board. The fee is used to assist the school in meeting its running costs throughout the year.

Capital Fee

This is charged per family.

The fee is used for capital projects, such as the new building program, as well as funding specific purchasing priorities such as computers, playground equipment and library resources.

Building Fund Fee

This fee is charged per family. The fee is used for the repayment of loans on major capital projects.

ICT Fee

This is charged per student

The fee is used to support the provision of ICT equipment for students from Foundation to Year 6.

School Fee Payments

Parents who experience difficulty in repaying their school fees are expected to make an appointment with the principal when the matter will be discussed in total confidence. A number of payment options exist for families, with direct debit and credit card payments proving very popular.

Family Fee Assistance Scheme

In 2011 the Ballarat Diocese introduced the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The scheme offers a family fee discount to those families who hold a health care card. Please contact the office for an application form.

Camps Sports Excursion Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like, school camps or trips, swimming and school-organised sport programs, outdoor education programs, excursions and incursions.

This \$148 million initiative helps ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities. The fund commenced in 2015 and will initially run for four years. To be eligible the family must hold a current Health Care Card.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School Working Bees

In 2015 our School Board agreed that St. Francis Xavier Working Bees will be held on the last Sunday of each term. Last year our Working Bees were very well attended and extremely successful! In order to spread the workload we have decided to allocate each family one Working Bee per year.

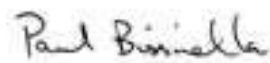
- Working Bee's will begin at 3:00pm and finish at 5:00pm.

We encourage all families to make the commitment to attend their allotted Working Bee. If you don't attend your allotted Working Bee we will include your name on the next Working Bee. If you can't attend your allotted Working Bee please arrange to swap with another family and notify the office.

Term 1	Sunday 22 nd March 2020	Families with Surname beginning:	A - C
Term 2	Sunday 21 st June 2020	Families with Surname beginning:	D - H
Term 3	Sunday 13 th September 2020	Families with Surname beginning:	I - P
Term 4	Sunday 6 th December 2020	Families with Surname beginning:	Q - Z

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Do not fear offending anyone. Speak as your mind directs and always act with more courage when the "mammon of unrighteousness" is in question

Letter to Mary Ann Doyle July 24, 18

Religious Education News



Sacrament Enrolment 2020

Parents of baptised students in Year 3 & 4, plus any other eligible children in Years 5 & 6, are reminded of the Sacramental Enrolment meeting on Thursday 19th March at St Alipius Church, beginning at 7:00pm. Enrolment forms will be distributed and completed at the meeting. Parents are encouraged to bring their child's baptism certificate to this meeting. Parents who are unavailable on Thursday are encouraged to attend one of the other meetings.

	St Alipius	Emmaus	St Francis Xavier
Dates	Tues March 17 th 7:00pm	Wed March 18 th 7:00pm	Thur March 19 th 7:00pm
Venues	To Be Confirmed	Ss. Peter and Paul Buninyong	St Alipius Church

Prior to each sacrament, parents are expected to attend workshops with their child to help them prepare the children at home. The three schools support the parish in this endeavour.

100% attendance is expected at the workshops and parents may attend at any of the venues.

Baptism

If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office. Your child will not be listed as Catholic in our school records and you may miss out on sacrament information.

If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611.

If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office. Your child will not be listed as Catholic in our school records.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Luckman

Religious Education Leader

Wellbeing News



Casual Dress Day

Thank you for supporting our casual clothes day last Friday. A great response and all the money will be directed to the Bushfire Appeal
<https://www.cera.catholic.org.au/>.



Wellbeing Night - Personal Development and Cyber Safety

This Monday night the Year 5/6 team are presenting to all parents/carers of children in these years a Wellbeing night which will incorporate Personal Development and Cyber Safety. Leading Senior Constable Des Hudson OAM Ballarat Police Youth Resource Officer will once again highlight to parents/carers the need to be up to date and in touch with what their children are doing with technology and social media. The attached article from Parenting Ideas is a great read for all members of our community.

Cyber bullying of children and teenagers is one of the greatest fears facing parents today. The thought of their child being subjected to heinous words, threats to their physical safety, as well as their social and emotional wellbeing, is something no parent/carer wants their child to experience.

Our School we will take part in the **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence** on Friday 20th March 2020.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark
Wellbeing Leader



Physical Education News

School Athletics Day at Llanberris Athletics Reserve – Monday 24th February 2020



What a day we had last Monday at Llanberris! Beautiful weather meant we had perfect conditions for the students to run, jump, throw and have plenty of fun. Congratulations and well done to all of the students for having fun, supporting each other and trying their best. The results and the winning House will be named this week.

And a big thank you to all of the families and friends that came along to support and cheer on the children and to those that also assisted on the day.

Division Swimming at Eureka Pool

On Thursday 27th Feb, on a rather chilly morning at Eureka Pool we had 8 students participating in the Division Swimming meet. Well done to Sienna Driscoll, Finn Russell, Riley Simpson, Ky Geljon, Lenny Driscoll, Ari Jones, Keely Geljon and George Farrell on your efforts in the pool. Congratulations to Ky and Lenny for progressing through to the Regional Finals to be held in Horsham on 20th March.



Ballarat Netball Association Afterschool Netball Competition

St Francis Xavier Primary School will again be entering team/s into the Ballarat Netball Association Afterschool Netball Competition at Llanberris Netball Stadium. Games are played Tuesdays for Yr 3/4 & Yr 5/6, and Wednesdays for Yr 3/4 and 5/6. The season commences Tuesday May 5th and Wednesday May 6th and runs over 8 weeks. For further information or to register your interest, please see/contact me.

We also have the opportunity to enter boys and girls team/s into the Afterschool Primary School Basketball Competition for Year 3/4 to be played at the new Ballarat Sports Event Centre on Thursday nights. Season commences Thursday April 30th and runs for 8 weeks. For further information or to register your interest, please see/contact me.

Term 1 2020 Calendar Events

- Wednesday March 18th - 25m Encouragement Swim Meet (9yr and under) at Ballarat Aquatic Centre - Please refer to note sent on CareMonkey

Have an awesome week everyone.

Shaun Carrol

Physical Education Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop Update

Opening Hours Term 1 2020:

- Monday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Wednesday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Friday 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Available NOW!

- Boys school socks \$10 a pair
- School coats available \$45
- Swim hats available \$10

Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app.

Orders **with full payment** (cash or cheque only) may be left at the front office.

DONATIONS PLEASE

Please check your cupboards for any uniform items you no longer need. Donations of second hand uniforms can be left at the shop with Sam or Yvonne. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers to help out in the shop during the term. We only roster you on for 1 or 2 half hour shifts per term maximum. Parents with small children are welcome to bring them along when they are rostered on. Please text **Yvonne Arnts on 0426 240 496** if you are able to help, with your preferred day. Thanks.

UNIFORM SHOP ROSTER

Week 6		
Monday 2nd March	Wednesday 4th March	Friday 6th March
Yvonne Arnts & Jordie Roney	Sam Murphy & Sarah Matthews	Christine Taylor & Kayla Moran
Week 7		
Monday 9th March	Wednesday 11th March	Friday 13th March
Labour Day Public Holiday	Sam Murphy & Lou Jeffrey	Christine Taylor & Sarah Matthews
Week 8		
Monday 16th March	Wednesday 18th March	Friday 20th March
Yvonne Arnts & Ebony Bromley	Sam Murphy & Sarah Matthews	Christine Taylor & Natasha Nicholson
Week 9		
Monday 23rd March	Wednesday 25th March	Friday 27th March
Yvonne Arnts & Nicole Murphy	Sam Murphy & Lou Jeffrey	Closed – Last Day Of School Term

Community Announcements

Go to our **St. Francis Xavier Facebook** page for more photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Francis-Xavier-Primary-School/273229632859103?ref=hl>