



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 16th March 2020
Term 1 Week 8

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2020 Key Dates

Term 1

Jan 28 – March 27

Term 1 Week 8

Tuesday 17th March
School Photos

Friday 20th March
School Assembly Program

Term 1 Week 9

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

Term 2 Week 2

Tuesday 21st April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 1

Wednesday 22nd April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 2

Thursday 23rd April

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

UPDATE: COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Our first priority at St. Francis Xavier is the health and safety of our school community. I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our **Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan**. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>

In relation to ongoing teaching and learning, the School is planning for use of the **Seesaw App** for delivery of lesson content in the case of a school shutdown. This allows for worksheets and activities to be communicated to parents and children, working on the assumption that staff and children have Wi-Fi access at home.

The School is liaising with our cleaning contractors to ensure that areas such as classrooms and common areas are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis. New hand sanitising stations and soap dispensers have been implemented around the School. Assemblies have been conducted stressing the importance of strong hygiene practices.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact my office should you have any concerns. Thank you for your support as we work to keep our children safe.

Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!

Confirmation Preparation Meeting 1

Friday 24th April
Casual Dress Day
School Assembly Program

Saturday 25th April
ANZAC Day

Sunday 26th April
Foundation Enrolments
2021 close

Term 2 Week 3

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

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

School Photos – Tuesday 17th March

Recently 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 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).

St Patrick's Day

Many Australian Catholics have Irish ancestry and they honour St Patrick as one of the patron saints of their Irish heritage. We can all celebrate the life of this very interesting man because he is also the patron saint of the Ballarat Diocese.

Who was Patrick? Patrick was born on the west coast of Britain about 360 A.D. At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold as a slave into the service of a local king. On a rainy hillside tending sheep, he met the Lord and his faith was nurtured over the next several months. He escaped, but God called him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He was a saint of God who gave his life to help people know Jesus by starting mission churches. He baptized tens of thousands and hundreds of chapels were erected for the worship of Jesus all over Ireland.

<http://www.joyfulheart.com/stpatrick/patrick.htm>



Hot Cross Buns Drive and Easter Egg Raffle

Get set for Easter with the P&F's Hot Cross Buns Drive and Easter Egg Raffle! Order your Hot Cross Buns with the form sent home last week and buy your tickets for our Easter Egg Raffle! We are accepting donations for the Easter Egg Raffle and they can be left at the office.

P & F Easter Egg Raffle

Families are kindly asked to donate an Easter Egg (or similar) towards the raffle prize, and can leave a gift at the School Office until Tuesday 24th March.

Raffle tickets were sent home Monday, ahead of the BIG PRIZE DRAW on Friday 27th March.

Good luck, and thanks for your support!



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**

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
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 3 Week 9

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

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

Student - Led Conferences at SFX

Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences. During Student – Led Conferences, your children will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation and answer questions you may have.

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- **For parents** – we hope that you will get to see rather than simply being told about your child's progress.
- **For students** – we hope students will take more responsibility for their learning.
- **For teachers** – we want teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you.
- **For all** – we want to maximize our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

These conferences are scheduled for Week 2 & 3 next term, on the following dates:

1. **Tuesday 21st April 2020**
2. **Wednesday 22nd April 2020**
3. **Wednesday 29th April 2019 20**

These meetings will last for 20 minutes and we encourage all families to attend. Children must attend these meetings!

The purpose of these meetings is to celebrate, affirm the children's learning and promote Student Voice.

Parents and teachers will be able to ask questions of the children during these meetings in regards to their achievements, challenges, effort, behaviour, goals and next steps in their learning. We are certain that these conversations can happen with the child present with our teachers up-skilling the children to lead these conferences with confidence.

We have deliberately formed them as Student – Led and not 3 – Way Conferences. In response to the recommendations of our 2016 School Review we have developed a Strategic Educational Plan with the support and approval of the School Board and targeted promoting Student Voice across the school. Highly Effective Catholic Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice and all the latest research and evidence around Assessment as Learning supports this. If a parent needs to have a conversation with the teacher not in the presence of the child in regards to other matters, this needs to take place at another time. Contact can be made with the class teacher requesting further time if needed.

St. Francis Xavier will also be holding Student Led Conferences at the beginning of Term 3.



[Book School Interviews Online](#)

WHY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES?

- Students develop **ownership** of their learning
- Students build **independence**
- Students take **pride** in their success
- Students identify areas for **improvement**
- Students **share** knowledge and skills learned

Term 3 Week 10

Term 4
Oct 6 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 7

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

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

Term 4 Week 8

Term 4 Week 9

Term 4 Week 10

Term 4 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.

Student Led Conferences can be booked online using www.schoolinterviews.com.au:

Our school interviews website will open on Wednesday 18th March at 9:00am for you to log in a conference time. You can logon yourself and choose your preferred time or alternatively contact the office and we can do this for you.

The allocated time is 20 mins per conference. The web address for booking will be emailed to Parents on Tuesday 17th March 2020.

Punctuality

It has been great to see that the majority of our children are arriving on time each morning, ready for roll and for morning prayer at 8.55am (first bell) and ready to begin their learning soon after. Thank you to parents for ensuring this takes place.

Please find attached an article titled **Every Minute Counts: Plan to crack down on school stragglers** published in the Herald Sun on Tuesday 30th December 2014. The article outlines directives being adopted in Government Schools to address issues of punctuality....

“School attendance is vital for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they achieve their full potential both academically and socially,” spokesman Simon Craig said. “Young children who regularly miss school or are late for the start of the school day will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.”

The “Every Minute Counts” initiative follows the March introduction of \$70 fines as a last resort for parents whose children are absent for at least five days in a year without a reasonable excuse.

Education Department calculations show missing just 10 minutes of class a day equates to almost 1½ weeks of lost learning time over a year or almost six months over a child’s entire school life.

Those typically an hour late miss eight weeks of school a year or a whopping two-and-a-half years by the time they complete Year 12.

It is essential therefore that a smooth start to the day is established for your children so that excellent learning can take place. We ask that you continue to ensure that the children arrive on time to move to their classrooms for the 8.55am start.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School Working Bees

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

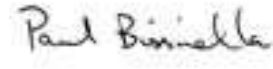
End of Term

Next Friday 27th March marks the end of our first term. School resumes for Term 2 on Tuesday 14th April at 8.55am.

Please note that the School Term ends next Friday at 2:20pm.

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Prayer will do more [to solve our difficulties]... than all the money in the Bank of Ireland. Let us pray well and never grow weary.

Letter to Aloysius Scott July 20, 1847

Religious Education News

Lent



If you are looking for some activities for your family this Lent, have a look at The Season of Lent at <http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/lenten-season-resources.html> There are video clips and a wide variety of activities to help families prepare for Easter. Some interesting ones include Lenten Calendar for Kids and 40 Ideas for 40 Days.

Sacrament Enrolment 2020

Due to circumstances beyond our control the scheduled Parent Formation sessions on Tuesday 17th Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March **have been cancelled**.

Enrolment forms were distributed on Friday 6th March. If you are expecting an enrolment form (and it is not in the bottom of your child's bag) please contact me on bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au and one will be organised for you. You may drop your child's enrolment form and baptism certificate off at the office or with your child's teacher before the end of Term 1.

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



Book Fair- 'Enchanted Forest'

The theme for our Book Fair this year is 'Enchanted Forest'. The Book Fair provides the children with the opportunity to explore literature and select books of interest. The Book Fair is a great way to celebrate reading within our community with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for the children to discover.

This year the Book Fair will be again organised by our wonderful P&F Committee and will commence on Tuesday 28th April in our school Library.

Stay tuned for further information in the coming weeks!

Jayne Bosworth
Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

This Friday 20th March 2020 is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. It is an important day to mark Australian school communities standing together against bullying and violence. Our Year 4 classes will be presenting their assembly on this day and part of it will be connected to Bullying NO Way! Everyone is welcome to attend this assembly.

Definition of bullying: *Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through **repeated** verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel **unable to stop it from happening**.*

*Bullying can happen in **person** or **online**, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).*

*Bullying of any form or for any reason can have **immediate, medium and long-term effects** on those involved, **including bystanders**. **Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.***

Happy Days,

Jane Clark
Wellbeing Leader



Physical Education News



All the best to those students who are competing in various sporting finals over the coming weeks.

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 Yr 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. *(Entries close Friday April 24th)*

Afterschool Primary School Basketball Competition for Year 3/4

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. *(Entries close Thursday 9th April)*

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 8		
Monday 16 th March	Wednesday 18 th March	Friday 20 th March
Yvonne Arnts & Ebony Bromley	Sam Murphy & Sarah Matthews	Christine Taylor & Natasha Nicholson
Week 9		
Monday 23 rd March	Wednesday 25 th March	Friday 27 th March
Yvonne Arnts & Nicole Murphy	Sam Murphy & Lou Jeffrey	Closed – Last Day Of School Term

Community Announcements

World's Greatest Shave

On Friday 13th March, **Hannah Smith** and her mum **Billie** participated in the **World's Greatest Shave**. Hannah coloured her hair and Billie shaved hers. 3 years ago a family member of Hannah and Billie lost a battle with Leukemia at the age of 4. For this reason Hannah and Billie are trying to raise \$500 by taking part in World's Greatest Shave! Please give what you can to support them and help beat blood cancer. You can donate online using the link provided or a cash donation box will be left at the school office. <http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/billiemurphy>

Steven and Vivienne Lock also participated in **World's Greatest Shave** due to a close friend recently being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Steve dyed his beard and then shaved it off after two weeks and Vivienne dyed her hair.

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

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