



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 23rd March 2020

Term 1 Week 9

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2020 Key Dates

Term 1

Jan 28 – March 26

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 23rd March

Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 24th March

Sovereign Hill - Costumed
School Program Year 5LL
POSTPONED

Thursday 26th March

Sovereign Hill - Costumed
School Program Year 5JC
POSTPONED

Friday 27th March

Term 2

April 15 – June 26

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 13th April

Easter Monday Holiday

Tuesday 14th April

Student Free Day

Wednesday 15th 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

Confirmation Preparation
Meeting 1
POSTPONED

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Update on COVID 19 (Coronavirus Outbreak)

The current coronavirus pandemic is extremely unsettling for all and I feel it is important to explain the position that St. Francis Xavier has taken in supporting our community.

The health and safety of our staff and children is our paramount concern. In the context of an international pandemic; however, these considerations are much more complex.

St. Francis Xavier relies on the advice from the Australian Government, who in consultation with their experts, are qualified to assess the evidence, weigh up conflicting opinions and make recommendations. I also acknowledges the guidance provided from the National Catholic Education Commission. Based on advice from these sources, and in concert with the Catholic Education Office, **St. Francis Xavier will close for the End of Term 1 today at 3:20 pm Monday 23rd March 2020.**

Although we are planning for school to resume for Term 2 on Wednesday 15th April 2020 there is a strong likelihood that students will not return at start of Term 2. We will continue to update you with information and advice in a timely and accurate way once we receive official communication.

This week our staff will continue to work at school with flexible working arrangements adopted. Teachers continue to prepare to provide for student learning in the event we are required to close next term. **There is no expectation that schools will provide any home learning program until Term 2.**

Our school will seek to minimise the impact on student learning as much as possible with excellent preparation for online learning and for study at home. It is likely to be an extended time of academic and social disruption, of anxiety and confusion, of fear and grief. Nevertheless, we try to stay positive and look for the new opportunities and different ways of living and working that may arise.

By working together and supporting each other, hopefully this will be a year where we learn what is truly important in our lives and where we are able to model the values of community and concern for others. We are called to such action as people of Mercy, as Christians and as Australians.

On your behalf, I thank all the teachers and staff members of our school who are working tirelessly to provide this example for your children. I am confident that you are providing them your full support.

I will continue to provide regular updates as new information comes to hand.

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

Friday 24th April
Casual Dress Day
School Assembly Program

Saturday 25th April
ANZAC Day

Sunday 26th April

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
POSTPONED

Friday 1st May
School Assembly Program

Term 2 Week 4

Tuesday 5th May
P & F Meeting

Thursday 7th May
Confirmation Preparation 3
POSTPONED

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

Australian Government Announcements

This National Cabinet has announced new social-distancing measures, among a range of other measures to support our communities as we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19.

On the recommendation of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), the National Cabinet also determined that early childhood settings, schools and higher education institutions remain exempt from these requirements.

We will continue to follow the recommendations of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, and if the advice changes, we will communicate that new advice as quickly as possible.

NAPLAN

The Australian and state governments have decided that NAPLAN testing will not proceed for 2020.

The disruption caused to schools by COVID-19 has created additional work as schools prepare for a possible move to more flexible learning programs, including remote learning. Coordinated Practice Testing (CPT) scheduled for Monday 23rd March 2020 will not proceed.

Connected Learning Community

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 activities to be communicated to parents and children, working on the assumption that staff and children have Wi-Fi access at home.

Staff have been working hard to establish a **Connected Learning Community (CLC)** to provide meaningful home learning experiences in the event that schools are directed to close next term. It is an expectation that learning remains available to students in the event of school closure as part of all students' entitlement to access the Victorian Curriculum.

Please find attached 2 documents that outline our **St. Francis Xavier Connected Learning Community** and the method/platform that we will use to provide our children with meaningful learning experiences at home.

- 1. SFX Connected Learning Community (CLC) Letter to Parents**
- 2. SFX Tips to Support Home Learning for Families**

Hygiene

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

Message from The School Counsellor

It is normal for your child to be feeling concerned and anxious given the events over the past month or so. Please take advantage of the wonderful resources that have been shared with you by the school about supporting your family and your mental health.

You can best help your children by modelling healthy, proactive coping skills and self-care strategies when faced with adversity. As humans we thrive on structure, familiarity, comfort and predictability- think about how we can build these into our home routines over the coming weeks.

If you would like to contact me regarding your child, I will be available from 9-12 noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. You can phone the school office or email me on cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

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

Term 3 Week 10

Term 4
Oct 6 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 7

Easter Egg Raffle Tickets

Easter Egg Raffle Tickets are due today by 9am as are donations for our prizes. Winners will be drawn at school on Monday afternoon and prizes available for collection straight away.

Thank you in advance for your support!



Hot Cross Buns Drive

Hot Cross Bun Orders will be available for collection from the Gym from 9:00am to 10:00am on Tuesday and need to be collected by a parent/guardian. Any problems please let Breonie Campbell or Ange Staley know.

Thank you to all families who have placed an order!

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!



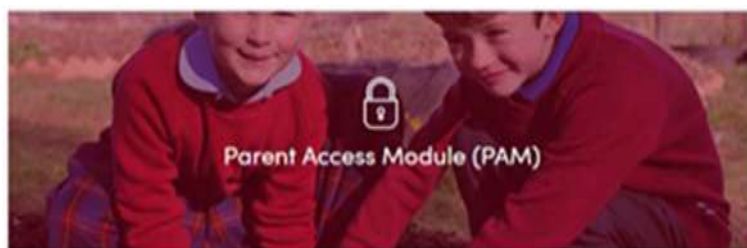
If you have ½ hour to spare on a Friday morning between 11:00 – 11:30am, and would like to help out, this is a great way to get involved in the school community and meet other Mums. The more volunteers we get means your time may only be needed once per term. Without your involvement we unfortunately 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**

NEW Booking Instructions for Student - Led Conferences (Term 2 - Week 2 & 3)

In last week's Newsletter booking instructions were communicated incorrectly for Student Led Conferences.



Please note: that **PAM** will be used for booking Student Led Conferences with instruction included below.

COVID19: At this stage we are planning for Student Led Conferences to take place as normal. Should circumstances change and schools be directed to close, our contingency plan is to conduct Student Led Conferences by phone/internet or another time. Details will be communicated should the need for this arise.

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

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.

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

Student - Led Conferences on PAM - Booking Instructions for Parents

1. Log into PAM using your Username and Password

PAM can be accessed via the schools
homepage:<http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/news-events/parent-access-module/>
or by going directly to the PAM site
- <https://pam.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>

2. Click on Parent Teacher Interviews
3. Select student
4. Select Core Group
5. Select Teacher (If your child's class has 2 teachers, only one teacher has the times available.)
6. Select your time
7. Click Book Interview

- The interview times will be displayed underneath your booking window. If you need to alter your child's interview time please click on the blue pen box and alter your time.
- If the interview time you have made does not suit and you wish to delete the time, please click on the red cross box
- There is an option to print your interview booking times by clicking the blue printer icon.

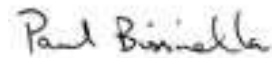
Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 5331 6311 should you have any queries or concerns.

Lastly

On a final note, I hope that you and your family can stay positive and well during this pandemic. All of us St. Francis Xavier look forward to a time when our school can resume some normality once again. Our school has a strong and compassionate culture and is at such time that we draw on our Mercy values to guide us.

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, 1841



Prayer From Bishop Paul Bird

Bishop Paul Bird has sent further information about the suspension of liturgies which was announced last week. He encourages people to visit churches to pray and to gather in small groups for prayer, observing social distancing. Parishioners may still request communion be taken to the sick or elderly, if there is minimal risk and safe hygiene practices are being observed. He ended his letter with a prayer, which I will share with you now.

We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Australia and around the world. We pray for those who have died and their families and friends who are grieving. We pray for all those who are sick and for the doctors and nurses and all who are caring for them. May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another.

Cancellation Of Confirmation Workshops

As you would be aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving rapidly. We have been advised that non-essential gatherings of more than 100 people should be cancelled. As such, the Confirmation workshops will not go ahead as planned.

We will keep you updated when we know more about the future plans of the parish regarding preparation for the sacraments.

Please email me if you have any concerns about Confirmation on bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Topic	St Alipius	Emmaus	St Francis Xavier
Workshop 1	Tuesday 21st April 6:00pm	Wednesday 22nd April 6:00pm	Thursday 23rd April 6:00pm
Workshop 2	Tuesday 28th April 6:00pm	Wednesday 29th April 6:00pm	Thursday 30th April 6:00pm
Workshop 3	Tuesday 5th May 6:00pm	Wednesday 6th May 6:00pm	Thursday 7th May 6:00pm

CANCELLED

Sacrament Enrolment 2020

Please continue to send in your child’s enrolment form, baptism certificate and online payment for sacraments this year. The dates planned are still a long way away and we don’t know what restrictions will have been lifted by then.

Year 4 families please note that the Confirmation Mass on Saturday 13th June at 6:00pm is very full, with 26 children already listed for this Mass. There is plenty of room in the other two Masses.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader



Book Fair- 'Enchanted Forest'

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

The theme for our Book Fair this year is Enchanted Forest. The Book Fair provides 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.



Prior to the Book Fair, classes will be given the opportunity to view the selected books and write a wish list. The Book Fair will take place in the school Library and will run from Tuesday 28th April through to Friday 1st May.

We are very excited to announce that a colouring in competition linked to the theme Enchanted Forest will take place! We have two templates- one for F-2 and one for Years 3-6. The templates (attached to this newsletter) are now available for children who would like to participate to complete at home. The templates will also be available electronically via the schools Facebook page and hard copies in the school office.

Colouring in competition prizes will be awarded and will consist of \$10 Book Fair vouchers and Pancake Kitchen Vouchers per level.

Coloured in pictures need to be **named** and placed in the Parents & Friends box located in the school office no later than **Wednesday 22nd April, 2020**. The pictures will then be displayed in the Library in preparation for the Book Fair. We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair!

Assessment and Reporting – Seesaw

Throughout Semester One and Two, key assessment tasks will continue to be uploaded to Seesaw and will be titled, Assessment Task. These assessment tasks will include a Learning Intention, authentic feedback from the teacher and where appropriate a student reflection. This will enable parents to develop a real-time understanding of how their children are progressing towards key curriculum objectives and will assist children (with support from teachers) in identifying future direction in their learning.

NAPLAN 2020

The Australian and state governments met on Friday and have decided that due to the current situation with COVID-19, NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020.

Jayne Bosworth
Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News



Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic

"If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days. The attached article written by Michael Grose may be of some assistance to you during this uncertain time."

Happy uncertain Days,
Jane Clark
Wellbeing Leader

Physical Education News



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

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 April 9th)

Term 2 2020 Calendar Events

- Thursday 9th April - entries for afterschool basketball close
- Friday 24th April - entries for afterschool netball close
- Friday 1st May - Ballarat Catholic schools cross country @ Fed Uni
- Friday 15th May - Eureka Division cross country @ Vic Park
- Friday 22nd May - Ballarat Catholic schools boys & girls football tournament

Have a wonderful break everyone.

Shaun Carroll
Sports Coordinator

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 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



EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Monday 30th of March to Thursday the 9th of April 2020

(excluding weekends and public holidays)

Eastwood Leisure Centre, Ballarat

8am to 5pm each day

Pre-School to Grade 6, boys & girls

\$45 per day

\$200 for a Full Week

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

**At this stage our Easter Holiday Program will be going ahead. If for any reason it is cancelled we will refund all missed bookings.*

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

Term 1

Week 8: Mercy

<u>Year levels</u>	<u>Award recipients</u>	<u>Specialist Awards:</u> Visual Art Japanese Performing Arts Environmental Education
FMH	Jagger Toohey and Minka Henjak	
FND	Alby Skrokov and Lucy Elliot	
FEH	Xavier Morris and Olive Lenaghan	
FSM	Lucy Bromley and Eliza Simpson	Alexis Toohey FM
1RC	Mia Hamill and Riley Ponsonby	Leni Brown 1RC
1MM	Asha Toohey & Maddie Murphy	
1GJ	Archie Williams and Sophie Beseler	
2GH	Eli Roberts and Evie Woolfe	
2AH	Jack Lewis and Eden Howard	<i>Asha Brady-Walker for the merciful way she assisted a fellow student in a time of need.</i>
2BW	Mannix Treacy and Jack Elliot	
3SB	Matthew Corrigan, Evie Knowles, Zach Kennedy	Mia Van Hammond, Felicity McGrath & Olena Vallance for the merciful way they have assisted in the care of our school guinea pigs, each day for the past fortnight. The girls were not asked, but saw a need and did something about it.
3GS	Arabella Heywood, Julian Simpson	
3CP	Tayla Hiscock, Wentworth Campbell, Toby Watson	
4BL	Claudia McGettigan, Ben Buckland	

4TW	Saacha Hyland, Liam Patterson	Ryan Alford, Elliot Marson, Jake Kennedy
4PB	Mabel Rush and Maya Simanjuntak	
5JC	Flynn Spackman, Angus Farrell	Libby Gervasoni Grace Douglas 5JC
5LL	Oliver Elliott and Tom Stevens	Riley Boadle
6CC	Issy Brown-Kenyon, Sam Jones, Sophie Caughey, George Heaton	
6JF	Izabella Marios-Gray, Hannah Toohey, Lucas Van Der Heyden	

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

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