

St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 1st February 2021
Term 1 Week 2

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2021

Key Dates

Term 1

Jan 28 – March 31

Term 1 Week 2

Monday 1st February
First Day for Students

Tuesday 2nd February
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 3rd February
Foundation Children at Home

Friday 5th February
Beginning of School Year Mass

Term 1 Week 3

Monday 8th February
Year Ahead Meetings
Enrolment Applications Open

Tuesday 9th February
School Board Meeting

Wednesday 10th February
Foundation Children at Home

Term 1 Week 4

Monday, 17th February

Tuesday 16th February
School Open Day #1
Getting to Know Your Child as Person and a Learner Meeting #1

Wednesday 17th February
Foundation Children at Home

Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday 23rd February

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back one and all! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and are rested and renewed! What a wonderful sight it was this morning to see our playground full of our children and Foundation families! It was equally exciting to go into every classroom and see the children bright, fresh and energised ready to start the school year.

Over the holidays we received some great news that I am very happy to share with you. **Miss Ginnane Smith** announced that she is expecting a baby. Congratulations Brighid and Lucas!

Miss Dalton announced that she is engaged. Congratulations to Nicki and Zac!

Fortunately, I was shared the secret of Miss Ginnane Smith's pregnancy late in the year last year and when advertising for teaching positions! I am pleased to inform the Year 3 class and families that **Ms. Melinda Harty** will take over as Class Teacher of 3GS when Brighid begins her parental leave in early Term 2.

At assembly this morning we welcomed 5 new children, 76 Foundation children and their families to our school community and we look forward to them having an enjoyable and rewarding time at St. Francis Xavier. We welcome :

Foundation

76 New children

Year 4

Annabella Chalmers

Year 5

Harrison Lane
Ryder Macklin

Year 6

Lachlan Lane

Year 1

Eben Du Toit

There are seven new staff beginning at St Francis Xavier this year! We wish them the very best for their time at St Francis Xavier Primary School.

1. **Year 4CJ** - Caitlin Jans
2. **Learning Support** – Jess Murphy
3. **Office Administration** – Claire Hay
4. **Occupational Therapist** – Brittany Curtain
5. **Year 5MA** - Michael Marshall
6. **Learning Support** – Laura Cole
7. **Boost Teacher** - Melinda Harty

Leadership at St. Francis Xavier

In 2021 the Senior Leadership Team will remain the same with **Peter Mullane and Jayne Bosworth in the Deputy Principal Roles**. Pete will be Deputy Principal with responsibility Learning Diversity while Jayne will continue as Deputy Principal overseeing Learning Enhancement. Pete, Jayne and I believe this model of leadership will work effectively in catering for the needs of our whole school community, and I look forward to working again in a strong, collaborative team environment this year.



School Open Day #2

Wednesday 24th February
Foundation Children at Home
School Open Day #2
Getting to Know Your Child as Person and a Learner Meeting #1

Friday 26th February
Casual Clothes Day

Term 1 Week 6

Monday 1st March
School Photos
Year 5 Cyber Safety and Chromebook Boot camp - Parent Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 4th March
Foundation Children at Home

Thursday 4th March
School Open Day #3

Friday 5th March
SFX Junior School Athletics Day (F - Year 2) Russell Square Sports Ground North

Term 1 Week 7

Monday 8th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 9th March
Year 6 Camp - Melbourne

Term 1 Week 8

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 22nd March
SFX Middle-Senior School Athletics Day (Year 3 - 6) Llanberris Athletics Reserve

Friday 26th March
Casual Dress Day

Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 31st March
Last Day of Term 1

Thursday 1st April
Holy Thursday
Friday 2nd April
Good Friday

Sunday 4th April

Please find attached a full staffing list for this year.

Our shared vision set out below outlines the major focus of our School and I share it with you again today as we start the new school year.

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

We believe strongly that a great education is one of the foundations of life. Our Mission Statement and the values that flow from it reflect this belief and guide our every action. St. Francis Xavier is a place where minds are inspired, characters are formed and the traditions and values of the past are the foundation for the future. At St. Francis Xavier our goal is to educate children in the Mercy tradition so that they go on to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

2021 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected as **2021 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains:**



Ky Geljon



Emme Geljon



Levi Hynes



Eliza Trigg

I am sure that you join me in congratulating our Captains on their appointments!

School Timetable

This year all the children will receive weekly lessons in Japanese, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Environmental Education. Accompanying today's newsletter is a timetable that outlines our Specialist Teacher Program. It is a 2 weekly timetable that co-ordinates (for most rooms) all Specialist Classes on one day. I ask you to read over it carefully and if you have any concerns to contact your child's class teacher.

Teachers will also explain the Timetable in detail at the Year Ahead Meetings on Monday 8th February.

Year Ahead - Parent Information Evening via Zoom

On **Monday 8th February** St. Francis Xavier will hold a Parent Information Evening for all parents. Arrangements for these meetings this year will change due to COVID 19 Density Requirements.

Please note: This year the meetings will be held online (**virtually with Zoom**) and all class teachers will send a Zoom Invitation to each family shortly.

These meetings are intended to give parents specific information about class programs and approaches to teaching and learning. I strongly encourage all parents to attend as we believe that a positive, nurturing, and encouraging home-school relationship is essential in

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

Easter Sunday

Term 2
April 19 – June 25

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 19th April
First Day for Students

helping children achieve success. The education of each of our children is a partnership between staff, parents and children.

The sessions will run for up to between 45 minutes with each classroom teacher (please note new times below).

- 5:00pm Foundation to Year 2
- 6:00pm **Specialist Teachers**
- 7:00pm Year 3 to Year 6

All other Calendar Dates for 2021 have been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website.

Student Led Conferences about each child will take place in Week 2 & 3 of Term 2.

Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting

Staff will be doing all they can to get to know your child at the beginning of this term so they can enhance wellbeing and support and challenge each child to be the best that they can be, to be successful!



An important aspect of getting to know children is the “Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting” on **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 26th February.**

These meetings provide 5 minutes dedicated 1:1 time for parents and teachers to meet and for you to share your

child’s strengths, passions, your concerns, and aspirations and anything you think will help your child to be successful.

We will send home some question prompts the week before to ensure we maximise the time together. Please make a note in your diary for this now and look out for the School Interviews sign up on Monday 10th February for your time slot.

The Francis Xavier Way – Our Whole School Behaviour Management Program

At St. Francis Xavier teachers have successfully implemented and run a whole school Behaviour Management program. The program is based on Lee Canter’s Assertive Discipline research and has clear a set of rules and consequences that we promote in both the classroom and playground. The ultimate aim of the program is to teach the children to manage their behaviour well - thus allowing them to focus on their learning and to build positive relationships.

At St. Francis Xavier:

- 1. We follow adult instructions immediately**
- 2. We keep hands, feet and objects to ourselves**
- 3. We do not call out**
- 4. Swearing, teasing or calling others names is not welcome**

Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) for school parents....

As you know we take the health and safety of your children very seriously. As such will continue with our use of **Operoo** as a health and safety program. It has been very well received by families since we began using it in 2015!



Operoo is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form for schools, clubs and other groups with a duty of care. It's an electronic version of the paper based forms you're always having to fill in for excursions, camps, enrolments, etc.

As a parent you will have received an email or SMS from the **Operoo** system inviting you to enter the details for your child in an electronic medical form. Please complete and update your Operoo details as soon as possible.

Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

School Fees

School Fee Payment Agreement Forms were sent home to all families last year. If you have not yet returned your form please complete it and return to the school office by Friday 5th February. This form is to be completed by all families on an annual basis.

For families that returned their forms last year, the direct debits have all been set up and will commence from the 18th February 2021. Attached to the newsletter is the direct debit schedule dates for 2021.

Family Fee Assistance Scheme

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for a means tested Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families, to new and current students. If you are eligible for the above concession card and require further information regarding this scheme, please contact the school office for more information.

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

Eligibility:

Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card on the first day of Term 1 or first day of Term 2 or be a temporary foster parent will be eligible to apply.

Icy Poles

Icy poles are again available for children this year on Mondays. We require parents to pay up - front for icy poles. They are now \$4.50 for the term and payable to the class room teacher by cash. Please pay by 9:30am Monday the 8th February, if you would like your child to have them on Fridays.

COVID Safe Environment

Our school continues to monitor and abide by all COVID safe regulations and recommendations issued by both the State Government and the Catholic Education Office. Density Limits and Good Hygiene practices continue to apply.

COVID Safe Principles for Children and Parents

- Any child who is unwell must not attend school
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements (see below)
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements (see below)
- Entry and exit points to the school will be open, with additional staff allocated to ensure children are safely supervised

- Parents are not to enter classrooms at any stage and are to adhere to social distancing guidelines when waiting to collect their child at the classroom door
- Request that parents avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Regular School Cleaning continues
- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for continued safe behaviours

School Health and Safety Measures return for children

We have considered a variety of strategies to support physical distancing, particularly among adults, and good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the practical limitations of our school environment.

Beginning of the Day Drop Off

- **Foundation (Prep) parents** will be able to accompany their children to their classroom in the first week of school. We ask that the Foundation (Prep) parents drop their child at the classroom and then leave in a prompt manner.
- We continue to request that **all other parents (Year 1 – 6)** drop their children off in the undercover area and then exit the school in a prompt manner. Staff will be present in the undercover area from 8:30am to assist children with walking to their classrooms if required.

At no stage are parents able to enter any classroom. Red Tape and Distance markers will be outside each classroom door to remind all adults.

End of the Day Dismissal

- No more staggered collection of the children at the end of the day
- From 3:15pm parents are to collect their children from the classrooms
- Should you collect your child before 3:15pm you will need to sign them out through the office
- Please wait in your car until the bell goes at 3:15pm.
- Please do not gather at the front of the school or in the undercover area

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to these guidelines and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to minimise stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite.

Bus Transport for 2021

If there are any changes with regard to your child's transport from school for 2021 could you kindly fill in a Transportation From School form or contact the office with the relevant changes.

If you are a new family starting in 2021 and intend for your child to travel from school, please find attached the Transportation Form for you to complete and return back to the office.



Bus Procedures for Parents

- You need to notify the office if there is a change to your default (i.e. what you filled out on the form)
- Changes to the daily schedule would be appreciated as early in the day as possible – before 12.00pm midday.

Changes to the daily schedule will be able to be conveyed to the office via telephone, by a bus pass which will be available from the office or by downloading and printing from our website.

Changes to the daily schedule can also be communicated via the Skoolbag App, or via the generic "office" email office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Parent's Car Park – Traffic Movement 2020

Thank you to everyone who followed the arrangements/instructions for parking this morning!

Traffic Movement Instructions:

- When turning at the top of Fortune Street to come back down to park - please go to the 2nd group of trees beyond the double lines and opposite the golf club marked with a LARGE X. Please go up to the cross in a single line and cross to come back down Fortune Street.
- There will be two large Witches Hats showing you where to cross back down Fortune Street.
- You may also go further up past the X Tree beyond the golf club to turn to come back down Fortune Street



Double Lines on Fortune Street

Double Lines are painted on Fortune Street adjacent to the St. Francis Xavier school grounds.

Double Lines rules state that is illegal to:

1. Overtake
2. U-turn
3. Right turn across the double lines from the left lane into a car park

The Double Lines have not been introduced to inconvenience people. Double Lines have been introduced to ensure that the SFX Community is kept safe and that sensible driver behaviour is encouraged.



Road Rules

- **As a pedestrian only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.**
- Parents please observe ALL 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.
- The Fortune Street Bus Zone is for BUSES ONLY. If you continue to park in the Bus Zone you do so at your own risk and may incur a fine.

If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained.

For the safety of all - use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules. Police and Council patrols happen randomly and parents can and will be caught and fined.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Healthy Fruit Stop

At St Francis Xavier, we have included a morning 'Healthy Fruit Stop' to our timetable.

This means ALL children will stop and eat a snack of fruit or vegetables in the classroom at 10.00am.

We encourage the children to bring their healthy fruit in a small container, chopped ready to be eaten.

Some snack suggestions:

- Snow peas
- Sultanas
- Chopped apples
- Peeled bananas
- Carrot sticks
- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes

Please avoid from sending nuts due to allergies. As we are having this snack in the classroom, please refrain from sending juicy fruits that might make a mess.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School – Skoolbag App

Our St Francis Xavier Primary School App is very popular!
Over 1200 Downloads so far but we need ALL parents to Download it ASAP!!



What is Skoolbag?

Skoolbag provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

No more lost paper in student school bags! School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App.

Skoolbag is a school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone, and Android devices.

Instructions

Go to the Apple App Store and type in St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat and Install the App. It can be installed on an iPad but you need to select the iPhone version.

The App is also available to Android users through Google Play.

For google play its under St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East

Communication

St Francis Xavier tries very hard to communicate with the school community, mainly through Newsletters, NewsBlasts, Facebook or the Skoolbag app, available to download through apple or android store. The newsletter is emailed every Monday and can be viewed online, information is available on the school website. Many classroom teachers are also using an app called SeaSaw to communicate directly with their class community.

We also welcome the opportunity to meet face to face but please be aware that these cannot happen during class time. If you wish to meet with a teacher it is best to either phone or email them to organise a time that is mutually agreeable to both. Teachers email addresses are created by using the initial letter of their first name with their surname followed by @sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au, eg. John Smith - jsmith@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au.

It is an expectation that all correspondence or meetings are held in a respectful and non-aggressive or abusive manner, in times of frustration, this can be a challenge for some people but all members of our school community (staff, students, parents and visitors) are entitled to be treated with dignity, it is at the heart of our Catholic ethos.

In 2015 the St. Francis Xavier School Board approved new policies for Concerns and Complaints and Expectations of Parents and Guardians at our school. Please find these attached for your perusal. They are also available on our website at <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/our-school/72/p/policies/> I ask that you familiarise yourself with these and follow the pathway for addressing a concern and/or complaint.

School Hats

St. Francis Xavier is a Sun Smart school. This means all members of our school must wear a school hat while outside during the school day. Please ensure your child has a school hat.

Newsletter

The St. Francis Xavier Newsletter will continue to be published this year on a Monday.

If you require anything to be placed in the Newsletter please send an email to principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au by 2:00pm on Thursdays.

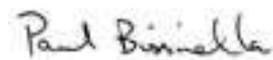
....and finally!

We at St. Francis Xavier count it as a privilege to share the learning journey of our students, teaching, supporting, challenging and encouraging. We do not expect our children to fit a mould, in fact the opposite. Our focus is on the individual. We take great pride in the achievements of each child.

I look forward to continuing the journey with you and to share the dreams and aspirations you have for your children and our school.

It is great to be back and I look forward to the privilege of working with each of our families this year.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about: our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back.

Letter to de Sales White December 20, 1840



Sacraments For Year 3 & 4 Students - Postponed Until 2021

As yet we have had no indication of when Masses will resume or when COVID 19 restrictions will be lifted for larger gatherings. We have no information for you about when the children will be able to receive the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. As soon as we know, you will know. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. Please continue to complete the booklets which were sent home at the beginning of Term 3. Those families who have handed in their child's Baptism certificate, rest assured that they are safe and will not go missing.



Connecting With The Eucharist During COVID 19 Closures

Many people are missing the opportunity to attend Sunday Mass during this time. If you wanted to gather and participate in Mass online, try one of the following websites. It is not the same as the real thing, and you can't receive Eucharist, but it may be of comfort to you to hear the Gospel and pray.

[St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat](#) * [Melbourne Catholic's Live Mass Streaming Sites](#) * [Sydney Live Streaming Mass Sites](#)

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 you wish to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Sunday 31st January 20201

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Gospel

Mk 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord

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

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

Historical Context – He said what?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Exorcisms

This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures, and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

- Q. Why might the people of the synagogue have been so impressed with the authority of Jesus?
- Q. What is meant by teaching with authority?
- Q. Why is the unclean spirit able to recognise Jesus as the 'Holy One of God'?
- Q. Why might Jesus have been attempting to keep his identity as the Messiah hidden?
- Q. How can the message of Jesus 'free' people today?

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



Learning Enhancement News

Welcome back to 2021 where we look forward to a wonderful year of Learning and Teaching! Throughout the year, I will keep you informed of the latest Curriculum/ Learning Enhancement news!



Seesaw Update



This year, all classes will continue to use the online digital portfolio tool, Seesaw. Seesaw provides children with the opportunity to document and reflect upon their learning while strengthening their skills in the area of technology. Each child has their own Seesaw portfolio and throughout the year authentic assessment tasks will be uploaded to Seesaw. Specialist teachers will also be using Seesaw, and therefore you will notice that your child is a member of multiple classes. If your child has a current Seesaw account, you will not need to sign up to Seesaw again as 2020 classes have been archived. If you require a Seesaw log in for your child, please see your child's classroom teacher.

Spelling Mastery

Spelling Mastery will commence this week. *Spelling Mastery* is a research - based program designed to explicitly teach children the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. *Spelling Mastery* supports the children in developing an understanding of the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns. Children are taught in small steps, using sufficient practice, so that they comprehend how spelling works and transfer accurate spelling to their writing.

Children in Years 3-6 will participate in *Spelling Mastery* four times a week, Tuesday through to Friday, from 9:00am to 9:20am. Due to the limited number of lessons that took place last year as a result of COVID, children in Years 4-6 will continue in their 2020 groupings for Semester One. This will provide the children with the opportunity to master the spelling skills at their level of need. Placement tests will be administered prior to the end of Semester One with children reassigned new groupings.

- Physical Education

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) Testing

In Semester Two last year, all Year levels participated in Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) Testing. PAT provides objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about their students' skills and understandings in a range of key areas. Each PAT has its own proficiency scale with descriptors outlining the content and skills students are consolidating at any given point on that scale.

PAT provides quantitative and qualitative data on student performance, making the PAT ideal for understanding students' current strengths and areas for improvement, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time.

The PAT data has now been analysed, and I am pleased to report the following:

- In the area of **Reading**, 81% of children from F-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Mathematics**, 83% of children from F-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Spelling**, 90% of children from Years 2-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Vocabulary**, 87% of children from Years 3-6 are working at or above expected levels

We hope to share your child's assessment results with you throughout the course of the year.

Jayne Bosworth
Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Welcome to 2021

First term is always a great term to build relationships, make new friends and experience new classrooms and situations. At St. Francis Xavier, we work hard on building relationships with each other, parents/cares and our families. We do this in many ways including: Year Ahead meetings, Getting to know your child/ren sessions, phone calls and making contact at drop off and pick up times.

The article written by Michael Grose gives 5 tips that may help with the Parent/Carer- Teacher relationships.

Here's to a great beginning to our school year.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark
Wellbeing Leader

Community News



TERM 1 PROGRAM

MULTI-SPORTS (90 MINUTES)

Wednesdays after school 3:25 pm - 4:55pm

(3rd of Feb) to (31st of March)

Tennis, Soccer, T-Ball and Basketball.

Preps to Grade 4

\$178.20 for the 9 week program

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

Any queries call or text Paul on 0423 335 616

Scholarship Testing date for St Patrick's College

The next Scholarship Testing date for St Patrick's College will be held at the College at 9am on **Saturday, February 20, 2021 for 2022 Year 7, 10 and 11 students.**

Registrations are now open at [this link](#).

Please note that registrations **close at midnight on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.**

To encourage and recognise the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick's College offers scholarships for Years 7, 10 and 11 entry level in the categories of academic excellence, art, performing arts, music, sport, leadership and general excellence. All categories have an academic component and boys must sit a scholarship test conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research. A fee of \$95 is payable at the time of registering your son as well as the opportunity to purchase additional practice testing papers at \$25 which are available online and downloadable in PDF format.

For further information please contact the College Registrar on 5322 4449 or email enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au

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

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