



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 19th October 2020
Term 4 Week 3

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2020

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Term 4
Oct 7 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 3

Monday 19th October
Book Week Begins
Full School Summer
Uniform to be worn from
today.

Thursday 22nd October
Book Week Parade

Friday 23rd October
**AFL Grand Final – Public
Holiday**

Term 4 Week 4

Thursday 29th October
SFX Virtual Live Tour
SFX Information Webinar

Friday 30th October
Casual Dress Day
JDRF Fundraiser
Foundation Transition Day
2

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 2nd November
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Day Public
Holiday

Friday 6th November
Foundation Transition Day
3

Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 10th November
Bravehearts Incursion
School Board Meeting

Dear Parents and Families,

I take this opportunity of informing you of some staff departures at the end of the 2020 school year. We will be saying farewell to Ms. Maddy Halouvas (Foundation MH). Maddy will be moving to Northern Queensland to take up a teaching position there. Monique McGrath will be returning to St. Francis Xavier after taking a year of leave. Interviews for classroom teachers were held recently, and we are pleased to announce that Miss Caitlin Jans will be joining our staff team in 2021.

To assist with managing enrolments for 2021 I ask that any families who already know they will not be returning to St. Francis Xavier to please contact the school office. This allows us to contact families waiting for places as well as assisting with class lists and planning.

October is World Mission Month, a month dedicated to the works of Missionaries all over the world, celebrated by all Catholic Communities. This week we acknowledge and learn about Mission Month in our classrooms!

The following priorities for children and staff will guide our operations in Term 4:

- **Priority 1 – Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- **Priority 2 – Learning and Excellence**
- **Priority 3 – Transitions**

Priority 1 - Supporting wellbeing during children's return to onsite learning

To support wellbeing during children's return to onsite learning and the classroom/school environment, a range of resources have been developed for parents and families in our school community.

Please click on the following link to access the resources:

- **Returning to school: 7 tips for parents/carers to help children cope**
<https://parentinfo.org/article/returning-to-school-7-tips-to-help-your-primary-age-child-cope>

Priority 1 - School TV transition resource

Parents are also encouraged to watch School TV's **Special Report: Coronavirus - The Transition Back** with advice from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg to parents/carers for our school community

Please click on the following link to access the resources:

- **Special Report: Coronavirus - The Transition Back**
https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus-transition-back

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

Thursday 12th November

SFX Virtual Live Tour

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 26th November

Foundation Information

Night 2021 (TBC)

SFX Information Webinar

Friday 27th November

Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 1st December

Orientation Day

Year 6 Transition Day

P & F Meeting

Thursday 3rd December

Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Friday 4th December

EE – World Soil Day

Year 6 Graduation Practice

Term 4 Week 10

Tuesday 8th December

Foundation Nativity

School Board Meeting

Thursday 10th December

SFX Virtual Live Tour

Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday 11th December

Foundation Nativity

Staff v Student Netball

Match

Term 4 Week 11

Wednesday 16th December

End of Year Mass

Last Day of Term 4

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

Book Week: 19th – 23rd October 2020

Book Week is celebrated each year in mid to late August however this year due to COVID it has been moved to October. This annual event highlights the importance of reading, and draws on the joy of stories and creativity of Australian authors.



This year's Book Week theme is "Curious Creatures – Wild Minds." Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character this Thursday 22nd October. Classroom parades will occur on this day and footage will be collated and presented to the school community.

On this day you can dress as any one of your favourite book characters, for example, Zac Power, Where's Wally, Harry Potter, Old Tom, Charlie and Lola, Fly Guy, an astronaut or space related character, let your imagination run wild.....

Foundation Transition Days

Last Friday 16th October we held the first of our Foundation Transition days for our 2021

Foundation Children. All of our children look forward to these days with great expectation. It is a sign of the life and movement that make schools reinvent themselves all the time. Many thanks to the Foundation Teachers for organising this wonderful experience for our 2021 Foundation children!



The next of our Transition Days will be held in two weeks on Friday 30th October.

Closure Dates – Term 4 2020

- **Friday 23rd October** AFL Grand Final – Public Holiday
- **Monday 2nd November** Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development
- **Tuesday 3rd November** Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday

Friday Lunches Announcement

The Parents and Friends Committee are excited to announce that Friday Lunches are once again on offer for Term 4 with a choice of hot items, salad rolls & delicious sweet treats available.

As always, orders must be placed on Flexischools by Thursday morning at 10:-00am.

Congratulations to Olivia Green

Over lockdown Olivia Green in Year 3GS wrote a story titled 'Covid Cooking' which she entered into- Kids News short story competition.

We have just found out she has been awarded highly commended in the Year 3-4 category competition for her story. There were more than 2400 entries this year so this is quite an achievement!

All the winners were announced on the Kids News website on Wednesday 14th October. Their stories will also be published on the website.

Olivia will also receive a \$30 book pack prize from HarperCollins.

Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund

The Department of Education has announced that the Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund is to be extended in 2020 to assist with financial hardship due to COVID-19.

The final eligibility date for CSEF in 2020 has now been extended from 14th April until 5th October 2020.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. The normal special consideration arrangements continue in addition.

Payments will be made at 50% of the standard per student rates for families.

CSEF usage is normally restricted to camps, sports and excursions activities. However, as there is limited opportunity to undertake these activities this year, it was announced in term 2 that CSEF could be used for technology devices and internet access. The funds will be credited to your fee account and cannot be paid directly to families.

If you believe you are eligible, please complete the attached application form and return to the school before 27th November.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED THE CSEF IN 2020, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO ANYTHING.

Summer Uniform:

The reason for our school uniform is to ensure that our children are identified as students who belong to the community of St. Francis Xavier. When some students continually ignore aspects of the uniform policy, this causes resentment and disharmony for other students and families. I ask parents to be encouraging and supportive in your role so that the school uniform is respected and adhered to and that there is a strong level of equality and fairness in the management of the uniform protocol.

- Full summer uniform may be worn from Day 1 Term 4.
- For the first 2 weeks of Term 4 we will be in a transition phase for Uniform. Children are permitted to be in either Summer or Winter Uniform.
- From **Monday 19th October** (Week 3) all children are expected to be in Summer Uniform.

Hats, Hats, Hats

Remember that our children need to have their school hats from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1 next year!

- Please contact Yvonne or Sam in the Uniform Shop to purchase a hat!

Class Groupings 2021

Over the next few weeks our teachers are putting the final touches to class groupings for 2021. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations are taken into account to inform decisions.

We are fortunate at St. Francis Xavier to have our teachers plan learning activities that often allow our children to mix across the year group where they are working alongside all the children within their age and class grouping.

School is a place where children learn how to relate to other children. It is important that children learn to mix with lots of children rather than spending time with just a few favourite friends or children of like ability. They learn about themselves in relationships and identify qualities within others that they find positive and assuring for themselves. It is important at this young age that they experience many varied friendships and children of different learning abilities to their own.

We hope to inform you by the end of November of your child's class and teacher for 2021.

Return of Borrowed Home Learning Devices

If your child has borrowed a device from the school, we kindly ask that you return it to the office - NOT your child's teacher. This is so we can track which devices have been returned. Please do not forget to return the device with its accompanying charger.

Chicken Pox or Measles

We would like to ask for your cooperation in an important matter.

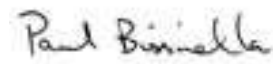
A child at our school is receiving medical treatment, which puts them at risk if they develop chicken pox or measles. The risk for this child can be reduced by receiving a special injection as soon as possible after coming in contact with these illnesses.

It is very important therefore, that you let us know immediately if your child develops chicken pox or measles, so that the child at risk receives the protection injection at the earliest opportunity. This protection lasts for a few weeks only, and must be repeated every time they come in to contact with these illnesses.

Your child is at no risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of one of his/her classmates does depend on your help and cooperation.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

How rapidly the days, weeks, and months are passing. Another month ended, that seemed but a few days begun. If we have not forfeited the friendship of almighty God, but have been trying to love Him more and more, and to serve Him faithfully, they were blessed days for us.

Letter to de Sales White February 28, 1841

Religious Education News



Sacraments For Year 3 & 4 Students - No News



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

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.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Luckman

Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

Book Week



This week is... **BOOK WEEK!**



Last Friday, the CBCA Book of the Year 2020 winners were announced. Please click on the following link to view the winners.

<https://www.booksandpublishing.com.au/articles/2020/10/16/158101/cbca-book-of-the-year-2020-winners-announced/>

This week the following activities will take place:

Book Week Parade

Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character this **Thursday 22nd October**. Classroom parades will occur on this day and footage will be collated and presented to the school community.

Book Week Performance- The Greatest Discovery



This year, again we will welcome Perform Education to our school... virtually!

This week, children in years F – 6 will participate in this Virtual Incursion. 'The Greatest Discovery' will feature a selection of the **Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)** Shortlisted Books.

Reading in the Library

The Library will be open at first recess daily this week for the children to listen to the Children's Book Council of Australia shortlisted books.

We look forward to our Book Week celebrations this week!

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

The Big Write

In weeks 3 and 4, all year levels will engage in a writing session known as 'The Big Write'. Children from levels F-6 will be presented with writing prompts and will then write a narrative story based on prompts. In the coming weeks, teachers will analyse the writing using a narrative marking rubric that is aligned to the Victorian Curriculum standards.

Assessment and Reporting

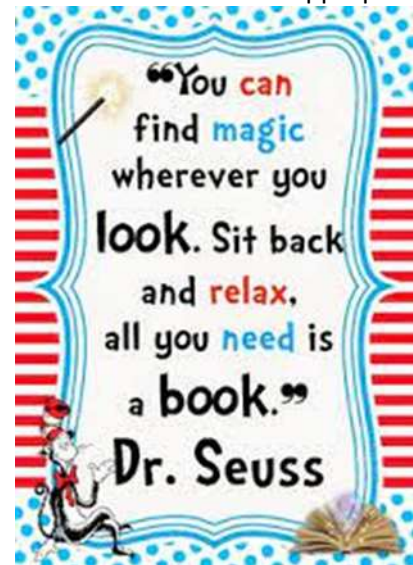
This term we will continue to use Digital Portfolios via the Seesaw platform to assist with reporting on student achievement. Throughout Term 4, key assessment tasks will be uploaded to Seesaw. These assessment tasks will include a Learning Intention, authentic feedback from the teacher and a student reflection where appropriate. This will continue to enable parents to develop a real-time understanding of their child is progressing towards key curriculum objectives and will assist children (with support from teachers) in identifying future direction in their learning. how

Digital Portfolios through the platform of Seesaw will sit alongside formal reporting that will occur this term. You will receive a formal report for your child towards the end of this term via the Parent Access Module (PAM). Further information regarding this report will be communicated within the coming weeks.

Have a fantastic Book Week!

Jayne Bosworth

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Wellbeing News



Spoonville

On the return to school in Term 4, children at St Francis Xavier, East Ballarat noticed some bright and friendly faces inside the school front gates! These crafty creations were made during onsite learning by the children of essential workers as a way of providing a joyful welcome back to school.

The Villa Village boasted fantastic creations such as cartoon characters, fairytale princesses and footy players.

The concept of Spoonville began in the United Kingdom and has blossomed in Victoria, with over 240 Spoonville sites across the state. Although Spoonville may appear as a seemingly innocent child art project, it has also served as an initiative to support children's mental health, by helping them feel more connected to their community, spreading joy and entertaining families on their way into school.

All families are invited to grab a spoon, some textas, material, pipe cleaners and googly eyes to make your own colourful handcrafted spoon character to place in our own Village Village front garden. (Helpful hint). Use strong glue and know that the spoon will be out in the elements.





Seasons for Growth sessions restarted last week. Sessions are running for children in years 3--6 at present and we are looking forward to beginning with some of our Year F-2 students in the very near future. If you haven't already done so and would like your child to take part in this program please make contact with cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au for further information.

Upcoming Event:

Casual Dress day fundraiser (and awareness raiser) to support **JDRF**.

Please add to your diary **Friday 30th October 2020** as the designated Casual Dress Day.

Funds raised will go to JDRF, an organisation providing funding for Type 1 Diabetes.



About JDRF Australia

JDRF is the leading supporter of T1D research globally, investing USD\$2.25B since 1970 with \$191M invested in Australia. JDRF Australia evaluates the Australian and global research landscape and supports the most promising programs from learning, to lab, to life-changing breakthroughs. We mobilise a vast network of people who work together in pursuit of a world without T1D.

In 2019 alone, research breakthroughs in our mission to cure, treat and prevent T1D have included huge advances in beta cell replacement, new targets for complication treatments, and the first ever therapy to delay the onset of T1D.

Diabetes (including type 1 and type 2 diabetes) is the number one cause of blindness in working age Australians. Three hundred and twenty-eight people needed help to remain conscious today as a result of hypoglycaemia.

Whilst there can be short and long term complications from T1D, JDRF Australia is funding research which will help reduce the number of people who experience these impacts – and one day hopes to defeat T1D once and for all! You can help us.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

Wellbeing Leader

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Finya (Foundation ND) and the Najera-Hinko family on the arrival of their daughter, Freya.

Shave for a cure

Lily Mason (5LL) is participating in "Shave for a cure" and shaving her head on Saturday 24th October.

This is the link to donate to Lily's cause which all goes to the Leukaemia Foundation.

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/FundraisingPage.aspx?fbclid=IwAR32wbZJGiYaE7-53F8LWQk6A5FjYMThTA8SjT0Cna2ZZXAP85U70ADrCeY&RegistrationID=798641>



INFORMATION WEBINARS
Wed 9 Sep, 5pm & Tue 20 Oct, 6.30pm

GUIDED VIRTUAL TOURS
Held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9am

Event registration: damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us
2022 enrolments close on Fri 5 Feb 2021

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

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