



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 26th October 2020
Term 4 Week 4

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2020

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Dear Parents and Families,

Term 4

Oct 7 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 4

Thursday 29th October
SFX Virtual Live Tour
SFX Information Webinar

We continue to follow the advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB). As the COVID-19 crisis in Victoria continues, St. Francis Xavier Primary School understands there is heightened anxiety in our community. At the time of writing this Newsletter we await updates of how yesterday's and today's changes will effect St. Francis Xavier and will update you as soon as they are confirmed.

Friday 30th October
Casual Dress Day
JDRF Fundraiser
Foundation Transition Day
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Please also note that our school is closed next Monday and Tuesday for Staff Professional Learning and the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 2nd November
Pupil Free Day

Closure Dates – Term 4 2020

- **Monday 2nd November** Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development
- **Tuesday 3rd November** Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Day Public
Holiday

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

This **Friday 30th October 2020** is a designated Casual Dress Day as it is the last Friday of the month. Please bring a Gold Coin (or more) donation. Funds raised will go to JDRF, an organisation providing funding for Type 1 Diabetes.



Friday 6th November
Foundation Transition Day
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Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 10th November
Bravehearts Incursion
School Board Meeting

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.

Thursday 12th November
SFX Virtual Live Tour

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

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.

Monday 23rd November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooobie

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.

Thursday 26th November
Foundation Information
Night 2021 (TBC)
SFX Information Webinar

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.

Friday 27th November

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

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

Monday 7th December

Year 4 Camp – Cave Hill
Creek

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.

Foundation Transition Days

This **Friday 30th October** we will hold the second 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 6th November.

Year 4 Camp

Our **Year 4** camp has been rescheduled to Week 10 on Monday 7th December and will be held at Cave Hill Creek, Beaufort. This is always an exciting time and a worthwhile experience and we thank Mr. Willmott, Mrs. Luckman and Mrs. Barclay for their capable organisation of this event and for going to the huge effort of rescheduling the camp!

Year 5 Camp

Our **Year 5** children has been rescheduled to Week 8 on Monday 23rd November and will be held at Kangarooobie, Princetown. Our school excursion program offers our children a great opportunity to experience settings and situations that they may not normally experience. Participating in camps allows the children to build on their self-esteem and interact with other children and adults in unfamiliar surrounds. Teachers gain great insights into their children in these situations. We thank Ms. Jaci and Mrs. Loader for their capable organisation of this event and for going to the huge effort of rescheduling the camp!

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.

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.

Be smart and secure when choosing tech gifts for children and young people – Ms. Cicchini

With the big man in the red and white suit visiting us in a few short weeks, you might be thinking about what to request Father Christmas to bring your child/ren. Without a doubt, remote learning would have ignited or fed their love for technology and something of the kind may be on their wishlist.



To help guide you on the right path and ensure you're



selecting a product that is smart, safe and secure for your child/ren, have a browse at the website below. It summaries devices such as virtual reality, robotics and wearable technology.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/gift-guide>

Orientation Day

On Tuesday 1st December we will hold Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our school and our Year 6's move on to their new school. We will also be promoting all the other children into their new classrooms with their new class teachers. This day provides a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with their new classmates and class teacher.

School Procedures For The Bushfire Season

New fire danger ratings and warnings have been introduced in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children's services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. **Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days' notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter, email or SMS with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.



Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the threat of fire.

We will also cancel any offsite activities and out-of-school care during the fire season if the activities are at risk. There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On high fire risk days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared is to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire, we have revisited the Catholic

Education Commission of Victoria Ltd's self-assessment of our emergency preparedness. We have also updated our emergency management plan; reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our school grounds and gutters. I have also completed CFA training for school principals.

What can parents do?

Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/>, and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan. You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website <www.cecv.catholic.edu.au>. For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at <www.cfa.vic.gov.au> or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School - Covid-19 Update

We continue to follow the advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB).

Arrangements for Term 4

- School Health and Safety Measures continue for children
- Regular School Cleaning
- **Any child who is unwell must not attend school**
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements
- 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
- Asking parents to avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for changed behaviours

School Health and Safety Measures return for children

The return to onsite school attendance is based on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer. 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

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.

Parents will be required to 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.

End of the Day Dismissal

To minimise congestion within and outside of the school and following the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer a staggered approach for collection of children will be implemented.

Timetable for Dismissal

Dismissal/Collection Time	Children with Surnames beginning...
2:50pm to 3:10pm	A - G
3:10 pm to 3:20pm	H - P
3:20 pm to 3:40pm	Q - Z

Dismissal / Collections Area

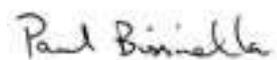
Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Shannon Macklin	Side door of the Foundation SM classroom
Foundation	Madelyn Halouvas	Side door of the Foundation MH classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Nicki Dalton	Side door of the Foundation ND classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	Enter via flag pole entrance
Year One	Rebecca Conroy	Enter via side gate (opposite perma patch). Walk up first set of stairs.
Year One	Matthew Manzl	
Year 2 to 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable 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 refrain from stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite.

Finally, with AFL finished for another year, we congratulate all Richmond supporters!

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

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh what a blessing, it should make all else pass into nothing....This is the spirit of the Order, indeed the true spirit of Mercy flowing on us...

Letter to Elizabeth Moore Easter Monday, 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

Excitement filled the air last week as we celebrated Book Week!

Throughout the week, many activities took place including Perform's Virtual Incursion, book reading in the library and our SFX annual dress up day!

Thank you to all children, staff and parents for continuing to support Book Week at SFX! We hope you enjoy our video production of the Book Week classroom parades!



The Big Write

This week, year levels will continue to 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 how their child is progressing towards key curriculum objectives and will assist children (with support from teachers) in identifying future direction in their learning.

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.

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.

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.

More Information about Spoonville click <https://www.beat.com.au/spoonville-the-new-phenomenon-reviving-community-spirit-all-across-melbourne/>



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.



Trading Club

Trading Club has started up once again on a Wednesday at first break in the library. If children have anything they would like to trade- Ooshies, Pokemon cards, LOL dolls etc, this is the time, under adult supervision, that it can take place.

Library: Wednesdays at 10:55-11:10 - All Welcome

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

Wellbeing Leader

Community News

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>

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

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