



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday 5th November 2020
Term 4 Week 5

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 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

Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Day

Thursday 12th November
SFX Virtual Live Tour

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Monday 23rd November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooie

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

Thursday 3rd December
Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Dear Parents and Families,

With the Melbourne Cup being run and won, it causes me to recognise that the finishing line on the 2020 school year is not too far away. School life becomes very hectic at this time as there is much to do with assessing children, creating reports for them, and the many activities that are needed to bring the year to an end. Our teachers are very focused and determined to represent their children well and ensure that the children finish their school year on a positive note.

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.

St. Francis Xavier supporting JDRF - Casual Dress Day

Many thanks to all who supported our last Friday in the month casual dress day for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The school raised \$738.60 - great effort!

Our casual dress day culminated a week where we all learnt a little more about diabetes at St. Francis Xavier!



Foundation Transition Days



This **Friday 6th November** we will hold the last 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!

Music Count Us In 2020

Today at 12:30pm will be our Music Count Us In celebration day for this year. Music Count Us In celebration day, is a day where students from all across Australia get together via a video conference to sing and move along to a song written by students, for students. It is a great opportunity for students to join together and celebrate music with one another, nationwide.

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

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.**

2021 Key Dates

Term 1
Jan 28 – March 31

Term 1 Week 1

Monday 25th January
School Office Opens

Tuesday 26th January
Australia Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 27th January
First Day for Teachers

Thursday 28th January
English Testing Day 1

Friday 29th January
English Testing Day 2

Term 1 Week 2

Monday 1st February

Our song this year is, "You won't bring us down" and, even though we are not able to sing or gather together due to Covid19, the students at St Francis Xavier have risen to the challenge of learning and performing this year's song in many different ways!!

MCUI 2020 song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2C-bGFMX5A>

Remembrance Day

Next Wednesday 11th November is Remembrance Day. It is a day for remembering the many young people who died during war and while protecting Australia. We will recognise this significant day at school at morning assembly.

Surely the Lord's mercies are not over, God's deeds of faithful love not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; 'and so I shall put my hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who trust him,

to all who search for him it is good to wait in silence for God to save.

Lamentations 3:26

Foundation Enrolment 2022 – Existing SFX Families

Enrolments will shortly open for children of existing families who start Prep in 2022. Parents of existing families who have a child to start in 2022 –

Step 1: Please complete the online form by clicking on the link below to indicate that you have a sibling to begin at SFX in 2022. <https://forms.gle/GG98XN5wMPHii9E7A>

Step 2: Please complete an Enrolment Form by downloading it from our website or collecting from the School Office. <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Enrolment-Form-2019-1.pdf>

Step 3: Please complete and return all forms to the School Office by Wednesday 18th December 2020.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. We look forward to your child joining us in 2022.

Foundation Enrolment 2022 – New Families

Please join us for a Virtual Live Tour:

- 5:00pm on Thursday 26th November and
- Fortnightly on a Thursday at 9:30am in Term 4

Event Registration: <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days/>

2022 Foundation Enrolments close at the end of April 2021

Secondary School Transition 2020 for 2021

Under current COVID restrictions, transition days for Year 6 students commencing Year 7 at secondary school in 2021 are not able to take place. This may change over the course of the next few weeks and we will ensure that we keep you up to date with any developments.

Please be assured that we are working with the secondary schools to ensure we are able to provide alternative opportunities and experiences to facilitate transitions in the best possible way.

Orientation Day

On Tuesday 1st December we plan to hold (COVID Guidelines permitting) Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our 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.

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.

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

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

Tuesday 9th February
School Board Meeting

Wednesday 10th February
Foundation Children at Home

Term 1 Week 4

Monday, 17th February
Enrolment Applications
Open

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
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

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.

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

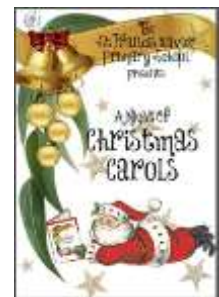
Our **Year 5** children has been rescheduled to Week 8 on Monday 23rd November and will be held at Kangarooie, Princetown. Our school excursion program offers our children a great opportunity to experience settings and situations that they may not normally experience. Participating in camps allows the 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!

St. Francis Xavier Christmas Carols – CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 restrictions our St. Francis Xavier Christmas Carols for 2020 has been CANCELLED.

We will look for an alternative way to recognise and celebrate Christmas that meets the COVID 19 guidelines.

The P&F will also be running an end of year fund raiser and details will be forwarded shortly.



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.

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 6th 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
Easter Sunday

Term 2
April 19 – June 25

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 19th April
First Day for Students



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

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

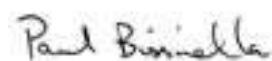
Dismissal/Collection Time	Children with Surnames beginning...
2:50pm to 3:10pm	A - G
3:10 pm to 3:20pm	H - P
3:20 pm to 3:40pm	Q - Z

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

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



All Saints Day

On Sunday 2nd November, the Catholic Church celebrated the lives of those who have done great things in the name of God. Some of the saints have done ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Some have given up their lives for what they believe. Some of them have become role models for others to follow. Catholic Christians sometimes pray through a saint to God.

Our school is named for St Francis Xavier. He was a man who lived in the 1500s and was born in Spain. While studying in Paris he was influenced by his friend Ignatius of Loyola and later

ordained a priest. Extensive travel was unusual in those days, but Francis visited India, Japan and Malaysia and ministered to the needs of the people he met. Some people were already Christian and had settled in these countries, but many were not. He shared his knowledge of the Christian faith with local people.

On All Saints Day we pray St Francis Xavier, pray for us.

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 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.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Luckman

Religious Education Leader



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



Resilience

A few tips on Resilience for both Children and Adults.

Like building a muscle, increasing your resilience is a gradual process. Resilience helps us to be better able to manage stressful events. The impact of stress can contribute to our mental and physical wellbeing and while it is not always possible to prevent adverse events, there are ways to strengthen your ability to better cope with these challenging situations.

Keys to resilience include, building good relationships, maintaining routines, identifying and managing emotions, self-care and mindfulness. The more you practice, the more resilient you become.

Hope these ideas may be of assistance.

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

Many Thanks to all who supported our last Friday in the month casual dress day for JDRF. All donations will be directed to the JDRF organisation. Our casual dress day culminated a week where we all learnt a little more about **diabetes**, here at St. Francis Xavier.



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

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

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

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.



Second Reading

1 Thes 4:13-14

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.
We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

First Reading

Wis 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is

understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.



Gospel

Mt 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

(R.)

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary. to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

The three gospel accounts from the final three weeks leading up to the season of Advent all come from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They can be seen together as an extended treatise on living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This week's gospel starts out as a Kingdom parable and becomes a bit more of a metaphor for living a Christian life.

The gospel parable relates to ten bridesmaids – five foolish and five wise – who are participating in a wedding ritual that involves meeting the bridegroom and escorting him the last part of his way to the wedding reception. The foolish bridesmaids have not brought sufficient reserves of oil for their lamps and have to leave at the critical time to try to obtain more. When they eventually arrive at the reception hall they are turned away because they have shamed themselves as well as the bride and groom by not fulfilling their duty.

Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime. The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, 'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent – expecting that everything is about to come to an end.

Historical Context – Where was the bride?

It may seem a little odd that the bridegroom was travelling to the wedding hall by himself. What appears to have been the custom is that the bridesmaids escorted the bride to the hall whilst the groom remained behind to settle matters with the bride's family. Whilst the bride price, or dowry, would have been agreed well before the wedding, the family would emphasise and even haggle over the value of gifts to further reinforce the great value of the bride and the wise choice that the groom and his family had made.

From the perspective of... a bridesmaid.

My friend, Miriam, was married yesterday. She is 14, two years older than me, and has married a fine man. As we waited to receive her husband, some of the girls ran out of oil. They asked me for some of my oil but I knew that if I gave them my spare oil we might all run out before he arrived and then there would be no one to welcome him and light his way. What shame that would be! Miriam and her husband were so angry they didn't allow the girls into the hall. No one will ask them to be bridesmaids again!

Living the Gospel – Living in hope.

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen to them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

Questions for Adults

Q. In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?

Q. If this story were to be put in a contemporary setting, what is a modern metaphor for preparedness that might be used?

Q. How can we properly prepare for the coming of the Kingdom?

Q. In what ways are some Christians today like the foolish bridesmaids?