



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 9th November 2020
Term 4 Week 6

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2020

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Dear Parents and Families,

Term 4
Oct 7 – Dec 16

As the year rolls on, teachers are busily engaged in creating your child's report, being mindful of ensuring that it is an accurate record of achievement during the year. These take time and much thought in order to represent your child well.

Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 10th November
School Board Meeting

Teachers are also involved in the testing of literacy and numeracy skills to update the data we have on your child's learning journey.

Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Day

Over the last two weeks our teachers have been engaged in forming our classes for next year. A lot of effort is put into these ensuring that the correct learning and friendship groups are created. We hope to inform you by the end of November of your child's class and teacher for 2021.

Thursday 12th November
SFX Virtual Live Tour

Term 4 Week 7

Remembrance Day

Term 4 Week 8

This 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.

Monday 23rd November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooie

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

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

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.

Friday 27th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 1st December
Orientation Day

Thursday 3rd December
Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Friday 4th December
EE – World Soil Day
Year 6 Graduation Practice

Term 4 Week 10

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/>

Monday 7th December
Year 4 Camp – Cave Hill
Creek

Tuesday 8th December
Foundation Nativity
School Board Meeting

2022 Foundation Enrolments close at the end of April 2021

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

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
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

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.

Uniform Shop Update & Second Hand Sale



Donations of Second Hand Uniform is great received and appreciated – especially small sizes!

Uniform Shop Second Hand Sale

When: 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Tuesday 1st December 2020

Where: Undercover area at the entrance of SF

Cash only and All items are for sale at \$5.00 and \$10.00

Out of School Home Care Transport (OSHC) 2021

The OSHC team at the Y are currently seeking information from families who wish to continue or commence to access bus travel for their child/ren to attend Afterschool Care in 2021.

The Program Co-Ordinator at the Y is asking our school to contact families, with the article attached, and ask them to let the school know the name of the family, number of children and the days of care that is needed. Families will need to contact the school by Friday 4th December 2020.

It is important that the school receives this data as it is needed to continue the service, if we get no response then the service will cease in 2021.

The School will be notified by the 11th December if transport will be available for 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns or wish to discuss this matter further.

Make your own family media and technology use plan

Media and technology should work for you and your family, and fit within your family values and parenting style. We know by now that when used thoughtfully and appropriately, technology can enhance daily life. However, when used inappropriately or without thought, media can displace many important activities such as face-to-face interaction, family-time, outdoor-play, exercise, unplugged downtime and sleep.

I strongly encourage you to take a look at this valuable resource and consider making an agreed family media use plan at

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx>

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!

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

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

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 a 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.



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.

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

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

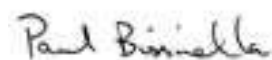
Dismissal/Collection Time	Children with Surnames beginning...
2:50pm to 3:10pm	A - G
3:10 pm to 3:20pm	H - P
3:20 pm to 3:40pm	Q - Z

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

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 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

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

Curriculum News



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

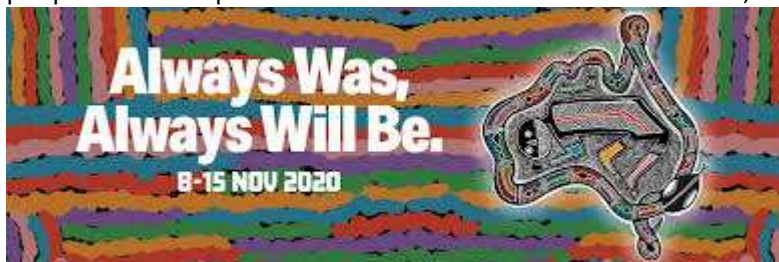


Give kids a thumbs up for the right things

Attached is an article Give kids a thumbs up for the right things 👍👍 written by Michael Grose. Children of all ages enjoy parental/carer recognition, they like when their parents/carers make a fuss over their behaviour or highlight something they've done well. Parental/ Carers recognition alone can be a high enough driver of children's behaviour most of the time. This article may give you a few ideas!

Naidoc week.

This week is recognised as Naidoc week. Always Was, Always Will Be recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.



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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Sunday 15th November 2020

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Entrance Antiphon

Jer 29:11,12,14

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.



First Reading

Prv 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,

from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,

she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,

her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,

she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;

the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,

and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel

Mt 25:14-15. 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."'

The Gospel of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. (R.)

Communion Antiphon

Ps 72:28

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life.

Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth.

Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

Gospel Focus – Such a talent!

In its original usage, a 'talent' was a measure of weight. It came to designate a weight measure of silver. One talent was roughly equivalent to a labourer's wages for 10 years. It was a huge amount of money! Due largely to the reference in this gospel parable the word eventually came to its more common meaning of a special natural ability. Although in its original use in the gospel, 'talent' meant nothing more than a large sum of money, it is a happy development of language that makes this scripture passage such a favourite of teachers and retreat providers!

Living the Gospel – Bring forth the Kingdom.

Like the original audience of Matthew's gospel, we can sometimes rely too much on God to bring about the Kingdom in our world. Like the lazy servant in the gospel, we can fall into the trap of handing the world back to God in exactly the same condition that we received it. We have to make a difference in the world! We are called to change the world and bring it closer to the realisation of the Kingdom. The only way that we can do that it is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.

Different View – 'To everyone who has will be given more.'

The parable of the talents is sometimes misused to validate an overemphasis on material wealth in many Western societies. There can be an attitude that says 'more is better'; that possessions are a sign of success. Such advocates point to the favour bestowed on the servants who doubled their money and the punishment dealt to the lazy servant who simply returned to his

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master what he was given. Proponents of the increasingly popular 'gospel of prosperity' hold that God wants Christians to be materially and financially rich and that their wealth is proof of God's love. This stands in stark contrast to Jesus' vision of the Kingdom.

Questions for Adults

- Q. In what ways do you relate to a character in the parable?
- Q. What elements of our culture make it easier / more difficult to share our talents with others?
- Q. What talent do you have that you could use to make a difference in other people's lives?
- Q. In what ways do you restrict others from opportunities to use their talents?
- Q. When have you ever allowed an opportunity to use your talents pass you by?

© Greg Sunter

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.