



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 7th December 2020
Term 4 Week 10

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2020

Key Dates

Term 4
Oct 7 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 10

Monday 7th December
Year 4 Camp – Cave Hill
Creek

Tuesday 8th December
School Board Meeting

Thursday 10th December
SFX Virtual Live Tour
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday 11th December
Year 6 Big Day Out

Term 4 Week 11

Wednesday 16th December
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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to our second last newsletter of the school year. Our school is a hive of activity at the moment and it's definitely 'beginning to look a lot like Christmas!'

Last Tuesday we held a very successful Orientation Day. It was great to see our new Foundation children at school and we welcomed several other new families as well. Orientation Day is a great opportunity for your child/children to get to know their 2021 class teacher and have a taste of school life for next year.

God,
In this time of Advent
Help us to live slowly;
To move simply;
To look softly;
To allow emptiness;
To let the heart create for us
Life anew.
Amen



Year 4 Camp – Cave Hill Creek

Our Year 4 children and their teachers depart today for their camp program at Cave Hill Creek. 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 the many volunteer parents who have offered their time to assist. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable and rewarding time and we look forward to hearing their stories on their return!

Year 6 Graduation

Our Year 6 students have been a magnificent group within the school and have been recognised by all the other children as responsible leaders. I commend them to you for who they have been to our school community and on your behalf, I wish them a future filled with happiness, success and most of all, strong, supportive family and friends.

2020 has looked very different for the Year 6's this year! As we approach the end of the year, the children are getting ready for their graduation. Due to COVID 19 restrictions it was decided that graduation would take place at school in the gym. We have planned a graduation liturgy with Father George for the morning which will be videoed and available for parents to view. The children will then celebrate the day over lunch from Table 48. Unfortunately, at this late stage, as preparations are underway, we are unable to change what graduation looks like in 2020 but we look forward to a fabulous day celebrating with the Year 6 children.

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

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

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

Christmas Mass Times at St. Alipius – Ballarat East

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

- 6:00pm St. Alipius - Ballarat East
- 7:00pm Ss. Peter & Paul's - Bunninyong
- 8:00pm St. Alipius - Ballarat East

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

- 9:00am St. Alipius - Ballarat East

A Change to our Office and School



I write to inform you that **Majella Muller** has been successful in her application to pursue further study in nursing, at Australian Catholic University in 2021.

I thank Majella on your behalf for her contribution to our school, for her commitment to the life of our school and for her hard work in ensuring that St. Francis Xavier is a nurturing, supportive, welcoming place for all our children to be part of during their primary school years. She will be missed!

We also acknowledge and thank Majella for her wonderful 9 years of service at St. Francis Xavier and congratulate her on her acceptance into her course. I am sure that you join me in wishing her every blessing as she makes the transition into a new community and career.

The process for replacing Majella has begun with advertisements promoted through various media outlets.

Beginning of Year English Testing 2021

Our school interviews website will be open from 9.00am on Tuesday 1st

December for you to log a time for your

child's **Beginning of Year English Testing**. You can logon yourself and choose your preferred time or alternatively contact the office and we can do this for you. The allocated time is 40 mins per test.

St. Francis Xavier **Beginning of Year Testing** will be held at:

8.30am – 4:30 pm on **Thursday 28th January 2021**

8.30am – 4:30 pm On **Friday 29th January 2021**

The web address for booking is <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au> and the new logon code is : **qn4zj**

Remember if you are keen on a particular time you will need to be speedy as time slots are taken quickly. You will receive a confirmation email informing you of your child's testing time once you have selected a time. Please keep this close by so that you are reminded of this commitment you have made. We expect to see all our students at the **Beginning of Year English Testing**.

Please make sure you book the interview with your child's 2021 Class Teacher! Instructions are attached.

End of year Reports to Parents – via Parent Access module (PAM)

Your child's School Report will be available for download from the PAM site on Monday 14th December. These reports have been well-prepared, well thought- out and represent your child's achievements to the end of the current year. I commend the teachers to you for their



Term 1 Week 6

Monday 1st March

School Photos
Year 5 Cyber Safety and
Chromebook Boot camp -
Parent Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March

P&F Meeting

Wednesday 4th March

Foundation Children at
Home

Thursday 4th March

School Open Day #3

Friday 5th March

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

Term 1 Week 7

Monday 8th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 9th March

Year 6 Camp - Melbourne

Term 1 Week 8

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 22nd March

SFX Middle-Senior School
Athletics Day (Year 3 - 6)
Llanberris Athletics Reserve

Friday 26th March

Casual Dress Day

Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 31st March

Last Day of Term 1

Thursday 1st April

Holy Thursday
Friday 2nd April
Good Friday

Sunday 4th April

Easter Sunday

Term 2

April 19 – June 25

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 19th April

First Day for Students

efforts, professionalism and honest comment. Each report has been prepared by your child's class teacher, then read and commented on by a buddy teacher from within the school and finally read again by our Leadership Team.

We hope these and Assessment Tasks on SeeSaw form a comprehensive summary of your child's progress to date and direction for future learning and development that we equally pursue.

PAM is accessible through the school's website (see below) and provides parents with information on a range of areas related to their child's education, including attendance and Academic Reports.

PAM can be accessed via the schools homepage:

<http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/news-events/parent-access-module/>

or by going directly to the PAM site -

<http://pam.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/Login/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>



PAM

The Parent Access Module (PAM) enables you as a parent, to access the latest details about your child's progress. After logging in to the site you will be able to:

We suggest you save a copy of your child's report on your device for future reference. A printed copy can be obtained at the school should it be required.

Earlier in the year unique usernames and passwords were sent home to each family which will give you access to PAM and allow you to view information related to your child's progress. Please be aware that if you do change your password the school will not have a record of this. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you have any further questions.

School Fee Schedule for 2021

Today the School Fee Schedule for 2021 will be sent home to all families. A copy of the schedule for 2021 is also attached. These fees were set by the St Francis Xavier Finance Committee then ratified by the St Francis Xavier Primary School Board at their November meeting. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Overdue School Fees 2020

We have a number of school fee accounts that are now overdue. Payment of accounts were due at the end of third term (unless alternative arrangements were made). For those that haven't settled their accounts could they please do so as a matter of urgency or alternatively contact Gabrielle to make another arrangement.

COVID 19 Changes for St. Francis Xavier as of Tuesday 1st December

Morning Drop off of children remains the same with parents encouraged to drop their children at the front entrance of school

Afternoon Pick Up to change.

- No more staggered collection of the children at the end of the day
- From 3:15pm parents are to collect their children from the classrooms
- Should you collect your child before 3:15pm you will need to sign them out through the office
- Please wait in your car until the bell goes at 3:15pm.

- Please do not gather at the front of the school or in the undercover area

Lost Property

Our Lost Property baskets are overflowing at the moment with the main item being jumpers, the majority of them unnamed. I urge you to come and search through these baskets and take what might look like your child's item of clothing. I also ask that you make sure all items of clothing are named. We understand that children put them down and forget about them so it is much easier to return them when there is a name.

End of Year Arrangements

As the end of the year is fast approaching, there is plenty going on at St. Francis Xavier. We just over 2 weeks of school left for 2020. We are also thinking of the tasks yet to do so people's heads are filled with what has to be done. I know I am finding myself walking around with my little black book when anyone asks me something so that I do not forget. But the end is near and soon there will be a time of relaxation.



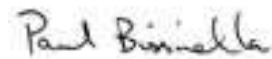
Please Note: 2021 School Calendar

Please note that the **2021 School Calendar** has been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website.

Please note that school finishes on Wednesday 16th December at normal end of the day school times eg. 3.15pm.

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

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

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

Letter to de Sales White December 20, 1840



Sacraments For Year 3 & 4 Students - Postponed Until 2021

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



Connecting With The Eucharist During COVID 19 Closures

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

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

Baptism

If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office. Your child will not be listed as Catholic in our school records and you may miss out on sacrament information. If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Sunday 13th December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

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

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Have you thought? A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

Living the Gospel – A Witness? Me?

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

Gospel Focus – Same but different

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John gospel's greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

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

- Q. Why do you think the priests and Levites were concerned about identifying who John was?
- Q. How might John's followers have reacted to his announcement of the one who was coming after him?
- Q. In what ways is John the Baptist portrayed as a 'witness' to Christ?
- Q. Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
- Q. How can you be a witness?

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.



Assessment and Reporting

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

Digital Portfolios via the platform of Seesaw will again sit alongside formal reporting that will occur this Semester. You will receive a formal report for your child towards the end of this term via the Parent Access Module (PAM).

Formal reports will include:

1. Work habits

2. General curriculum overview statements for the following learning areas:

- Religious Education
- English
 - o Reading and Viewing
 - o Writing
 - o Speaking and Listening
- Mathematics
 - o Number and Algebra
 - o Measurement and Geometry
 - o Statistics and Probability

3. Personalised comment for the following learning area:

- Personal and Social Learning

4. Level of attainment in the form of a dot on a continuum for the following learning areas in accordance with our whole school teaching and learning plan:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Languages - Japanese
- Science- Environmental Education
- Physical Education

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) Testing

PAT testing continues for our Year 1 to Year 6 students over the next two weeks.

PAT provides objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about their students' skills and understandings in a range of key areas. Each PAT has its own proficiency scale with descriptors outlining the content and skills students are consolidating at any given point on that scale.

PAT provides quantitative and qualitative data on student performance, making the PAT ideal for understanding students' current strengths and areas for improvement, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time. We hope to share these results with you at the beginning of 2021.

Jayne Bosworth

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Lead light Nativity Scene

And so, the well-known phrase the "Silly Season " is upon us. We all get busy, excited, tired, annoyed, time poor, frustrated etc etc... what a mixed bag of emotions it is for everyone.

The first signs of Christmas have started to creep into school with some delightful decorations and the Staff doing a **month of merriment** towards each other.

In the front of the office we have displayed our beautiful Lead light Nativity Scene for all to see. A well-known St Alipius parishioner from years ago, kindly made it for the St Francis Xavier Community. How lucky we are to be able to view this in the front window of our office. If you get a chance, come and have a look.



Modelling Self Kindness

There is great power in kids watching us practise how we manage hardships, frustrations and difficulties. Whether we use self-kindness or self-put downs, either will leave an impression on our kids. Not only do they see how we react when we stumble or make mistakes, but we give them permission to act in the same ways. Enjoy the read from Michael Grose.

Trading Club

Trading Club is 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

Building deep emotional connections with Kids

Is the title of the attached article in the newsletter. Giving accurate emotional feedback to an upset child or teenager takes practice. It requires that you pay attention, move into the present moment, listen to a child and identify the feeling behind their words. High or loud emotions such as anger, annoyance and panic are often easier to identify than low or muted emotions such as worry, discouragement or loneliness.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

Wellbeing Leader



DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Thursday 10th of December to Wednesday the 23rd of December 2020

(excluding weekends and public holiday)

Eastwood Leisure Centre, Ballarat

8am to 5pm each day

Pre-School to Grade 6, boys & girls

\$45 per day (\$40 per day for 5+ days)

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Any queries call Dominic on 0417 967 621 or Paul on 0423 335 616

OR

JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Monday 4th of January to Friday the 29th of January 2021

(excluding weekends and public holiday)

Eastwood Leisure Centre, Ballarat

8am to 5pm each day

Pre-School to Grade 6, boys & girls

\$45 per day (\$40 per day for 5+ days)

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Any queries call Dominic on 0417 967 621 or Paul on 0423 335 616



Help support local Scouts with our 2020 Christmas tree fundraiser!

3rd Ballarat Scout Group are again joining forces with 7th Ballarat-Sebastopol to sell live Christmas trees. Please help us raise much needed funds for our group by sharing this information in person and on social media. Below are the dates and prices along with a QR code which directs you straight to our Facebook tree sales page.

Pop over to the Facebook page to pre-order your tree today!

<https://www.facebook.com/3rdand7thballaratchristmastreesales>

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

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