



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 6th September 2021
Term 3 Week 9

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2021

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Term 3 Week 9

Tuesday 7th September
3 Way Conversations

Wednesday 8th September
3 Way Conversations

Friday 10th September
School Assembly – Year 5MA
VIRTUAL
Interschool Sport
POSTPONED

Sunday 12th September
School Working Bee
POSTPONED

Term 3 Week 10

Monday 13th September
School Review 2021
Swimming Program Begins

Tuesday 14th September
School Board Meeting

Wednesday 15th September
Student Led Conferences

Friday 17th September
School Assembly – Year 4CJ
Last Day of Term 3

Term 4
Oct 4 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 1

Monday 4th October
First Day of Term 4

Tuesday 5th October
P & F Committee Meeting

Friday 8th October
Term 4 Prayer – Celebration
of Mercy

Dear Parents and Families,

As we (as a school community) have travelled through 2021 in difficult times similar to last year, it has made me very proud again (if that is possible) of our children, staff, parents and community regarding how all have handled the pressures and stresses around this Coronavirus pandemic.

My absolute and sincerest of thanks I send to the many people (mostly our staff) who have enabled our school to continue to operate during these unique times and quickly follow on with my deepest gratitude to all the children for attacking their work in such a positive and adventurous manner. Their hard work and willingness to try new things has been a joy to see!

Our staff have gone above and beyond what would be their normal routine and duties, and I am so indebted to them all. I am truly inspired by and thrilled to see the genuine excitement staff had in meeting all the challenges faced, their personal and professional commitment to making a difference during COVID 19 and the obvious love all had of both their role and our school. By showing this commitment, staff have helped to ensure that the point of difference between St. Francis Xavier and many other schools is the welfare of our whole community and to ensure we deliver what is best for our children. I cannot be prouder of the great people I lead that help make this place so special.

After being in remote learning now for several occasions, it will be uplifting and rewarding to offer everybody a huge welcome back when it finally arrives. When this occurs, it will be wonderful to see everyone back at school and doing what we believe is just a normal part of life. During the year, many staff, parents and children have said to me on numerous occasions things such as:

- We miss school
- We love being at school
-

I absolutely agree. School is one of the greatest parts of our lives. It is an integral part of our day. We need to make the most of it now and enjoy it when we return!

Dear God,

We celebrate spring's returning and the rejuvenation of the natural world.

Let us be moved by this vast and gentle insistence that goodness shall return, that warmth and life shall succeed.

Help us to understand our place in this miracle.

Let us see that as a bird now builds its nest, bravely, with bits and pieces, so we must build human faith.

It is our simple duty; it is the highest art; it is our natural and vital role within the miracle of spring; the creation of faith.

Amen

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

Term 4 Week 2

Tuesday 12th October
School Board Meeting

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 27th October
Year 4 Camp

Friday 29th October
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 1st November
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 2nd November
P & F Committee Meeting

Term 4 Week 6

Monday 8th November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooobie

Tuesday 9th November
School Board Meeting

Friday 12th November
Public Holiday – Ballarat
Show Day

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 26th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 30th November
SFX Orientation
Year 6 Transition

Friday 3rd December
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

Term 4 Week 10

Thursday 9th December
Year 6 Thanksgiving and
Graduation

Friday 10th December
Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Tuesday 14th December
School Board Meeting

Thursday 16th December
Last Day of Term 4

**All other Calendar Dates for
2021 have been updated
and can be accessed live on**

Fathers and Special Men's Day at– Sunday 5th September 2021

Happy Father's Day for yesterday to all St. Francis Xavier dads, and to all of the fathers and father figures in our lives. We give thanks for them, the role they play, the people they are. We hope that each and every one enjoyed a special day with their families!

God, our Father

Bless these men, that they may find strength as fathers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.

SEASON OF CREATION - Restoring our common home

While we all recognise 1st September as the first day of the Season of Spring, Pope Francis has also declared it to be the first day in the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation is an annual Christian season of prayer and action for our common home.

Together people around the world unite to pray and take action to protect God's creation. Like the season of Spring, it is a time for renewal and new life, and a time to reflect on the beauty that is around us. It is a time to see with new eyes and re-commit ourselves to sustaining and preserving the environment in which we live.



"It is our collective and individual responsibility ... to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live." —Dalai Lama

Class Lists for 2022

Early next term our classroom teachers will start to look at possible groupings for classes for next year. If you have any concerns that are of a serious nature please forward these requests to me by email no later than Friday 17th September 2021. Please understand that this is the only process to go through if you would like this issue addressed properly.

principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

With planning for the 2022 school year now gathering momentum, I would ask families that are aware that they will not be returning to St. Francis Xavier next year, to promptly inform the school.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School – COVID Update Onsite Supervision

As the COVID-19 crisis in Victoria continues, St. Francis Xavier Primary School understands there is heightened anxiety in our community.

We continue to follow the advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECCV) and the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB). Whilst many restrictions remain unchanged, there is a need to provide further information regarding the following:

Return to Remote Learning and Onsite Supervision:

St. Francis Xavier will continue to provide on-site supervision inclusive of Monday 23rd August to Friday 17th September for students in the following categories:

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the Skoolbag App or by
visiting the School Website.

1. Children whose parents are considered essential workers as listed, cannot work from home and where no other supervision arrangements can be made
2. Vulnerable children, including children in out-of-home care, children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm and children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service).

IMPORTANT: ALL Parents of children attending the Onsite Supervision Program will need to provide evidence from their employer that they meet the Criteria for Onsite Child Supervision at School. (if they haven't already done so previously).

Process for Booking Onsite Child Supervision at St. Francis Xavier Primary School

ALL eligible families need to follow the process for booking children for Onsite Supervision. Bookings are open from today, Saturday 21st August and parents are able to book their children through until Friday 17th September (inclusive).

Instructions for Booking:

- Bookings are made through Care Bookings. The school code is **JSCEC** and will not change.
- Please click on the link and follow the online instructions:
<https://www.carebookings.com.au/code/jscec>
- Bookings are open.
- Bookings close 5:00pm the night before for the following days. No late bookings will be accepted.
- It is recommended that children onsite wear masks if possible (new advice from the Chief Health Officer)

Due to resourcing and supervision ratio requirements, Onsite Supervision is only available for students who cannot be cared for or learn from home. This is to ensure that we are protecting our staff, students, and families to the greatest extent possible and is in line with Coronavirus restrictions.

Footy Colours Day - Friday 17th September

Next Friday 17th September is a Casual Dress Day. The Casual Dress day will be a Footy Colours Day where children are encouraged to dress in the colours of their favourite football team and the cost to participate is a gold coin donation.



In keeping with traditional Footy Colours Day Fundraising the school will donate all proceeds to Cancer Research. We will also have collection tins for anyone wanting to donate any extra coins.

Welcome To National ESMART Week!!

What is National eSmart Week?

National eSmart Week is an opportunity for communities to share their knowledge and celebrate being smart, safe and responsible when using digital technology. The week runs from Monday 6th September to Sunday 12th September. It is a week to create more awareness and community education on issues of cyber safety, bullying and wellbeing.

This year's theme is 'Responsible Action.' By taking responsibility for our actions we can all play a part in creating a safer environment online and offline.

Here is our tip for the week:

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Before we can teach kids to take responsibility for their actions, we have to understand the “why” behind their behaviour. Your child’s avoidant behaviour has a purpose and there are likely three reasons why;

1. Self-preservation
 - a. Admitting a mistake is difficult and there’s a lot of risk involved.
2. Shame
 - a. Shame is a powerful motivator for children to retreat, with fear of their imperfections being exposed.
3. Externalisation
 - a. As parents, we are often left with the emotional burden and intense feeling that something needs to be done, while our child walks away as if nothing had happened.

While it would be ideal if kids happily admitted their faults immediately...this probably isn’t a realistic goal. We need to be patient and allow mistakes to be learning opportunities, rather than shameful experiences that need to be avoided at all cost. Eventually, you’ll see (and hear) your child “own” their behaviour – even when it’s hard. More information about this and the three reasons above can be found at <https://imperfectfamilies.com/3-reasons-kids-avoid-taking-responsibility-and-how-to-respond/>

[Completion of Nationally Consistent Collection of Data \(NCCD\) count for 2021](#)

All schools must complete the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) every year. It counts the number of children who receive additional adjustments or ‘help’ at school because of a disability. Our count for this year totalled 88 students, who receive help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Our children who were included in this year’s count include those with learning problems, health problems, physical disability, hearing loss and social-emotional problems.

Our school keeps records of the adjustments that are provided for each child as well as the reasons why each child needs help; we keep copies of tests, assessments, student work, records of meetings, medical reports and other paperwork and information about how each child’s learning is moving along over time.

Once decided that a child should be counted in the NCCD, we then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to each child.

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical. This year, we identified 2 children with a sensory disability, 18 children with a social-emotional disability, 35 children with a cognitive disability and 33

children with a physical disability. (Physical disability also includes our children who are severe asthmatics and children who have major anaphylactic reactions).

All of these children need different types of help at school. Some children need a little help sometimes while other children need a lot of help nearly all the time, and the type of help given depends on the needs of the child. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help. The types of adjustments provided are categorised under four headings: Quality Differentiated Teaching Practice (QDTP), Supplementary, Substantial and Extensive. Our school's NCCD information has been passed on to the Catholic Education Office, which in turn is then passed on to the government.

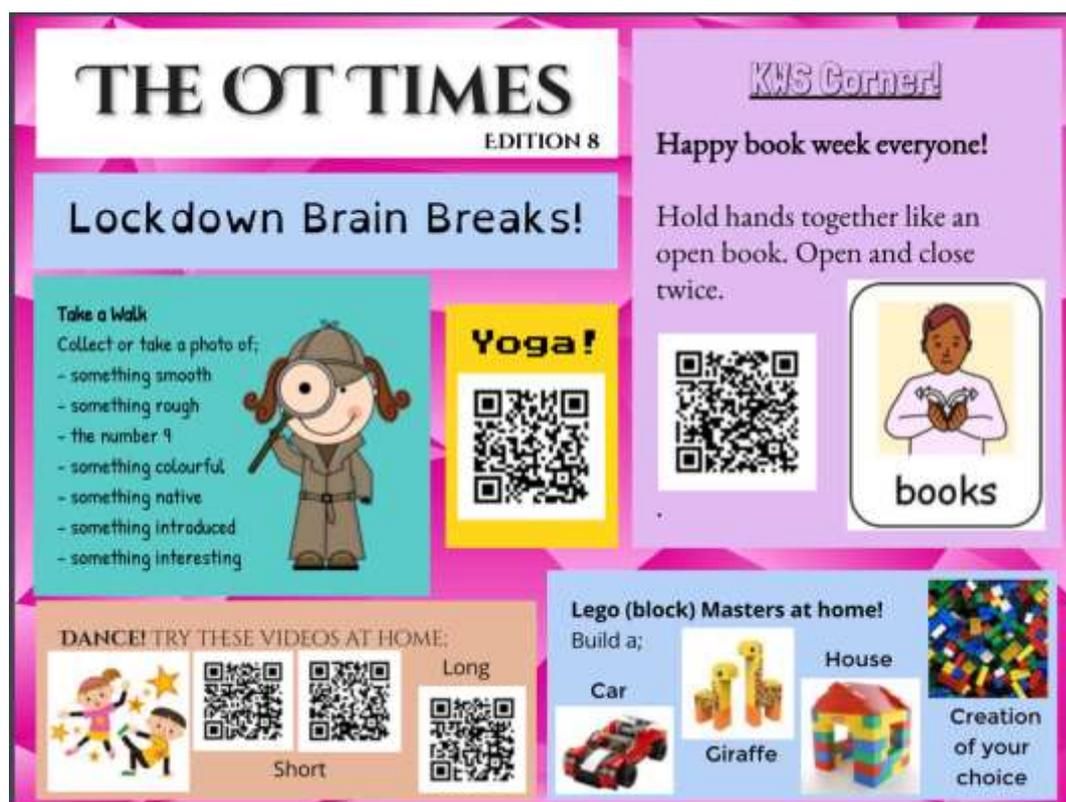
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions about the NCCD.
Pete Mullane

Occupational Therapist - Brittany Curtain



Please see below the Latest Edition of The OT Times.

These activities could be used as individual tasks too for short and sharp breaks. You could draw you own version of the cards instead of printing which is also a great little brain break for kids



End of Term

Next Friday 17th September marks the end of our third term. School resumes for Term 4 on Monday 4th October at 8.55am. **Please note that the School Term ends next Friday at 2:20pm.**

Buses will run as normal but an hour earlier e.g. 2:20pm

I hope you all continue to manage the challenges of these times under COVID restrictions. As you will be aware Lockdown 7.0 has been extended with the Premier not committing to a date for Lockdown to end.

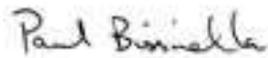
We await the important information from The Premier, Daniel Andrews as he reveals the Roadmap for Reopening Victoria and we hope that this will shed light on our plans for the foreseeable future.

At this stage what we do know is that there are two weeks of this Term remaining. We are preparing to teach up until the end of Term whether this is remotely or onsite.

As you are aware, the school has also had to cancel or postpone many assemblies, events and gatherings. We are working with our staff and students to provide some opportunities for alternative activities within our own school community. These arrangements will continue to be communicated through the school newsletter.

We look forward to providing more information as soon as it is available about our return to onsite learning. In the meantime, stay safe and stay connected!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Thus we go on...flourishing in the very midst of the Cross, more than a common share of which has latterly fallen to my lot, thanks be to God. I humbly trust it is the cross of Christ. I endeavor to make it in some way like his by silence.

Letter to Frances Warde May 15, 1838

Religious Education News



Reconciliation Action Plan

St Francis Xavier Primary School is at the beginning of the process to establish a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for our school.

We will be using the Narragunnawali online platform for schools to develop our RAP.

Once we have developed our plan, we will renew it every year to ensure we are including meaningful experiences for our children, which foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

We are creating a RAP because we follow the principles of Catholic Social Justice. If you would like to know more about [Narragunnawali, click here.](#)

If you or a family member have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and would like to be involved in developing our RAP, please contact me on bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au. We would love to hear from you.

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Gospel

Mk 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah.

However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

Gospel Focus – Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

Scriptural context – Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

Living the Gospel – Open to compassion

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.

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

- Q. Why did Jesus take the man aside in private rather than healing him in front of the crowd?
- Q. What is significant about Jesus touching the man in such a personal way?
- Q. Why did Jesus travel and perform miracles outside of Jewish territories?
- Q. In what areas of your life do you need to 'be opened'?
- Q. How can you cross the boundaries and make a difference in someone else's life like Jesus did?

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.

Curriculum News



NAPLAN 2021

NAPLAN 2021 reporting packages have been delivered and there is a Student Report for each student who participated in NAPLAN in 2021. The reports were sent home last Friday with a sheet providing information about interpreting the results. We look forward to sharing with you our Year 3 and 5 whole school trend data in the coming weeks. As a staff we will also be spending time working with our results and planning for our next steps in teaching and learning.

This week is National eSmart Week.

At St .Francis Xavier, we explicitly teach the children following our eSmart Scope and Sequence planner in line with our Victorian Curriculum. Our aim is to make sure that we support the explicit teaching of Bullying and its dynamics, related social and emotional skills, cyber risks and cyber safety. With so much time spent online during lockdowns there has never been a more important time to be eSmart. Please visit the eSmart website for more useful information and suggested teaching ideas. <https://www.esmart.org.au/events/national-esmart-week/>



Take Care

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Prioritising Mental Health in the Digital World

One of the biggest concerns most parents have is the amount of time our children spend on screens.

I know it can be a battle in my home as the boys move from iPads and home learning tasks to seemingly endless requests for time on gaming consoles, Netflix and YouTube.

So do our kids need a digital detox? I follow Dr Kristy Goodwin on social media (oh the irony....) and she suggests digital abstinence is not the solution.

As a leading educator, digital wellbeing speaker, author and researcher Dr Goodwin translates her research into essential information and realistic strategies for parents to ensure kids and teens thrive in the digital world.

Attached is her article about Prioritising Mental Health in the Digital World.

EXCITING NEWS!!!!

Our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas and as part of this membership, you can attend Dr Kristy Goodwin's upcoming webinar "Taming Digital Distractions" for free!!!!

It is scheduled for Wednesday 8th September at 8:00pm, however if you register you will get access to the recording until 8th December, 2021.

For further details on how to redeem this offer follow the instructions on the end of the article.

Happy Days!

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader

Physical Education News



Latest Schools Sports Updates

Calendar Events 2021

Term 3

- Week 9 – Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament - Wednesday 8th September.
 - Interschool Sport - Friday 10th September (Yr. 4)
 - Interschool Sport - Friday 10th September (Yr. 5&6) @ Emmaus
- Week 10 - Swimming Program - Monday 13th , Tuesday 14th , Wednesday 15th , Thursday 16th & Friday 17th (Yr 1-3-5).

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Shaun Carroll
Sports Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop Update

NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

Uniform Shop Sales during Term 3

For the time being and until further notice the Uniform Shop is CLOSED and will only accept orders submitted by completing the attached order form and emailing back to office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or by dropping it into the school office.

Payment can be made by filling out your credit card details on the order form or by cash. Please indicate your preferred payment method on the order form.

- EFTPOS AVAILABLE in the Uniform Shop
- POP up shop will be happening again in the undercover area on Friday 26th March 2:45 to 3:30 all uniforms for sale \$5 and \$10

Opening Hours Term 1 2021:

- Monday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Wednesday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Friday 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Available NOW!

- Boys school socks \$10 a pair
- School coats available \$55
- Swim hats available \$10

Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app. Orders **with full payment** may be left at the front office.

DONATIONS PLEASE

Please check your cupboards for any uniform items you no longer need. Donations of second hand uniforms can be left at the shop with Sam or Yvonne. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

Uniform Shop Volunteers – we need your help All we need is half an hour of your time once or twice a term!!

Please Sign Up to Help in the Uniform Shop by clicking on the following link:

<https://signup.com/go/JvsbATD>



or text Yvonne Arnts on 0426 240 496 if you are able to help, with your preferred day. Thanks.

The shop is open and EFTPOS available in store and for all your online orders. All orders to be picked up at front office



Information Evenings & Open Mornings for 2023 Commencement

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Events. The Information Evenings are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College.

INFORMATION EVENING: Wednesday 8 September at 5pm
Tuesday 19 October at 6.30pm

OPEN MORNING TOURS: Thursday 16 September at 9am
Thursday 21 October at 9am

You will be sent an online link the day prior to the event

TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-us>

**AFTER SCHOOL CARE
OLHC**

3.30pm - 6.00pm Monday - Friday (Term 3)

- Mondays** Craft Extravaganza
- Tuesdays** Construction
- Wednesdays** Art & Music
- Thursdays** Sport Activities
- Fridays** Exploring Language & Culture

Email ballarat.olhcoshc@ymca.org.au or call 0491 743 126 for further details.

They'll want to come again tomorrow!

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

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