



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 22nd November 2021
Term 4 Week 8

PO Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal @sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2021

Key Dates

Term 4
Oct 4 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 25th November

Letter made available to all families on PAM informing them of student class placements F - 5
Foundation 2022 Parent Information Evening

Friday 26th November

Casual Dress Day
School Assembly – 1MM

Sunday 28th November

P & F Movies

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

Monday 13th December

Reports – Available on PAM for Download

Tuesday 14th December

School Board Meeting

Thursday 16th December

Last Day of Term 4

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

As you know the Premier, Daniel Andrews announced last Thursday significant changes to CoVid restrictions effective from 11:59pm on Thursday 18th November 2021. This announcement came a week earlier than expected and the extent of the changes caught many by surprise - not the least being the Education Department and Catholic Education Commission Victoria.

Currently school principals have been advised to continue to operate under the restrictions in place prior to last Thursday's announcement and until a new School Operations Guide is issued. Once that is circulated to schools we will scrutinise it to see what changes affect our school and at this late stage in the year what events can be safely supported and reinstated.

As always we will be in contact with parents and keep them up to date as soon as changes are confirmed.

As we come towards the end of the year, we are at a stage of calmness before the busyness of what is December and Advent. Over the next couple of weeks, 'things' will build up and our weekends will be filled with catch up time with friends and family members, many of whom we may not have seen for a significant period of time!

The Catholic Church officially begins the season of **Advent** this coming weekend.

Advent is the time when we begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. All classrooms will be talking about Advent over the coming weeks and many will have an Advent Wreath. If you are planning on having an Advent calendar at home, remember to think about what we are really celebrating as we open up a new window each day.

It is also a lovely idea to try to do something special which can show the true spirit of Christmas - the love of Jesus- to the world e.g. children could set the table without being asked, do a special kind deed for someone who needs it, leave a note for someone telling them how much they are appreciated, etc. Have a wonderful time celebrating this magical season!



Advent Prayer

Creator God, we hear the glad sounds around us of people preparing for the coming of Jesus. We thank you, Jesus, for coming each year in a special way. During this month, everyone seems more loving and kind. Through prayers, help us to keep this feeling of joy all year long.

God has sent you to us to know, to love and to serve you.

If sometimes we forget, please help us.

Amen.

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

All other Calendar Dates for 2022 have been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website

2022 Key Dates

Term 1

Monday 31st January to
Friday 8th April)
= 11 Weeks

Term 1 Week 1

Monday 24th January
School Office Opens

Wednesday 26th January
Australia Day Public Holiday

Friday 28th January
First Day for Teachers

Term 1 Week 2

Monday 31st January
First Day for Students Year 3 to 6

Tuesday 1st February
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 2nd February
First Day for Students Foundation to 2

Thursday 3rd February
Enrolment 2023
Applications Open

Friday 4th February
Beginning of School Year
Mass

Term 1 Week 3

Monday 7th February
Year Ahead Meetings

Tuesday 8th February
School Board Meeting

Wednesday 9th February
Foundation Children at
Home

Friday 11th February
Student Free Day –Staff
Professional Learning:
ReLATE

School Improvement Framework - St. Francis Xavier School Review Report

In Week 5 we welcomed Karen Thorneloe to our school. Karen was employed by Catholic Education Ballarat as an external reviewer of schools. Karen and a panel of Ballarat Diocese representatives looked over our school particularly our performance data and feedback to surveys. Using this information as well as information gleaned from interviewing different groups Karen led the School Leadership Team in setting our future directions. Please find attached a report for the school community that outlines the outcomes of the review with the goals and priorities for our next 5 year improvement cycle.

- Attachment 1 – School Community Report
- Attachment 2 – Goals and Priorities

Class and Teacher Allocation 2022

From 4.00pm this Thursday 25th November 2021 parents are able to access their Parent Access Module (PAM) account to view their child's 2022 class allocation.

I ask you to be positive with your children regarding the class groupings they are in. I understand that change is sometimes difficult but in reality, it is the only thing that we can be certain of and it is important for our children to welcome change in their lives for their own growth.

Foundation Information Evening

This Thursday 25th November we will hold our Foundation Information Evening for the parents of our 2022 Foundation children. The meeting will take place in the school's Gymnasium at 7:00pm.

Orientation Day

On Tuesday 30th November we will hold Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our school and our Year 6's move on to their new school.

Year 6 Transition Day for children attending Damascus College, St. Patrick's College and Loreto College in 2022 is on Tuesday 30th November 2021. (As per information from the colleges).

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.

Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award – nominations called for.

The Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award is designed to celebrate the outstanding achievement and contribution to St. Francis Xavier of staff, parents and volunteers working in a diverse range of endeavours at St. Francis Xavier. The purpose is to acknowledge unwavering commitment to our school and the extraordinary outcomes that can be achieved through such commitment.



Endorsed by the St. Francis Xavier School Board this Award provides a mechanism to recognise those whose efforts are beyond the already high standards of education and care delivered by those involved at St. Francis Xavier. Through such commitment, these people will have made a difference in the lives and/or learning of children or others with whom they come into contact as they carry out their responsibilities in our school community. The varied roles through which an exceptional contribution within St. Francis Xavier takes place provide the basis for the Spirit of **Catherine McAuley Award**.

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Term 1 Week 4

Tuesday 15th February
School Open Day #1

Wednesday 17th February
Foundation Children at Home
Getting to Know Your Child as Person and a Learner Meeting #1

Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday 22nd February
School Open Day #2
Getting to Know Your Child as Person and a Learner Meeting #2

Wednesday 23rd February
Foundation Children at Home

Friday 25th February
Casual Clothes Day

Term 1 Week 6

Monday 28th February
School Photos
Year 5 Cyber Safety and Chromebook Boot camp - Parent Meeting

Tuesday 1st March
Shrove Tuesday
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 2nd March
Ash Wednesday
Foundation Children at Home

Thursday 3rd March
School Open Day #3

Term 1 Week 7

Wednesday 9th March
Foundation children at home

Friday 11th March
Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning

Term 1 Week 8

Monday 8th March
Public Holiday – Labour Day

Term 1 Week 9

Thursday 24th March
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

Friday 25th March

The nominee should be actively contributing to the School Mission “Through our ardent and all-encompassing Mercy work at St Francis Xavier Primary School, we will engender a passion for learning, respect and an ability to live in harmony with God’s creation.” Charged with the ministry of our vision statement we are committed to the following core values:

1. Mercy
2. Respect
3. Compassion
4. Excellence
5. Justice

As a guide, some of the following may be relevant:

- Living a Christ-centred life through the integration of faith and life
- Excellence in standards and professionalism in the candidate’s work for the school
- “Making a difference” in the lives of students or colleagues or parents through their personal and professional manner
- Role(s) or area(s) in which the nominee has excelled.

Within the spirit of these awards (as described earlier) please submit a one page nomination by 4:00pm Monday 29th November 2021 to principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au indicating how does:

1. the nominee demonstrate service worthy of recognition?
2. the nominee’s work impact on either a particular field, school, group, community or St. Francis Xavier Primary School at large?
3. this person stand out from others?

Major Fundraiser - the Christmas Raffle!

The **St Francis Xavier Primary School Parents & Friends Committee** are thrilled to announce this year's **Major Fundraiser - the Christmas Raffle!**

We have over \$7,000 worth of prizes on offer from generous school families and local businesses.

To purchase your tickets head to <https://rafflelink.com.au/sfx2021xmasraffle> Remember to select the class you are supporting as there will be a prize on offer for the class that sells the most tickets.

Please send the link far and wide as every dollar we raise goes straight back into developing the school facilities and purchasing new equipment.

The lucky winners will be drawn on Monday 13th December 2021, winners announced on our Facebook page and prizes available for collection from the school office by the end of the school year.

Thank you for your support & good luck!

Cristmas Raffle - Details

P & F at the Movies - Details

Casual Dress Day

Term 1 Week 10

Term 1 Week 11

Tuesday 5th April
P & F Meeting

Friday 8th April
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2
Tuesday 26th April to
Thursday 23rd June
= 9 Weeks

Term 3
Monday 11th July to Friday
16th September
= 10 Weeks

Term 4
Monday 3rd October to
Friday 16th December
= 11 Weeks



Occupational Therapist - Brittany Curtain



Please see below the **Latest Edition of The OT Times**.

If you have any questions please contact me on
bcurtain@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au.

Brittany Curtain
Occupational Therapist



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Out of School Home Care Transport (OSHC) 2022

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 2022.

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 2021.

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 2022.

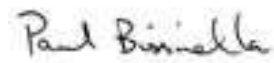
The School will be notified by the 11th December if transport will be available for 2022. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns or wish to discuss this matter further.

Please Note: 2022 School Calendar

Please note that the **2022 School Calendar** has been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website.

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



Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs is now closed. Please send all bread tags to school by Friday. Thank you for all your contributions. So far you have donated 3.06kg of bread tags. This plastic will be recycled, and the money gained will be used to support disadvantaged people who need support.



Sacrament News

It's finally here! First Eucharist for Year 5 students is happening on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings over the next two weeks. It has been a very long time coming for our Year 5s and we wish them all the best for their celebrations of Eucharist.

The dates for all sacraments occurring in 2022 will be decided in the new year. If all goes to plan, St Alipius Parish expect to enrol and prepare:

- Year 3 for Confirmation
- Year 4 for Reconciliation
- Year 4 for Eucharist
- Year 5 for Eucharist.

Please don't hesitate to contact the parish if you have any further questions.

Please direct all sacrament inquiries and requests (including certificates) to Bronwyn Ballesty in the parish office on 53326611 or via email on ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au . The office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 9:30 and 1:30.

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.

If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish your child to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR B

Gospel

Jn 18:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

You say that I am a king.

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today's feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? The confusion about what it means to be a king that is captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate is the same confusion that we saw among the disciples as they came to terms with exactly what it means to be the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Truth

Jesus says to Pilate that he came into the world 'to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.' That is where today's gospel passage finishes but as the gospel continues on, Pilate famously asks Jesus 'What is truth?' and the question is left dangling; unanswered. The truth Jesus has borne witness to is the truth of his whole life – the revelation of God's love for humanity. It is for proclaiming this truth that Jesus is placed on trial and is brought before Pilate.

Historical Context – Christ the King

Unfortunately, political and military images of kingship have played a dominating role in the Church since very early in its history. The very earliest Christians, or followers of the Way, did not conform to social and political hierarchies of their day. But when Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the official religion of the Roman Empire the structure of the Church quickly adopted the political and social structures of the empire. At times in history the Pope has adopted a regal status and led huge armies into battle. Many of these structures persist today and we sometimes struggle to recapture Jesus' intention when he declared himself a king.

Have you thought? The Kingdom of God

When Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God he never gives a particularly clear picture of what he means. He usually refers to the kingdom with metaphoric language ('the kingdom of God is like ...') and often the kingdom is defined by what it is not. The kingdom is also a real contradiction: it is here and now and yet it is still to come; it is almost impossible for some to enter

the kingdom while others are assured a place; it is within us and in our hearts and yet is a great banquet to which all are invited.

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

- Q. Why do you think Pilate questioned Jesus the way he did?
- Q. To what 'truth' did Jesus come into the world to bear witness?
- Q. How are we called to continue to bear witness to this truth?
- Q. Have you ever felt challenged about what you believe?
- Q. Do you find 'Christ the King' a helpful or significant image of Jesus?

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



Scaffolding Literacy

This week our Level leaders had the opportunity to attend an in-service through the CEOB with Misty Adoniou on Scaffolding Literacy. The leaders will take their newly gained information and share this with their levels as we continue on with our skills and understandings of the Scaffolding literacy process. Day 2 of this in-service will occur early in Term 1 2022, which we are looking forward to attending.



Scaffolding literacy involves getting children involved in joint reading, writing, spelling and language development with the assistance of their teacher. Teachers and students work together through modelled shared and guided strategies to complete a reading/writing task. Students are stretched to understand the new information being taught while the teacher assists students along the way until they are able to complete individual tasks.

PAT testing is in full swing and children are doing a great job with these. I once again thank the classroom teachers for their support and implementation of these important progressive assessment tasks.

I hope everyone has a terrific week.

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News



Parental Guidance

Many of you may be watching or have heard of the TV show Parental Guidance, hosted by Ally Langdon and Australian parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson.

The premise is that ten sets of parents (with very different and often conflicting parenting styles) model their parenting methods. I've not watched the show, however I like the way that it's getting people discussing raising children, sharing the many joys and challenges we all face.

None of us are the perfect parents 100% of the time, but by having honest conversations and reflecting on our parenting we can all make positive changes. We need to educate and empower families to be the best they can be. In the attached article, Justin Coulson discusses yelling at children and some alternatives you may like to try for more harmony at home!

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Talk-And-Walk-A-Thon!

Wow! Last Friday our children had a fabulous time connecting with their buddies and peers during our Peer Support Australia's Talk-And-Walk-A -Thon.

Social connection is vital to our mental health so we were delighted to get out of the classroom, into the fresh air and to see all the sharing, excitement and laughter. We had prompt cards and support for children who may have been feeling a little unsure of what to talk about together, however most children relaxed into the event and were soon chatting like old friends.

You might like to ask your child what they talked about or even challenge yourself to reconnect with an old friend!

Happy Days!

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader

Uniform Shop Update

NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

Uniform Shop Sales during Term 4

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.

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. **EFTPOS available**

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.

Spots available with Kelly Sports for the last 6 weeks of term!

Wednesdays 3:25pm-4:55pm (Starting Wed 3rd Nov)

Multi-Sports Program

Preps to Grade 6

\$132 for the 6 weeks

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

Any queries please call Dom 0417 967 621

*** All our coaches have been fully vaccinated**

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

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