



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Term 4 Week 9

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 9

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
SFX Orientation  
Year 6 Transition

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

#### Term 4 Week 10

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 6 Thanksgiving and  
Graduation

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
Foundation Nativity

#### Term 4 Week 11

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
Reports – Available on PAM  
for Download

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
School Board Meeting

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Last Day of Term 4

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

### *In the Land of the Wadawurrung People*

Dear Parents and Families,

#### Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier

This Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December our school will recognise the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier and celebrate the day on Friday.

This remarkable man, who was born in Spain in 1506 and died before Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England, was the first Christian and the first Jesuit missionary to visit Japan, which in the sixteenth century was a closed country about which almost nothing was known. Although Japan was where he would ultimately devote several years of his life, Xavier was determined to spread God's word throughout Asia to the people of what was then known as the Portuguese Empire.



Revealing great courage in the days when many still believed the earth was flat, and two centuries before Cook's voyage to Botany Bay and Australia, St Francis Xavier not only travelled as far as Japan but also journeyed to Borneo, India, the Moluccas, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Mozambique and other areas that had not yet been visited by Christian missionaries, as well as visiting and working in China with a small pioneering band of Jesuit missionaries.

#### Second Week of Advent

This coming weekend begins the second week of Advent. **Advent** is a 'time of waiting.' A time of reflecting on what we have....on what we mean to each other as a family and on the wonder and awe of what being a Christian in our world means. It also calls us to challenge the way we live out our lives and to question and reflect on what brings true meaning to our lives.

When we look deeply into this, it is not the Christmas parties or gifts that bring meaning, but the relationships in our lives that we value and that we want to sustain. The Infant Jesus calls us at this time of waiting to reflect on who we are and what are the non - negotiables in our lives that we cannot compromise in the hustle and bustle of life ....our families, our values and our own time to be? **Advent** is a reminder to us to live with the expectation that all in life is God's gift.



I hope in the weeks ahead, you find time for waiting, for reflecting and for being.

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



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

# 2022 Key Dates

## Term 1

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January to  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April)  
= 11 Weeks

### Term 1 Week 1

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January**  
School Office Opens

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
Australia Day Public Holiday

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
First Day for Teachers

### Term 1 Week 2

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**First Day for Students Year**  
**3 to 6**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
P&F Meeting

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**First Day for Students**  
**Foundation to 2**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Enrolment 2023  
Applications Open

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
Beginning of School Year  
Mass

### Term 1 Week 3

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February**  
Year Ahead Meetings

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
School Board Meeting

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
Student Free Day –Staff  
Professional Learning:  
ReLATE

### Term 1 Week 4

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**  
School Open Day #1

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**  
Foundation Children at  
Home

## 2022 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected as **2022 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains**:



**Ashlee Beseler**



**Jameson Reus**



**Eva Cummins**



**Poppy Le Grand**



**Ben Nunn**



**Liam Patterson**

I am sure that you join me in congratulating our Captains on their appointments!

## Orientation Day

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Year 6 Graduation Mass

Parents and Families of our Year 6 Children are invited to attend a Year 6 Graduation Mass this Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December for 7.00pm at St. Alipius Church.

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

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

Getting to Know Your Child  
as Person and a Learner  
Meeting #1

#### Term 1 Week 5

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

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
Casual Clothes Day

#### Term 1 Week 6

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
School Photos  
Year 5 Cyber Safety and  
Chromebook Boot camp -  
Parent Meeting

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
Shrove Tuesday  
P&F Meeting

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
Ash Wednesday  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
School Open Day #3

#### Term 1 Week 7

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
Foundation children at  
home

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
Student Free Day – Staff  
Professional Learning

#### Term 1 Week 8

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
Public Holiday – Labour Day

#### Term 1 Week 9

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
Casual Dress Day

#### Term 1 Week 10

#### Term 1 Week 11

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

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.

#### Beginning of Year Interviews for Foundation to Year 2022

Our PAM bookings will be open from 9.00am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for you to log a time for your child's **Beginning of Year Interviews for Foundation to Year 2**. 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 Interviews** will be held at:

- 8.30am – 4:30 pm on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**
- 8.30am – 4:30 pm on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

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 interview 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 Foundation to Year 2 students at the **Beginning of Year Interviews**.

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 school's homepage:

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/for-parents/pam/>

or by going directly to the PAM site -

<https://pam.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>



Unique usernames and passwords have been 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.

**Please make sure you book the interview with your child's 2022 Class Teacher!**  
**Instructions are attached.**

#### 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.

P & F Meeting

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Last Day of Term 1

**Term 2**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April to

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

= 9 Weeks

**Term 3**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July to Friday

16<sup>th</sup> September

= 10 Weeks

**Term 4**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

= 11 Weeks

The varied roles through which an exceptional contribution within St. Francis Xavier takes place provide the basis for the Spirit of **Catherine McAuley Award**.

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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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!





### 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](mailto:bcurtain@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au).

Brittany Curtain  
Occupational Therapist



### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.

### Overdue School Fees

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.

### 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.

### 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 2021. 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 that school finishes on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at normal end of the day school times e.g. 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, 184*

## Religious Education News



### Social Justice and Catholic Social Teaching - Casual Days

It was wonderful to see everyone in their casual clothes today. The donated gold coins will support the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal. Vinnies will use the money in our local community to help those in need. Thank you for your generosity. At St Francis Xavier we don't share what we have just because it's the right thing to do.



We are a Catholic school and a Mercy school. Our Vision Statement says we are 'called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition'. This means that we teach Catholic Christian values to our students. These are inspired by the behaviour of Jesus, who healed the sick, helped those in need and cared for all people no matter their nationality

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

or religion. These are the values that Catherine McAuley also followed when she began the Sisters of Mercy in the 1800s.

The teachings of the Catholic Church on social justice issues are grounded in the Bible and the wisdom gathered from experience by the Christian community.

Further reading about the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) may be found at

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/About/>

### **Advent Prayers at School**

Each Monday our school will gather to pray during Advent. Our prayers will be led by our Year 6 Mercy Leaders, Angus and Fraser.

### **Our Diocesan Community Magazine November edition**

Have a read of the many events which have occurred in Ballarat and around the diocese. You may even spot the familiar faces of Sully Boyd (Yr 4) and Flynn Boyd (Yr 3) speaking about their grandparents! The establishment of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 has led to lots of sharing of memories about grandparents. We will celebrate this special day in 2022 when we invite grandparents and older friends to celebrate their special day here at school with us.

Link to the magazine: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ODC-November-2021-w.pdf>

### **Sacrament News**

Congratulations to all the students in our St Alipius Parish community who have recently received their First Eucharist. Fr Jorge reminded them of the importance of Love, Friends, Family and Faith in their lives. We thank Bron Ballesty and her team at St Alipius Parish for their very resilient work in the face of many COVID-19 setbacks this year for making this possible.

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 children baptised in the Catholic faith in:

- Year 3 (and above) for Confirmation
- Year 4 (and above) for Reconciliation
- Years 4 & 5 (and above) for Eucharist

These sacraments are organised by the parish and supported by the school.

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

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

### **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**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

### Gospel

Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

*Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.*

*'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'*

### The Gospel of the Lord

### REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'. From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

#### Scriptural context

This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

#### Have you thought? – Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.



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

Q. When you read this gospel passage, what thoughts and emotions does it evoke?

Q. What was the gospel writer trying to convey to his readers by including this passage about the future?

Q. What is the message for a modern audience?

Q. Why is Advent the beginning of the liturgical year?

Q. What is an image or symbol for you of waiting and/or preparation? **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



#### Preparing for 2022

Over the next 3 weeks in our Professional Learning Schedule, Classroom teachers and Specialists will be planning for 2022 and handing over important information to your child's 2022 class teacher. Great professional discussions and learning take place in these sessions and I know staff will be preparing with gusto for 2022.

PAT testing is now in its last week and the 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



#### Coping with Change

The school seems abuzz with conversations about 2022, class placements and tomorrow's orientation/ going up day! So much energy and excitement, along with a little uncertainty and anxiety for some of our children- all which is completely normal!

Change can seem a little scary at first and as humans we tend to dislike uncertainty, so focus on the familiar with your child- "Yes you will have a new classroom, but you will still be in this area" "Yes you will have different children in your class, but remember how good you are at making new friends."

Don't let your own fears or negative experiences affect your child's mindset!

Talking to your child about how they are feeling and focusing on times they have experienced success help them develop a growth mindset. In the attached article, Michael Grose focuses on helping children make a smooth transition to secondary school. Although the article looks specifically at movement to a new school, many of the suggestions are still valid in helping children feel connected and organised.

Throughout all of life we make transitions, face changes and challenges, but with a great attitude and little support your child will make a positive start to the new school year.

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](mailto: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.

## Community News

### **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](http://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>