



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 7th February 2022
Term 1 Week 3

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2022 Key Dates

Term 1 Week 3

Monday 7th February
Year Ahead Meetings

Wednesday 9th February
Foundation Children at Home

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

Term 1 Week 4

Wednesday 16th February
Foundation Children at Home
Getting to Know Your Child as Person and a Learner Meeting #1

Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday 22nd February
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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to week three! It seems a lot has happened since last Monday's newsletter. What a wonderful start we had to our school year. It was great to get the first week 'under our belts' and for the teachers and children to establish their routines and expectations. Staff have spent invaluable time before the resumption of school preparing for this year and the children are most excited and eager to be back and into school work. A positive 'feel' exists around our school.

Student Free Day - Friday 11th February

Please note that this **Friday 11th February** is a Student Free Day for Staff Professional Learning. Staff will be beginning our ReLATE (Reframing Learning and Teaching Environments) journey that we will participate in over the next 3 years. ReLATE is a research and evidence informed model supporting schools to create the preconditions for improved teaching, learning and wellbeing.

In 2022 we have dedicated two Student Free Days to Staff Professional Learning with ReLATE on **Friday 11th February** (Term 1 Week 3) and **Friday 6th May** (Term 2 Week 2).



Our application to join ReLATE originated out of feedback from our School Review process and the positive feedback from teachers who attended the ReLATE workshop at the Ballarat Central Zone Education Conference in 2019. Our participation in ReLATE responds to strategies identified in our School Review Self Reflection Report:

Wellbeing Overall Key Improvements:

1. To build and nurture communities of inclusivity, belonging and wellbeing, where all experience hospitality, a sense of welcome and trust with/in each other
2. To promote school pride so that students, staff and parents take more ownership of building an inclusive community for all
3. To appreciate diverse and different cultures (having exposure to different cultures in the school environment)

For more information about ReLATE please feel free to view the following clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wa3XVyrXUKM&t=2s>

We appreciate your support as we embark on our ReLATE journey!

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Wednesday 2nd March
Ash Wednesday
Foundation Children at Home

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 14th March
Public Holiday – Labour Day

Tuesday 15th March
School Open Day #1

Term 1 Week 9

Tuesday 22nd March
School Open Day #2

Thursday 24th March
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

Friday 25th March
Casual Dress Day

Term 1 Week 10

Thursday 31st March
School Open Day #3

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

All other Calendar Dates for 2023 have been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website

Beginning of the Year Prayer Gathering

It was great to gather as a school on Friday for our Beginning of the Year School Prayer with Fr. George. Due to the current operating guidelines for schools and CoVid control our Prayer Service was held via Zoom. A pre-recorded video of our Year 6 Children blessing was also included in the Prayer Service. You can view a video of the blessing by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/skXJnp7IpGk>

Fr. Jorge led our prayer and spoke about the excitement of a new school year and the energy that is obvious around our school.

Many thanks to Fr. Jorge and Bernadette Luckman (our Religious Education Leader) for organizing such a memorable start to our school year!



Year Ahead - Parent Information Evening via Zoom 2022

Tonight, Monday 7th February St. Francis Xavier will hold a Parent Information Evening for all parents. Arrangements for these meetings this year will change due to COVID 19 Requirements.

Please note: This year the meetings will be held online (**virtually with Zoom**) and all class teachers will send a Zoom Invitation to each family shortly.

These meetings are intended to give parents specific information about class programs and approaches to teaching and learning. I strongly encourage all parents to attend as we believe that a positive, nurturing, and encouraging home-school relationship is essential in helping children achieve success. The education of each of our children is a partnership between staff, parents and children.

The sessions will run for up to between 45 minutes with each classroom teacher (please note new times below).

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| • 5:00pm | Foundation to Year 2 |
| • 6:00pm | Specialist Teachers |
| • 7:00pm | Year 3 to Year 6 |

Student Led Conferences about each child will take place in Week 2 & 3 of Term 2.

Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting 2022

Staff will be doing all they can to get to know your child at the beginning of this term so they can enhance wellbeing and support and challenge each child to be the best that they can be, to be successful!

An important aspect of getting to know children is the "Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting" on **Wednesday 16th and Tuesday 22nd February**. This year the meetings also will be held



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online (**virtually with Zoom**) and all class teachers will send a Zoom Invitation to each family shortly.

These meetings provide 5 minutes dedicated 1:1 time for parents and teachers to meet and for you to share your child's strengths, passions, your concerns, and aspirations and anything you think will help your child to be successful.

We will send home some question prompts the week before to ensure we maximise the time together. Please make a note in your diary for this now and look out for the School Interviews sign up on Monday 14th February for your time slot.

Parents & Friends Funds for 2022:

The Catholic Education Office requires that every school works to raise funds to make up the shortfall in funding received from the Federal and State Governments each year. This means that every year our parents must work to raise money to undertake essential issues in running the school and to provide our children with valuable resources to support them in their education as well as provide a safe, stimulating environment for them.

Our Parents & Friends are an energetic, committed group of people who work to support the school in its fundraising efforts. I commend all of you who support the efforts of the P & F group and ask you to continue this support throughout the year.

The Parents & Friends Committee Executive:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--|
| • Chairperson: | Ange Staley | angelastaley24@gmail.com |
| • Vice Chair Person: | Gabrielle Howley | gab.howley@gmail.com |
| • Secretary: | Brianna Burbidge | Brianna.burbidge@gmail.com |
| • Treasurer: | Carolyn Ward | caroandrob@bigpond.com |

St Francis Xavier Parents and Friends Committee Meeting

The St Francis Xavier Parents and Friends Committee would like to invite you to join our first meeting this **Tuesday 8th February** at 6:00pm at school on the lawn outside the staffroom!



We would love to meet new families and existing families wanting to get involved in the fundraising ideas for the school and to be a part of the committee and encourage them to come along and see what it's all about!

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Any questions please email the P&F at: sfxpsc@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Foundation Enrolment 2023 - Open Day and School Alive Tours

We are happiest when prospective families pay us a visit to see for themselves what makes us different.



New and Existing Families are invited to join us to learn about St. Francis Xavier Primary School.

Open Days will begin with an Information Session at 9:30 am with **School Alive Tours** to follow at 10:00am:

1. Tuesday 15th March 2022
2. Tuesday 22nd March 2022
3. Thursday 31st March 2022

Event Registration:

To register your attendance for an Open Day, School Alive Tour or Virtual Tour please complete the Registration Form at: <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days>

Online Enrolment Open from Tuesday 8th February 2022

Attending an Open Day is the first step in the enrolment process. The online **Expression of Interest** is the second step in the enrolment process. If you wish to do so, please nominate St Francis Xavier Primary School as your first preference for your child's education. Please click on this link and fill in and submit the City of Ballarat Catholic School Expression of Interest Form: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Foundation Enrolment 2023 – Existing Families

Enrolments are open for children of existing families who start Prep in 2023. Parents of existing families who have a child to start in 2023 - please complete the form by clicking on the following link to submit a **City of Ballarat Catholic Primary School Expression of Interest Form**: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Classroom Helper Information Sessions

Due to our current restrictions we are currently unable to welcome Classroom Helpers onsite. However, as soon as we are able to, we would like to begin welcoming our Classroom Helpers into our learning spaces. So that we are prepared for this, we will be facilitating two Classroom Helper Information Sessions this term:

- **Session 1:** Wednesday 16th February at 9:30am via Zoom
- **Session 2:** Monday 21st February at 2.00pm via Zoom

The Classroom Helper Information Sessions are for members of our community who would like to be involved as 'Classrooms Helpers' in 2022 when our current restrictions are eased. These sessions will cover aspects of English and Mathematics and provide helpers with important information required prior to supporting in classrooms.

Please note:

- If you are interested in becoming a Classroom Helper, you only need to attend one of the Classroom Helper Information Sessions.
- A valid 'Working with Children's Check' is required prior to commencing classroom support. Office staff require a copy of ALL cards prior to commencement.

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- Sign and return the following documents prior to commencement, St Francis Xavier Primary School Volunteer Duty Statement & St Francis Xavier Primary School Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
- If you have attended a St. Francis Xavier Primary School Classroom Helper session in previous years, you do not need to attend another session.
- You will however need to read, sign and return the following documents prior to commencement:
 - St Francis Xavier Primary School Volunteer Duty Statement
 - St Francis Xavier Primary School Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

Both documents can be collected from the Office.

Please RSVP by emailing: rconroy@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au if you would like to participate so that the Zoom link can be shared with you prior to your chosen session.

Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) for school parents....

As you know we take the health and safety of your children very seriously. As such will continue with our use of **Operoo** as a health and safety program. It has been very well received by families since we began using it in 2015!

Operoo is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form for schools, clubs and other groups with a duty of care. It's an electronic version of the paper based forms you're always having to fill in for excursions, camps, enrolments, etc.



As a parent you will have received an email or SMS from the **Operoo** system inviting you to enter the details for your child in an electronic medical form. Please complete and update your Operoo details as soon as possible.

Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

School Fees

School Fee Payment Agreement Forms were sent home to all families last year. If you have not yet returned your form please complete it and return to the school office by Friday 11th February. This form is to be completed by all families on an annual basis.

For families that returned their forms last year, the direct debits have all been set up and will commence from the Thursday 17th February 2022. Attached to the newsletter is the direct debit schedule dates for 2022.

Family Fee Assistance Scheme

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for a means tested Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families, to new and current students. If you are eligible for the above concession card and require further information regarding this scheme, please contact the school office for more information.

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

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Eligibility:

Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card on the first day of Term 1 or first day of Term 2 or be a temporary foster parent will be eligible to apply.

Bus Transport for 2022

If there are any changes with regard to your child's transport from school for 2022 could you kindly fill in a Transportation From School form or contact the office with the relevant changes.

If you are a new family starting in 2022 and intend for your child to travel from school, please find attached the Transportation Form for you to complete and return back to the office.



Bus Procedures for Parents

- You need to notify the office if there is a change to your default (i.e. what you filled out on the form)
- Changes to the daily schedule would be appreciated as early in the day as possible – before 12.00pm midday.

Changes to the daily schedule will be able to be conveyed to the office via telephone, by a bus pass which will be available from the office or by downloading and printing from our website.

Changes to the daily schedule can also be communicated via the Skoolbag App, or via the generic "office" email office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

COVID Safe Environment

Our school continues to monitor and abide by all COVID safe regulations and recommendations issued by both the State Government and the Catholic Education Office. Density Limits and Good Hygiene practices continue to apply.

Rapid Antigen Tests

- We request that ALL children are tested this **Sunday night prior to the commencement** of the school year and **every Tuesday and Sunday night thereafter**.
- Free rapid antigen tests are available for all students at St. Francis Xavier Primary School for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022.
- Rapid antigen testing will be voluntary for all students.
- Students will be requested to be tested twice weekly.
- Tests will be provided in packs of five individual tests.

Face masks

Face masks have proved an effective protection in previous outbreaks and are again a key protection:

- Students in Year 3 and above must wear a face mask indoors at school, unless a lawful exception applies.
- Students must wear face masks even if vaccinated.
- Students are not required to wear masks outside.
- Everyone over eight years old must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles.
- School staff must wear a face mask in all indoor settings, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication or teaching.
- Visitors to schools aged eight and above must wear a face mask in all indoor spaces, unless a lawful exception applies.

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- Students in Prep to Grade 2 are strongly recommended to wear a face mask indoors at school.
- **Should your child have a legal or medical exemption for not wearing a mask (Year 3 to 6) we ask that parents notify the Principal in writing before the beginning of the school year. Please email to principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au**

Parents and Visitors coming onsite

We appreciate the start of the school year is a challenging time regarding parents and carers coming onsite. In the early weeks of this year we are limiting parents, carers and visitors who enter school buildings to reduce the risk of transmission. The school is aware of the challenges that the current restrictions impose and is required to observe the following requirements.

When Parents, carers and visitors enter school buildings they are required to check in with a QR code and have the school confirm that they are fully vaccinated. This is not required if you are just dropping off or picking up your student.

We ask all parents, carers and visitors to practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene, and observe physical distancing, and face mask requirements when onsite.

Any parent, carer or visitor who enter school buildings must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a valid medical exemption, with the following limited exceptions:

- When attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- When attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer
- When attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar

As we are able to welcome parents, carers and visitors onsite for any event or activity inside a school building including, but not limited to, tours, graduations, transitions and whole-school events each person visiting will be required to show evidence of vaccination.

Meetings, parent/teacher conferences and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) with visitors who do not meet vaccination requirements will be held virtually.

Parents, carers and visitors attending school sites for drop-off and pick-up who do not enter school buildings do not need to comply with vaccination requirements.

Our school will only visually verify the vaccination status of a visitor, no information is recorded or retained.

COVID Safe Principles for Children and Parents:

- Any child who is unwell must not attend school
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements (see below)
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements (see below)
- Entry and exit points to the school will be open, with additional staff allocated to ensure children are safely supervised
- Parents are not to enter classrooms at any stage and are to adhere to social distancing guidelines when waiting to collect their child at the classroom door
- Request that parents avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Regular School Cleaning

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- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for changed behaviours

Beginning of the Day Drop Off

- Foundation (Prep) parents will be able to accompany their children to their classroom in the first week of school. We ask that the Foundation (Prep) parents drop their child at the entrance to the classroom and then leave in a prompt manner. On entry to the building Foundation parents must QR Code in.
- We continue to request that all other parents (Year 1 – 6) drop their children off in the undercover area and then exit the school in a prompt manner.
- Staff will be present in the undercover area from 8:30am to assist children with walking to their classrooms if required.

End of the Day Dismissal

Please see the table below for staggered pick up arrangements that continue at St. Francis Xavier.

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
Week 1 to Week 5 Monday 31 st January to Friday 24 th February	A - G	H - P	Q - Z

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to refrain from stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite.

Dismissal / Collections Area

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Megan Mullane	Side door of the Foundation MM classroom
Foundation	Tom Willmott	Side door of the Foundation TW classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Jessie Simpson	Side door of the Foundation JS classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	Enter via school FRONT GATES and proceed to classrooms via flag pole entrance (Please do not enter via the lower laneway)
Year One	Shannon MacKlin	
Year One	Estelle McLean	
Year 2 - 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

At no stage are parents able to enter any classroom. Red Tape and Distance markers will be outside each classroom door to remind all adults.

Student Attendance

- While families may be nervous about students returning to school, all students are expected to attend onsite.

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- Parent preference is not an approved reason for students to be absent due to COVID-19.
- Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning.
- Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

Students who may be medically vulnerable

- In keeping with expert public health advice, some students (or families) may be at higher risk for severe outcomes or complications of COVID-19, for example those with chronic medical conditions.
- Parents or carers of any student with a chronic medical condition should seek advice from their medical practitioner about attending school on-site.
- If you have a child or children who is medically vulnerable please reach out to us here at school, so we can work with you regarding the medical needs and your up-to-date condition-specific health management plan (such as an Asthma Action Plan).

Stay home when unwell and get tested

- The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is to ensure that any unwell students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.
- Everyone should consider their health before they attend school, and ensure that they are free from coronavirus symptoms and have not had recent contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have coronavirus.

School Hats

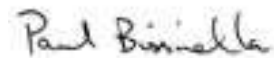
St. Francis Xavier is a Sun Smart school. This means all members of our school must wear a school hat while outside during the school day. Please ensure your child has a school hat.

Receiving the St. Francis Xavier School Newsletter by Email.

We seem to have a lot of parents and families changing their email address and then unable to get the newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email could you please notify the office as soon as possible and provide an updated email address.

Have a great week and I look forward to seeing you ONLINE at tonight's Year Ahead Meetings!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Do not fear offending anyone. Speak as your mind directs and always act with more courage when the "mammon of unrighteousness" is in question

Letter to Mary Ann Doyle July 24, 1842



A Prayer for Uncertain Times

*God of infinite mercy, hear our prayer!
In this time of bewilderment and fear, we ask you to give us the courage
to take care of one another as Jesus did.
For those who are ill, especially those who are frightened and alone, for
those who cannot access healthcare, for those who are homeless and
lost, hear our prayer!*



In the midst of our own anxiety we ask you to give us the courage to support one another as you would. For those who are unexpectedly unemployed, for employers who share what they can, for our government and financial institutions and those who lead them, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our struggle to ensure a healthy future for all who live on this planet, we ask you to give us the hope that surpasses our current understanding. For healthcare workers, spiritual leaders and our faith communities, for artists and poets, for prophets and teachers, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our growing awareness that all life on Earth is connected, we ask for the heart to respect and cherish all life. That all peoples recognize that we are all your children, hear our prayer!

We trust in you and your power working in us. Please hear and answer our prayers.

Amen! Amen!

<http://www.sistersofmercy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/A-Prayer-for-Uncertain-Times.pdf>

Sacramental News

St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East, will shortly inform us of the dates for sacraments in 2022.

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

In Term 1, it is most likely students in Year 5 will receive First Eucharist. These students need to be Baptised, Confirmed and have received Reconciliation. Parents wishing their children to receive this sacrament will need to attend the Parent Information Meeting to find out about the parish expectations of them and their child. It looks like the dates for Year 5 First Eucharist will be late March and early April. I will have more information for you very soon. All dates will be available through the school and parish newsletters and through Year 5 Seesaw accounts.

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 . 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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Gospel

Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They left everything and followed him.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The theme that comes through this week's readings is one of 'being called'. The first reading is the call of the prophet Isaiah (Is 6:1-8). Isaiah experiences a vision of the glory of God and is humbly reminded of his own deficiencies: he believes himself to be 'a man of unclean lips'. As such, he is certainly unfit to speak on behalf of God as his unclean lips would taint whatever message he may speak. But his lips are cleansed by God who then asks, 'Whom shall I send?' Demonstrating a complete conversion of heart and mind, Isaiah immediately replies, 'Here I am, send me!'

This first reading provides a perfect balance to the gospel. Jesus is being closely pressed by the crowd when he asks a nearby fisherman to take him just off shore to preach without being overwhelmed by the crowd. Seemingly at random, he has selected the boat of the fisherman Peter. Having finished preaching for the day, Jesus tells Peter to set out into deeper water and pay out his fishing nets. Peter is certainly not keen on the idea! Out of some interest or good nature he had agreed to allow this preacher to use his boat for a while, but now this country bumpkin is trying to tell him how to fish! Just to prove Jesus wrong, Peter agrees to go through the futile exercise and is overwhelmed by the enormous catch of fish. Like Isaiah in the first reading, Peter is suddenly acutely aware of his own deficiencies – 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'. Like Isaiah, he recognises that he has just seen the glory of God revealed and he feels unworthy to be part of the experience. But Jesus reassures him, 'Do not be afraid,' and calls Peter to follow.

Scriptural context – The Call of the disciples

In the other two synoptic gospels – Matthew and Mark – the call of the disciples is one of the first recorded actions of Jesus' adult life. Luke, on the other hand, delays the call until after Jesus' public ministry has commenced. By this stage of the gospel, Jesus has made a public declaration about the nature of his ministry and begun to enact it. In this way, the sort of ministry Jesus will undertake is already established when the disciples are called to join it. It becomes a more conscious decision by the disciples – they know what they're getting in to!

Have you thought? – Do not be afraid

When Peter is overcome by the catch of fish and falls on his knees before Jesus, the response Jesus makes is to simply say, 'Do not be afraid'. This phrase is the most often repeated phrase in the Bible. It appears more than 60 times throughout the Bible – depending on which translation one uses. This is an extraordinary number of times for the one phrase to appear. And

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the references stretch from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. It is God's message to us echoing throughout the Bible: Do not be afraid!

Living the Gospel – Hearing the Call

Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse!

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

Q. Why do you think Peter allowed Jesus to use his boat to preach?

Q. What might Peter have been thinking when he agreed to go fishing again?

Q. Why does Peter say, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'?

Q. Who do you know who has felt 'called' to act and has responded to that call?

Q. Do you have a sense of what you may be called to do with your life?

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



Year Ahead Meetings

These meetings are intended to give parents/carers specific information about class programs and approaches to teaching and learning. I also strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend as we believe that a positive, nurturing, and encouraging home-school relationship is essential in helping children achieve success. The education of each of our children is a partnership between staff, parents and children. This year our Year Ahead meetings will be via ZOOM.

SeeSaw

This year, all classes will continue to use the online digital portfolio tool, Seesaw. Seesaw provides children with the opportunity to document and reflect upon their learning while strengthening their skills in the area of technology. Each child has their own Seesaw portfolio and throughout the year authentic assessment tasks will be uploaded to Seesaw. Specialist teachers will also be using Seesaw, and therefore you will notice that your child is a member of multiple classes. If your child has a current Seesaw account, you will not need to sign up to Seesaw again as 2021 classes have been archived. If you require a Seesaw login for your child, please see your child's classroom teacher.



Spelling Mastery

Spelling Mastery will commence this week. Spelling Mastery is a research - based program designed to explicitly teach children the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. Spelling Mastery supports the children in developing an understanding of the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns. Children are taught in small steps, using sufficient practice, so that they comprehend how spelling works and transfer accurate spelling to their writing.

Children in Years 3-6 will participate in Spelling Mastery four times a week, Tuesday through to Friday, from 9:00am to 9:20am.



Looking forward to a learning filled week for all.

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.



Modelling positive coping strategies, having a growth mindset and acknowledging how their children are feeling.

After the excitement of the beginning of the school year, meeting their new teachers and friends, some children begin to realise this thing called education is going to take up a significant amount of their time!

Parents can assist by modelling positive coping strategies, having a growth mindset and acknowledging how their children are feeling. Your connection with your child is the most important support you can give!

For any little ones (or even big ones!) struggling with separation as they go back to school after the holidays, here are three simple little tips which really can be so effective in supporting emotional connection:
(Thank you to Dr Mary O'Kane for these strategies)

Matching Love Hearts:

Draw a little heart on your wrist, and a matching one on theirs. If they are missing you during the day, or just feel the need to connect with you, they put their fingers on the little heart. They will feel their pulse, like a reassuring heartbeat, when they touch their wrist. Let them know that you will press your love heart if you are missing them. You can also add a spray of your perfume or aftershave to their wrist, as another little connection to you.



Pebble in my Pocket:



Find two very similar pebbles, gem-stones or crystals. You keep one in your pocket and the child keeps the other in their pocket. Tell them that any time they feel a little nervous or are missing you they give their pebble a little squeeze. It is a very concrete reminder of their connection to you.



Worries in My Pocket:

Talk to your child about any worries they have about school. Write the worries down on pieces of paper or use little worry dolls. Tell your child you are going to carry their worries for the day or overnight, so they don't have to carry them alone. This can really help to ease any fears they may have.

Please find attached an article about emotional connections- how to build on your emotional connection with your children and ways to give emotional feedback.

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader



Latest Schools Sports Updates

2022 promises to be a fantastic year for school sport! Lots of planning is being undertaken to ensure the safe return of sport both at SFX and across various interschool sporting events.

We hope to announce very shortly some key dates such as the Yr 3-6 **Athletics Day** very soon.

Sporting Schools - after school program begins on Monday Feb 14 (Hockey) and Thursday Feb 17 (Cricket). Those that will be participating will receive notification via Operoo this week.

Tennis tryouts will happen later this week (students will be informed what day on Monday). The tournament will be held on **Wednesday 16th February**.

Divisional swimming is open for those in Yr 4-6 and who meet the qualifying criteria, to be held on Friday 4th March. Please see Operoo note for more details or contact me should you have any questions.

Calendar Events 2021

Term 1:

- Week 4 - Division Tennis - Wednesday 16th February @ Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre
- Week 6 - Division Swimming - Friday 4th March (Yr 3-6) @ Eureka Outdoor Pool

Have a sensational week everyone.

Shaun Carroll

Sports Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop Update

NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

Uniform Shop Sales during Term 1

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. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

Guitar lessons are back!

Tim will be returning next week to resume school guitar lessons.

Any parents that would like their child to continue lessons this year, or enquiries regarding new enrollments please contact Tim by phone/email on 0490314621 or Timothysmol@gmail.com



TERM 1 PROGRAM

MULTI-SPORTS (90 MINUTES)

Wednesdays After-School 3:25pm - 4:55pm

(2nd of Feb) to (6th of April)

Tennis, Soccer, T-Ball, Basketball and Cricket

Preps to Grade 4

\$220 for the 10 week program

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

Friday Lunches are back this week - Friday 4th February.

The P & F are pleased to announce that Golden Nugget Bakery will be providing our lunches whilst our wonderful friends at Stewart's Bakery rebuild over the next few months. We send the whole team at Stewart's Bakery all the very best and can't wait to see them reopen!

Don't forget to order your child's lunch before 10:00 am each Thursday via your Flexischools account.

Please note:

No late orders are accepted and our suppliers will not take any late orders.

We are also looking for volunteers each Friday to help pack the orders if you can spare an hour from 11:00am each Friday. Please sign up using the link below:

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

Thank you in advance for your support!



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

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