



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 7th March 2022
Term 1 Week 7

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2022 Key Dates

Term 1

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

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

Monday 21st March
Foundation Parent
Information Reading
Workshop

Tuesday 22nd March
School Open Day #2

Wednesday 23rd March
Police Schools Involvement
Program

Thursday 24th March
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

Friday 25th March
Casual Dress Day
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill
Class Assembly – 6 CC
P & F Mix and Mingle

Term 1 Week 10

Thursday 31st March

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Last Wednesday, we paused to observe **Ash Wednesday**. A prayer service led by Fr. George was streamed to our classrooms, where staff and children received the ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads. This day marks the beginning of the Lenten season, where we prepare for the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The ashes have been used for many centuries in this way, as a sign of humility and penance. They symbolise our need for God, and our commitment to becoming better, as well as a renewal of spirit. In the Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of **Lent**, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

In this season of Lent, a time for thinking about how we live in relationship to God and others, and how we work to be the best people we can be, we have seen the world thrown once again into uncertainty not by the pandemic but through acts of violence against the **Ukraine** and natural disasters in **Queensland** and **NSW**. (Please see Christine Meneely's **Wellbeing News** below for more information on *Talking to your Child About World Events*)

Let us also take time during this first week of Lent and turn our attention to the deeper things in life - **prayer, self-sacrifice** and **taking charitable compassionate action**.

The beginning of Lent also marks the beginning of the annual **Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal**. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression, and injustice.

We encourage everyone to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting **Project Compassion**. Each classroom will receive a Project Compassion box where they can donate.

Student Free Day - Friday 11th March

This Friday is a planned Student Free Day with St. Francis Xavier School Staff attending a Retreat in Halls Gap to launch our **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**. A RAP is a formal statement of commitment to promoting reconciliation between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A RAP demonstrates to the community that our school is forward thinking about reconciliation and committed to making positive change.

Retreat Purpose:

- To develop a strong culture of social justice within and beyond the school with links to the Catholic Tradition.
- To build and nurture communities of inclusivity, belonging and wellbeing, where all experience hospitality, a sense of welcome and trust.

Outcome: To prepare our Reconciliation Action Plan.

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

School Open Day #3

Friday 1st April

Class Assembly – 5 MH

Term 1 Week 11

Monday 4th April

Year 1 Parent Information
Reading Workshop

Tuesday 5th April

P & F Meeting

Friday 8th April

Class Assembly – 4 BW
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

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

Term 2 Week 1

Monday 25th April

Public Holiday – ANZAC Day

Tuesday 26th April

First Day of Term 2 for
children

Friday 29th April

Casual Dress Day
Class Assembly – 3 ND

Term 2 Week 2

Tuesday 3rd May

Student Led Conferences -
Day 1

Wednesday 4th May

Student Led Conferences -
Day 2

Friday 6th May

Mother's Day Celebration

Term 2 Week 3

Tuesday 10th May

2022 NAPLAN

Wednesday 11th May

2022 NAPLAN

Student Led Conferences -
Day 3

Tuesday 12th May

2022 NAPLAN

Friday 13th May

Ballarat Catholic P.S.
Football Carnival @ St Pat's

Seesaw UPDATE for Parents

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 so that you can see your child's achievements and next steps in learning in real time.



Seesaw is also a platform that teachers and school leaders may use to inform families of upcoming events and important messages. If you turned off your Seesaw notifications last year during Home Learning we ask you to now turn them back on!

Given the use of Seesaw for Assessment and Reporting and for communication purposes, we strongly encourage all families to ensure they are connected to their child's Seesaw portfolio. This also includes families double checking that their Seesaw notifications are turned on! When viewing your child's learning samples on Seesaw we encourage you to be active in liking the posts and leaving a comment for your child as this will be sure to further enhance our positive partnerships between home and school. We also know that the children benefit significantly from seeing and reading their family's comments on Seesaw too.

If you are not connected and require a Seesaw login for your child, please see your child's classroom teacher this week. We look forward to continuing to use Seesaw as a platform for Assessment and Reporting, and for communication purposes in 2022.

Mix n Mingle Friday 25th March

Have you got your tickets yet?
Tickets are now available via
Flexischools, get yours ASAP and
we look forward to seeing you all
on the night!



SFX Tuition Raffle 2022

What a great start to the year it would be if you won \$1,500 off your school fees. Tickets are now available for purchase through the link below. The winner will be drawn at this year's Mix & Mingle on Friday 25th March.

Summer Lunch Menu has started!

The P&F are excited to bring you our new Friday Lunch Menu for Terms 1 and 4. Place your order now via Flexischools. All orders must be placed by 10am Thursdays mornings.



SFX Easter Egg Raffle 2022

Our very popular Easter Raffle is back again in 2022 but this year it is moving on line. Tickets are now available for purchase through the link below. Hop to it!

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Class Assembly – 2PB

Term 2 Week 4

Tuesday 17th May

Year 6 Urban Camp

Friday 20th May

Class Assembly – 1 SM

Term 2 Week 5

Friday 27th May

Casual Dress Day

SFX Athletics Carnival -

Llanberris Reserve

Class Assembly – F EH

Term 2 Week 6

Friday 3rd June

Class Assembly – 6 JF

Term 2 Week 7

Tuesday 7th June

P & F Meeting

Wednesday 8th June

Year 5 - 2022 Secondary
Education Experience Day
(SEED)

Thursday 9th June

Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones

Friday 10th June

Year 3 Camp - Sunnystones
Class Assembly – 5 MA

Term 2 Week 8

Monday 13th June

Public Holiday – Queen's
Birthday

Tuesday 14th June

Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin
Camp Creswick

Wednesday 15th June

Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin
Camp Creswick

Friday 17th June

Last Day of term 2 for
Students

Casual Dress Day

Class Assembly – 4AH

Term 2 Week 9

Friday 23rd June

Student Free Day



<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/2022sfxtuitionraffle>



<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/easterraffle2022sfx>

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/>

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Term 3

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

Term 3 Week 1

Friday 15th July
Class Assembly – 3 BL

Term 3 Week 2

Friday 22nd July
Class Assembly – 2 GH

Term 3 Week 3

Friday 29th July
Class Assembly – 1 GJ

Term 3 Week 4

Friday 5th August
Class Assembly – F TW

Term 3 Week 5

Friday 12th August
Student Free Day

Term 3 Week 6

Friday 19th August
Class Assembly – 6 ZA

Term 3 Week 7

Friday 26th August
Class Assembly – 5 OH

Term 3 Week 8

Friday 2nd September
Father's Day Celebration

Term 3 Week 9

Friday 9th September
Class Assembly – 4 CP

Term 3 Week 10

Friday 9th September
Class Assembly – 3 JV

Term 4

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

Term 4 Week 1

Monday 3rd October 2022

REMINDER: An Important School Rule

Parents should never approach a child or the parents of that child about a school related matter. If a parent has a concern or issue they must always approach the classroom teacher. Your child's safety and security are paramount.

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.

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 6 to Week 11 Monday 28 th February to Friday 8 th April	Q - Z	A - G	H - P

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.

Positive Start in 2022 Initiative

The Victorian Government has provided information on the Positive Start in 2022 Initiative, which offers students in Catholic schools a chance to reconnect with peers and enjoy the kinds of activities that many missed out on over the past two years.

Please find attached a document that outlines the programs The Victorian Government is offering for eligible students to attend a free camp program as part of the Positive Start in 2022 Initiative, during the 2022 school holiday periods.

School Assembly Dates 2022

Due to the Specialist Timetable running from Monday to Thursday our School Assemblies will continue on Fridays in 2022 from 12:40pm to 1:10pm. **Due to COVID19 restrictions Assemblies will be live – streamed until we are able to gather back in the Gymnasium.**

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First Day of Term 4 for
Students

Please see list below. This has also been updated on the school calendar for your perusal.

Friday 7th October
Class Assembly – 2 CJ

Term 4 Week 2

Friday 14th October
Class Assembly – 1 EM

Term 4 Week 3

Friday 21st October
Class Assembly – F JS

Term 4 Week 4

Friday 28th October
Casual Dress Day
Class Assembly – F MM

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 31st October
Student Free Day

Tuesday 1st November
Public Holiday – Melbourne
Cup

Term 4 Week 6

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 25th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Friday 3rd December
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

Term 4 Week 10

Friday 10th December
Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Friday 16th December
Last Day of Term 4 for
Students

Week	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1		Year 3 ND 29.04.22	Year 3 BL 15.07.22	Year 2 CJ 07.10.22
2		Mother's Day Liturgy	Year 2 GH 22.07.22	Year 1 EM 14.10.22
3		Year 2 PB 13.05.22	Year 1 GJ 29.07.22	Foundation JS 21.10.22
4		Year 1 SM 20.05.22	Foundation TW 05.08.22	Foundation MM 28.10.22
5		Foundation EH 27.05.22	Student Free Day	
6		Year 6 JF 03.06.22	Year 6 ZA 19.08.22	
7		Year 5 MA 10.06.22	Year 5 OH 26.08.22	
8		Year 4 AH 17.06.22	Father's Day Liturgy	
9	Year 6 CC 25.03.22	Student Free Day	Year 4 CP 09.09.22	St Francis Xavier Feast Day
10	Year 5 MH 01.04.22		Year 3 JV 16.09.22	Foundation (Nativity)
11	Year 4 BW 08.04.22			

The Ballarat Courier and Alleged Historical Sexual Abuse at St. Francis Xavier

Recently The Ballarat Courier ran an article on alleged historical sexual abuse at St. Francis Xavier. The article asked for people who may have a story to tell to come forward, to support the investigation of a Melbourne law firm. The law firm are acting for a client who has made an allegation of abuse while at St. Francis Xavier during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Our belief and response as a school community is that survivors must be heard, the truth must emerge and we ask you to keep victims, survivors and all those affected by the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in your thoughts and prayers. This is an important albeit painful process for victims and survivors of abuse, for their supporters and for our Church.

We do wish to reassure you that the safety of every child at St. Francis Xavier is important for our whole school community and we do not take this responsibility lightly. If you or your child seems concerned by the news coverage, please contact me at school.

If you wish to raise a concern about child sexual abuse or to seek personal support, the following contacts may be helpful:

- For any criminal matter, contact Victoria Police directly - **131 444**
- For queries about child protection matters, Catholic Education Ballarat's Child Protection Officer – **5337 7139**
- Relationships Australia, an external government funded counselling service - **1800 052 674**

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

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Punctuality

It has been great to see that the majority of our children are arriving on time each morning, ready for roll and for morning prayer at 8.55am (first bell) and ready to begin their learning soon after. Thank you to parents for ensuring this takes place.

Please find attached an article titled ***Every Minute Counts: Plan to crack down on school stragglers*** published in the Herald Sun. The article outlines directives being adopted in Government Schools to address issues of punctuality....

"School attendance is vital for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they achieve their full potential both academically and socially," spokesman Simon Craig said. "Young children who regularly miss school or are late for the start of the school day will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates."

The "Every Minute Counts" initiative follows the March introduction of \$70 fines as a last resort for parents whose children are absent for at least five days in a year without a reasonable excuse.

Education Department calculations show missing just 10 minutes of class a day equates to almost 1½ weeks of lost learning time over a year or almost six months over a child's entire school life.

Those typically an hour late miss eight weeks of school a year or a whopping two-and-a-half years by the time they complete Year 12.

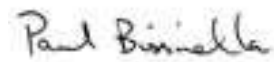
It is essential therefore that a smooth start to the day is established for your children so that excellent learning can take place. We ask that you continue to ensure that the children arrive on time to move to their classrooms for the 8.55am start.

Next Week's Newsletter

Next week's newsletter will be published on Tuesday 15th March as Monday is a public holiday.

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

How quietly the great God does all His mighty works! Darkness is spread over us, and light breaks in again, and there is no noise of drawing curtains or closing shutters.

Limerick Manuscript, in Sullivan, Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy, p. 17



Lenten Prayer

God of Forgiveness Lent has now begun.
Be with us as we journey towards Easter.
During Lent we aim to pray more. Help us remember to pray during a busy day.
During Lent we fast. Help us to fast from things that take us from your love.
During Lent we give. Help us to think of others and be there for them.
Amen



St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East & Buninyong Sacramental Programs 2022

As parents/ guardians we invite you to enrol your BAPTISED CATHOLIC child into the
Family Based, Parish Coordinated and Parish School supported
Sacramental Program for 2022.

EUCCHARIST

Term One

Those who have been CONFIRMED,
celebrated RECONCILIATION and are in
Year 5

Parent Information Sessions

St Alipius Church
Tuesday
February 22nd 2022
7.00pm

Preparation

Preparation will be run through 4 Sunday
Mass Time Dismissals.
These will run over the following weekends;

February 26th and 27th

March 5th and 6th
12th and 13th
19th and 20th

Children will need to be booked into a class
through saplitugy.net.au

NB Parents are welcome to attend.

CELEBRATION DATES

March Saturday 26th
Sunday 27th

April Saturday 2nd
Sunday 3rd

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst the Parish aims to ensure that there will be no interruptions to the program we ask for your patience and understanding should adjustments be needed. Thank you

Sacramental News

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

Gospel

Lk 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.



The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus – he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasise the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.

Scriptural context – The temptations

The three temptations Jesus faces all focus upon the nature of his mission and ministry. The first temptation is to miraculously feed himself – is his ministry to be about himself or others? The second is to take power and authority over all the world – to fulfil the human expectations of what a Messiah ought to be or fulfil God's plan of service, rather than domination? The third temptation is about grandstanding – to make a spectacular declaration of his arrival or to minister to the lowly and reveal himself in that way?

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Have you thought? – The Devil

The personification of 'the devil' is sometimes difficult to contemplate. The one who tempts Jesus in the wilderness is referred to in this passage as 'the devil'. Devil is the English translation of a Greek word, diabolos. As the gospel of Luke was originally written in Greek, we can assume that diabolos was the word used. Diabolos has several meanings: the accuser; the slanderer; the one who separates. It is the purpose of the temptations to 'separate' Jesus from God and from his intended approach to his ministry. The temptations we face are often those that 'separate' us from what we know to be right.

Living the Gospel – Lent

The 40 days that Jesus spent praying and preparing in the wilderness is reflected in the season of Lent that lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter Sunday (not counting Sundays in the season). It has been traditional that during the time of Lent Christian people renew their efforts in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. All three of these practices are actions of preparation. Just as Jesus prepared for his ministry in the wilderness, so too is Lent an opportunity for us to be deliberate about our reflection on what we are called to do in this world.

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

- Q. Why is it significant that Jesus was able to be tempted?
- Q. Why might the account of the temptations immediately follow Jesus' baptism?
- Q. How might we interpret the fact that Jesus was 'led by the Spirit' through the wilderness?
- Q. What are the temptations that you face?
- Q. How do you try to resist these temptations?

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



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 so that you can see your child's achievements and next steps in learning in real time. Seesaw is also a platform that teachers and school leaders may use to inform families of upcoming events and important messages.

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If you are not connected and require a Seesaw login for your child, please see your child's classroom teacher this week. We look forward to continuing to use Seesaw as a platform for Assessment and Reporting, and for communication purposes in 2022.

NAPLAN:

In May every year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). NAPLAN was first introduced in 2008 and has become a routine part of the school calendar in Australia.

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NAPLAN is how governments, education authorities and schools determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals.

In 2019, our school made the successful transition to NAPLAN Online. Moving to NAPLAN online brought many new opportunities for our children and teachers that were limited or not possible with paper-based tests. This year again, we will administer the NAPLAN tests through the Online National Assessment Platform.

TIMSS:

St. Francis Xavier has been selected to participate in the IEA's (Institute of Education Sciences) Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) field trial which will be conducted in a few weeks' time with a sample group of Year five students.

This NAP assessment (National Assessment Program) field trial will test the performance of a range of TIMSS questions which will then be used to develop the final test for the main study in 2023. Thank you to the staff and children who will be involved with this. A letter went home last Friday to these classes.



Have a great week.

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News



Talking to your Child About World Events

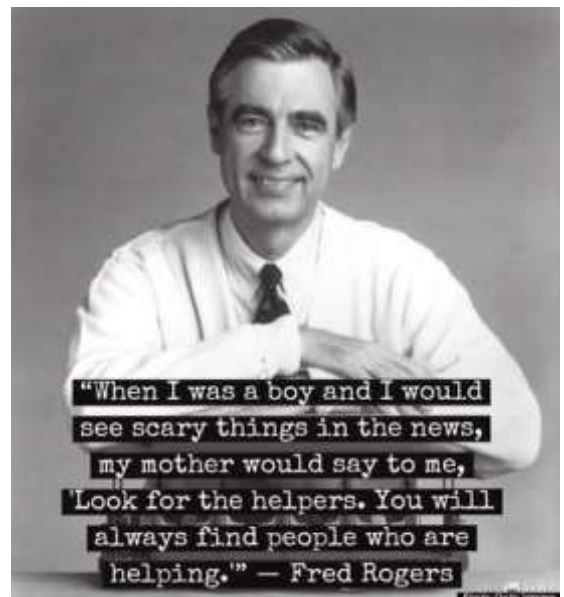
Like many families, my boys have been asking lots of questions about current world events and it can be hard to know how much information to give them.

The recent events in Ukraine and Russia can be frightening for both children and adults. The flooding in parts of Australia have them worried about family and friends in Queensland and New South Wales.

In times of uncertainty, honesty is important so your child has a strong sense of stability and they can process what is happening.

There's a fine line between educating and frightening children and a big difference in what to tell a five year old to a twelve year old. Be careful not to over-explain the situation or go into too much detail as this can make children unnecessarily anxious. Limiting exposure to news programs, internet and radio can be a positive step (for grown-ups as well!)

Take the cues from your child- take some time to listen to what they think and what they have seen and heard. Asking your children "what do you want to know?" rather than assuming what they need is very important- some children may be worried if events will affect their day-to-day life or wondering what words like sanction mean.



Reassure your children people all over the world are working hard to resolve these issues and providing humanitarian aid to those who need it. Some families may like to start a "compassion project", such as donating

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to a relief organisation, planting a tree or remembering people affected by war or natural disasters in their prayers- this can be a tangible way for children to feel they are helping in some small way to make the world a better place.

For children the world can seem like a scary place- let us work together to be their safe place and help them to see that no matter what happens, there is far more light and love in the world than there is darkness.

Following is a link to a great Maggie Dent podcast on how to best talk to your child about world events and what they may see and hear on the news.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/parental-as-anything-with-maggie-dent/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-news/13389392>

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader

Physical Education News



Divisional Swimming

Fifteen students enjoyed a refreshing swim at Eureka Pool last Friday for the Divisional Swimming Carnival. All swimmers performed exceptionally well and showed outstanding team spirit ensuring all swimmers were well supported in

their individual and relay events.



Congratulations to Jack Fraser (Yr 5) who qualified for Regionals with a slick time in his Freestyle event.

Sporting Schools

Please take note that due to coach unavailability, the session scheduled for Thursday March 24 has unfortunately had to be cancelled. We will endeavour to arrange a catch up session the following week. Please keep an eye out for updates. Monday's sessions will continue as planned.

Swimming Program

After two years of cancellations, SFX (Yr 1-6) will participate in a swimming program at BALC throughout this year. Year 6 will participate in Term 2, Year 1 & 3 at the end of Term 3, and Year 2, 4 & 5 at the beginning of Term 4. More details to come soon.

Calendar Events 2022

Year 6 Term 2 swimming dates:

- Friday 13th May
- Wednesday 1st June
- Friday 3rd June
- Friday 10th June
- Friday 17th June

Other Term 2 dates

- Friday 13th May - Ballarat Catholic P.S. Football tournament @ St Pat's
- Friday 27th May - SFX Yr 3-6 Athletics Day @ Llanberris

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

Have a magnificent week

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.

Community News



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

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

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

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