



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Tuesday 15th March 2022
Term 1 Week 8

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2022 Key Dates

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

Wednesday 30th March
PAM Open for booking
Student Led Conferences

Thursday 31st March
School Open Day #3

Friday 1st April
Class Assembly – 5 MH

Term 1 Week 11

Monday 4th April
Year 1 Parent Information
Reading Workshop

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Week 8 and happy St. Patrick's Day for Thursday! The term is moving along quickly with several important events taking place over the next few weeks! I encourage you to read over the newsletter closely and make yourself familiar with the **Key Dates Schedule!**

...in his evangelising of the Irish people, Patrick understood that Irish culture centred around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth so it was not surprising that he used that knowledge to his advantage, presenting the scriptures according to the four master themes of Irish oral tradition at that time—courage, generosity, loyalty, and beauty.

Last Thursday and Friday provided a unique opportunity for all St Francis Xavier staff to gather at Halls Gap for our **Staff Retreat** to launch our **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**.

RAP Resources (click on the following underlined links)

[What is a RAP?](#) (2.37 mins) This will give you the background to understand what we are aiming to achieve through the establishment of a Reconciliation Action Plan. In 2021 SFX staff formed our working group, and completed our survey. We are up to constructing our vision and organising our actions, which we began in Halls Gap.

[Paleert Tjaara Dja - Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan](#) (9.33 mins) This will give you an overview of our local indigenous area and people.

[In God Alone](#) (22.26 mins) This film will give you an excellent overview of the life of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Our presenter Liz Dowling worked with us and deepened our understanding of the early years of the Mercy nuns.

You may also choose to view [Reconciliation in Australia - Our history, Our Story, Our Future](#) (2 mins) to refresh your mind about the need for reconciliation.

Yesterday was a public holiday for **Labor Day**. The history of Labor Day in Australia spans over a century. It is an important annual event that remembers those who struggled and succeeded to ensure decent and fair working conditions in Australia. During the mid to late 1800s the working day was long and arduous, where some employees would work up to 12 hours a day, six days a week. As an aside, I'm sure many of you would say nothing's changed! I hope that you were all able to have a rest on Monday ready for the busy weeks ahead!

Over the last week I have spoken at assembly with the children about **School Uniform** and in particular the necessity to ensure hats are being worn. I have also noticed a prevalence of non – school socks being worn in the senior school. I wish to reiterate to parents that the school policy specifies that in full school uniform; children should wear grey socks with blue hoops or, white socks. For sports uniform everyone should wear only plain white socks or socks with the St. Francis Xavier logo. Sports socks with alternative emblems/logos are not permitted. Thank you for your co-operation in adhering to our Uniform Policy.

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

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
Class Assembly – 2PB

Term 2 Week 4

Tuesday 17th May
Year 6 Urban Camp

Friday 20th May
Class Assembly – 1 SM

Over the past 2 weeks I have also had the opportunity of watching our children participate in a number of **Sporting Events**. Not only was I delighted to see the children competing to the best of their ability, but also displaying great sportsmanship and acknowledging the efforts of their opponents. This too, was commented on by teachers and parents who were in attendance.

"Manners and etiquette for children is ranked as one of the most important qualities to nurture in the family home. Instilling good manners in some children will feel like an almost impossible task. But don't despair, just keep at it. You will be surprised how much your expectation about being well mannered stays with them. Good Manners are essential for every child's self-confidence and success in life. In the family home - this is where it starts, where the 'manners seed' is planted and nurtured."

St Patrick's Day

Many Australian Catholics have Irish ancestry, and they honour St Patrick as one of the patron saints of their Irish heritage. We can all celebrate the life of this very interesting man because he is also the patron saint of the Ballarat Diocese.

Who was Patrick? Patrick was born on the west coast of Britain about 360 A.D. At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold as a slave into the service of a local king. On a rainy hillside tending sheep, he met the Lord and his faith was nurtured over the next several months. He escaped, but God called him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He was a saint of God who gave his life to help people know Jesus by starting mission churches. He baptized tens of thousands and hundreds of chapels were erected for the worship of Jesus all over Ireland.

<http://www.joyfulheart.com/stpatrick/patrick.htm>



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.

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

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

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

Term 3 Week 1

Friday 15th July
Class Assembly – 3 BL

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.



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

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!



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

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
First Day of Term 4 for
Students

Friday 7th October
Class Assembly – 2 CJ

Term 4 Week 2

Friday 14th October
Class Assembly – 1 EM

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/>

Student - Led Conferences at SFX

Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences. During Student – Led Conferences, your children will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation and answer questions you may have.

These conferences are scheduled for Week 2 & 3 next term, on the following dates:

1. Tuesday 3rd May 2022
2. Wednesday 4th May 2022
3. Wednesday 11th May 2022

These meetings will last for 20 minutes, and we encourage all families to attend. Children must attend these meetings!

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- **For parents** – we hope that you will get to see rather than simply being told about your child's progress.
- **For students** – we hope students will take more responsibility for their learning.
- **For teachers** – we want teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you.

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

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

- **For all** – we want to maximize our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

Questions to ask your child at Student - Led Conferences.

Here are some questions for you to ask your child during their Student – Led Conference. These are suggestions, so please look them over and pick a few that you would like to ask!

1. **What are you most proud of?**
2. **It makes me proud to see that**
3. **Can you tell me more about ...?**
4. **I can tell that you improved in**
5. **What did you find challenging this term?**
6. **Did you reach your goals? Why/Why not?**
7. **What can we do together at home to support your learning?**

The purpose of these meetings is to celebrate, affirm the children's learning and promote Student Voice. Parents and teachers will be able to ask questions of the children during these meetings in regards to their achievements, challenges, effort, behaviour, goals and next steps in their learning. We are certain that these conversations can happen with the child present with our teachers up-skilling the children to lead these conferences with confidence.

We have deliberately formed them as Student – Led and not 3 – Way Conferences. In response to the recommendations of our 2016 School Review we have developed a Strategic Educational Plan with the support and approval of the School Board and targeted promoting Student Voice across the school. Highly Effective Catholic Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice and all the latest research and evidence around Assessment as Learning supports this. If a parent needs to have a conversation with the teacher not in the presence of the child in regards to other matters, this needs to take place at another time. Contact can be made with the class teacher requesting further time if needed.

Student Led Conferences can be booked online using PAM

Please note: that PAM will be used for booking Student Led Conferences with instruction included below.

PAM will open on Wednesday 30th March at 9:00am for you to log in a conference time. 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 20 mins per conference.

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

Student - Led Conferences on PAM - Booking Instructions for Parents

1. Log into PAM using your Username and Password

PAM can be accessed via the schools

homepage:<http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/news-events/parent-access-module/> or by going directly to the PAM site <https://pam.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>

2. Click on Parent Teacher Interviews
3. Select student
4. Select Core Group
5. Select Teacher (If your child's class has 2 teachers, only one teacher has the times available.)
6. Select your time
7. Click Book Interview

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- The interview times will be displayed underneath your booking window. If you need to alter your child's interview time please click on the blue pen box and alter your time.
- If the interview time you have made does not suit and you wish to delete the time, please click on the red cross box
- There is an option to print your interview booking times by clicking the blue printer icon.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 5331 6311 should you have any queries or concerns.

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

INVITATION: SFX Community - AFL 2022 Footy Tipping Competition.

You are invited to join our SFX Community - AFL 2022 Footy Tipping Competition.

Comp Name: SFX Community - AFL 2022 Footy Tipping Competition.

Password: SFX2022

For more details and/or to join ... click on the following

link: [https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SFX Community - AFL 2022 Footy Tipping Competition](https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SFX_Community_-_AFL_2022_Footy_Tipping_Competition)

We will announce the winners at our **End of Season Pie Night / Presentation Night Awards!**

I look forward to your entry and sharing a laugh and a bit of fun with you! Go Hawks!!!

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

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			

Reframing Teaching and Learning Environments (ReLATE)

2002 is our first year working within the ReLATE project; a learning and teaching model



focused on improving teaching interactions through a consistent and deliberate emphasis on wellbeing and resilience.

On February 11, our whole staff engaged in professional learning that built on our understanding of behavioral theory, relationships and optimal learning environments. We worked through the first of eight modules, starting with the foundational concepts of safety, courage and trust.

A critical part of the ReLATE project is Discovery Day, an opportunity for the ReLATE team to meet with members of our school community to gain a sense of who we are, what is important to us and our story. Discovery Day seeks to capture our strengths and challenges and from here, the project is tailored to address our unique profile.

We invite members of our parent community to participate in Discovery Day. This entails a 30 minute meeting over Zoom as a part of a group of three or four people - time to be confirmed. The ReLATE team will guide the discussion and use your insights to inform part their recommendations and future focus.

If you would like to be part of a Discovery group or gain more information, please email me at jmohr@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

With thanks,
Jayne Mohr
Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity

Foundation and Year 1 Parent Information Reading Workshop

We are pleased to announce the following opportunities for you to partner with us to ensure all of our Foundation and Year One children get the head start they deserve in becoming proficient readers in 2022.

Foundation Parent Information Reading Workshop

Who: All Foundation Families are strongly encouraged to attend this event

When: Monday 21st March, 2022 @ 6.00pm

What & Why: The Foundation Teachers will present practical information about how you can best support your Foundation child/ren at home in developing their reading skills. They will share their expert knowledge, reading strategies and activities that all families can implement at home to ensure reading success in 2022.

Stay tuned as the Foundation Team will share additional details about this exciting event via Seesaw and your child's diary soon!



Year One Parent Information Reading Workshop

Who: All Year One Families are strongly encouraged to attend this event, even if they attended the Foundation Reading Workshop in 2021, as this presentation will include new information relevant to our Year One Reading Program

When: Monday 4th April, 2022 @ 6.00pm

What & Why: The Year One Team will deliver a live online webinar to highlight the importance of your role as parents in supporting your Year One child/ren to develop proficiency as readers in 2022. The teachers will present key skills and strategies essential for reading growth in Year One to ensure all children continue to experience reading success and develop their reading independence.

Be sure to keep an eye out for additional information from the Year One Team via Seesaw and your child's diary about this upcoming event!

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



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

Gospel

Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

Scriptural context – Gospel Parallels

The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.

Living the Gospel – 'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

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

Gospel Focus – Asleep again?

It seems that at crucial points in the gospel where Jesus' true identity and mission are revealed, the disciples are falling asleep! The gospel of Luke is unique in suggesting that the disciples were sleepy at the Transfiguration. They managed to fight off sleep in this instance, but were fast asleep at the Mount of Olives as Jesus prayed in agony. The sleepiness of the disciples at these crucial times is indicative of limited grasp of what Jesus is on about. They are wearied by all that he asks of them, rather than energised by it, and consequently they're not ready to witness great events when they come along.

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

- Q. What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus?
- Q. Why do you think the disciples are portrayed as being sleepy at this important event?
- Q. Can you recall other biblical events in which mountaintops feature at special moments?
- Q. Why might Peter have suggested constructing tents?
- Q. What does the command, 'Listen to him' mean for you in 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



Book Fair to begin on 26/04.

We are very excited to announce that the Book Fair is taking place this year!

The Book Fair provides children with the opportunity to explore literature and select books of interest. The Book Fair is a great way to celebrate reading within our community with hundreds of



fun, engaging and affordable books for the children to discover. Prior to the Book Fair, classes will be given the opportunity to view the selected books and write a wish list.

More details to follow.

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

This year again, once 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

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



Planning for a safe and supportive school community

On Friday, we are participating in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). The NDA is Australia's key bullying prevention initiative, connecting schools and communities to find workable solutions to prevent bullying.

The theme for 2022 is **Kindness Culture**.

This week our Wellbeing Leaders are promoting Kindness Culture by promoting inclusiveness, respect and community belonging for all students.

They are hard at work putting up posters to remind children what being kind looks like and how we can spread kindness in our school.

We have discussed how it's important to recognise things we can and can't control in life.

For example we can't control the weather, what other people do or say, past mistakes or being sick. We can however control our behaviour, our goals, our effort, asking for help, learning from our mistakes, taking care of ourselves and being kind to others.

Your child will have the opportunity to contribute to a "Kindness Canvas" and on Friday we will wear a heart for kindness.



Let's all make a special effort to be kind because kindness culture starts with us!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS FREE WEBINAR

Our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas and as part of this membership, you can attend the upcoming webinar "Building Lasting Happiness in Children" for FREE!

This webinar is presented by Dr Jodi Richardson, co author of the book "Anxious Kids" and the latest release "Anxious Mums: How mum's can turn their anxiety into strength"

If you are unable to make the broadcast time of 8pm on Wednesday March 23, you can still register and you will get access to the recording.

For details on how to register, please click on the link provided in the Parenting Ideas attached to the newsletter.

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader



Sporting Schools

Please take note that due to coach unavailability, the session scheduled for Thursday 24th March 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

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.



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>