



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 21st March 2022
Term 1 Week 9

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

Email: principal @sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2022 Key Dates

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

Tuesday 5th April

P & F Meeting

Friday 8th April

Class Assembly – 4 BW
Last Day of Term 1

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

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!

During the season of **Lent** we take the time to reflect on our own lives and make changes from the heart. Lent is also an opportunity to not only look into our own hearts, but to recognise the presence of Christ in others.....

A Reflection for Lent Recognising Christ

Jesus decided to see whether or not people would recognise Him.

He became the face of a happy child ...then an encouraging word, then a humorous comment ...then a difficult discussion ...then a life-giving moment ...then some timely advice ...and in the face of hope.

Jesus was sometimes not recognised by others during the day. But Jesus recognised them...

Thoughts:

God's face can be seen often. ...in the face of others and in what they say and do out of Compassion ... But especially in the face of those who care.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for Your presence in our lives. At times it is hard to recognise Your words that speak to us through different people. We know that You care about us deeply and that you are always ready to encourage and protect us. Help us to be mindful of Your presence each day. Amen.

Mix n Mingle 2022 – 7:30pm Friday 25th March at the Hydrant Food Hall

Tickets are now on sale via Flexischools for \$25 each and SELLING FAST.

It's a wonderful night to meet your friends and get to know our teachers as well, they will be there with raffle tickets to sell for your chance to win some awesome prizes and we will draw our Tuition Raffle on this night as well.



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

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

Term 2 Week 5

Friday 27th May
Casual Dress Day
SFX Athletics Carnival -
Llanberris Reserve
Class Assembly – F EH

Term 2 Week 6

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 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!

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!



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.



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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

Term 3 Week 2

Friday 22nd July

Class Assembly – 2 GH

Term 3 Week 3

Friday 29th July

Class Assembly – 1 GJ

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>

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>

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/>

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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

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

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.
- **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

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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

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

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.

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
- 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.

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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

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			

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Extract from St Francis Xavier Primary School Expectations of Parents and Guardians

Please find below the communication to parents about use of Social Media at St. Francis Xavier. These guidelines refer to any communication that could be identified with and endorsed by St. Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East Ltd or its various identities e.g. Villa etc.

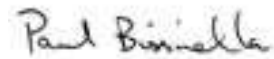
All Parents, Guardians and members of the community using social media must:

- Ensure any social media usage is supportive of St Francis Xavier Primary School. This also applies to all employees, staff, Board, sub-committee members and volunteers.
- Avoid any statement that might bring St Francis Xavier Primary School into disrepute.
- Not commit the school to any action or initiative without appropriate authority.
- Not disclose official information unless authorized to do so or unless it is already in the public domain.
- Be aware of laws covering defamation, libel, privacy and the protection of intellectual property.
- Be apolitical, impartial and professional, and avoid any statements that might be interpreted as being in contravention of the teachings of St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East Ltd and the Catholic Church.

Please find attached the **St Francis Xavier Primary School - Facebook Guidelines**. These can also be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/st-francis-xavier-primary-school/st-francis-xavier-primary-school-facebook-guidelines/810733045775423/>

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



Reconciliation Action Plan

On Friday 11th March, St Francis Xavier staff gathered at Halls Gap to work on our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We are following the process for schools outlined by Reconciliation Australia on <https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/about>

We welcomed two fabulous guest speakers: Ron Murray and Elizabeth Dowling RSM. Ron developed our cultural understanding of the ongoing difficulties faced by indigenous Australians because of racism, injustice and discriminatory government policies. He shared his

family story with us in a very engaging and gentle way, interspersed with some impressive didgeridoo playing and sharing of books and artefacts.

Sr Liz (who discovered she had taught at least a quarter of the SFX staff when she worked at Sacred Heart then Damascus Colleges) looked at the God of Mercy and how the people of Israel in the Bible depended on God in times of oppression and injustice. She took us back in Irish history, to centuries of discrimination against Catholic Ireland because of British rule. Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, worked in her Dublin community to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the uneducated. We were able to draw clear connections between the mission of Catherine, and those who joined her, and our mission today for social justice, particularly towards our Australian indigenous peoples, who had suffered so much but remained strong and proud.

We spent the remainder of our time at Halls Gap writing our ideas for our school vision towards reconciliation. Our RAP working group is gathering this week to finalise this before sharing this vision with parents, students and our indigenous community for feedback.



Liz Dowling explains the God of Mercy.



Ron Murray shows us his grandmother's kangaroo skin rug.



The staff get ready for the next session.

Fundraising at St Francis Xavier

Why do we ask the students to share what they have?

St Francis Xavier Primary School is a Catholic school and a Mercy school. Our Vision Statement says 'Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.' This means that we teach Catholic Christian values to our students. These are inspired by the behaviour of Jesus, who healed the sick, taught people, helped those in need and cared for all people no matter their nationality or religion. These are the values that Catherine McAuley also followed when she began the Sisters of Mercy in the 1800s.

The teachings of the Catholic Church on social justice issues are grounded in the Bible and the wisdom gathered from experience by the Christian community. Here is a summary of four of the Catholic Social Teachings that are most relevant for our casual day donations.

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- Human dignity

All life is sacred, every person has inherent dignity and worth. Human rights and responsibilities are founded in this essential, shared human dignity.

- The common good

People have responsibility for one another in their shared life together, and are called to work for the common good of all. Catholic Christians must advocate for a just society in which all people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, are able to flourish and meet their needs.

- Solidarity

Humans are social by nature and depend on one another. We seek to stand in unity with each other, particularly those who are powerless or disadvantaged, and recognise each person's rights regardless of our differences.

- Preferential option for the poor

The needs of the socially disadvantaged and vulnerable are prioritised.

This week we will be raising money for Caritas (Project Compassion). Caritas are committed to work alongside the most vulnerable, and to address the imbalance of power by including the people affected in the decisions impacting their lives. They are inspired by the Gospel which finds its expression in Catholic Social Traditions. Find out more at <https://www.caritas.org.au/>

Sacramental News

Congratulations to the St Francis Xavier students who will receive the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time through St Alipius parish this weekend. We wish them well and hope that they continue to welcome Jesus in their lives.

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, 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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

Gospel

Lk 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

Scriptural context – Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Living the Gospel – Bad Things / Good People

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and

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manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

Gospel Focus – Repent

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

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

- Q. What is the connection between the parable of the fig tree and the preceding conversation?
- Q. What values underlie a belief that bad things only happen to bad people?
- Q. How have 'good' people you know coped with bad things happening in their lives?
- Q. How would you answer someone who asked, 'Why does God let bad things happen to good 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. This will take place on Friday 29th April

Who: Our wonderful P&F Committee will once again assist with the running of the Book Fair

Where: School Gymnasium

When: To minimise congestion in the Gymnasium, the Book Fair opening hours will coincide with Student Led Conferences in week 2 term 2

- Tuesday 3rd May 2022 - 3:45pm – 7:45pm
- Wednesday 4th May 2022 - 3:45pm – 7:45pm

We ask that families visit the Book Fair while onsite prior to or after their child's Student Led Conference. The option to order online will also be available.

Colouring in Competition

We are very excited to announce that a colouring in competition linked to the Book Fair underwater theme will take place very soon! The colouring in sheets will be attached to next week's newsletter and are available for all children who would like to participate. The coloured in pictures will then be used to decorate the Gymnasium in preparation for the Book Fair. Prizes in the form of Book Fair vouchers will be awarded per level. Stay tuned for further information regarding the Book Fair!

NAPLAN:

In May every year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This year we will administer the NAPLAN tests through the Online National Assessment Platform. The year three Writing test is the only test that will continue as a pen and paper assessment this year. More information regarding NAPLAN Online will be communicated via the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Have a great week.

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

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How to Help Your Child Be a Good Friend

Friendships are an important part of childhood, but social skills don't come easily to all children.

Some children struggle to take turns, play make believe games, share, control their anger or let others have their say. Others may be hesitant to join in, feel socially awkward, hover at the margins of groups or are naturally more introverted- and that's okay because we are all different!

As parents we can't make friends for our child, but we can help them to develop and practice key social skills. This is where some coaching at home can help. Focus on positive behaviours you want to reinforce. Catch your child during family playtime and praise them as this makes them more likely to repeat the desired behaviour ("That was really kind how you took turns playing with the doll, you are being a good friend to your brother")

Supervised play dates might provide you with ways to help your child practice socialising in a warm, supportive environment- you could talk about being a good host, what games they might like to play, checking if their friend is still enjoying the activity and negotiating what to do next.

Joining a team or club are also a good way to make friends as they provide a shared area of interest and built-in structures to help minimise anxiety- you might like to role play what they could say when they arrive or how to introduce themselves.

Please find attached to this newsletter further strategies to assist you in supporting your child to be a good friend.

As a parent you are modelling good social behaviour in all your interactions.

You can use these natural opportunities to highlight kind and respectful ways to behave in the conversations you have with family, friends, wait staff, shop assistants and customer service representatives- little eyes are always watching and learning from us!

**Adult friendships are important too so don't forget our P&F Mix and Mingle this Friday night!
What a great opportunity to make some new connections and friendships!**

I look forward to meeting some of you there!

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader



Regional Swimming

Congratulations and well done to Jack Fraser (Yr 5) who qualified for last Friday's Regional Swimming Carnival in Horsham. You swam extremely well and represented yourself, your family and SFX with great pride.

Netball

Pat Darroch Primary School Netball Competition. Please see the Operoo note for more details.

Sporting Schools

Please take note that due to coach unavailability, the session scheduled for Thursday March 24 has unfortunately had to be cancelled. There is a catch up session on Thursday March 31st.. Monday's sessions will continue as planned.

Swimming Program

Year 6 will participate in a swimming program 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.

Year 6 Term 2 swimming dates:

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

Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day

After a long time waiting, we are looking forward to holding our Yr 3 -6 Athletics Day and Llanberris Reserve on Friday 27th May (Term 2 Week 5). Mr Down has been and will continue to go through track & field technique development in PE lessons with these classes leading up to the day. More information will come out closer to the day.

The Junior Sports Day (F - Yr 2) will be held later in the year (T4).

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 super 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>