



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 17th October 2022
Term 4 Week 3

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Term 4 Week 3

Friday 21st October

Class Assembly 1EM 12.40pm

Saturday 22nd October

Sacrament of First Eucharist
at St. Alipius

Sunday 23rd October

Sacrament of First Eucharist
at St. Alipius

Term 4 Week 4

Friday 28th October

Casual Dress Day

Class Assembly 3JV 12.40pm

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 31st October

Student Free Day

Tuesday 1st November

Public Holiday–Melbourne Cup

Friday 4th November

Junior Athletics Day

Term 4 Week 6

Friday 11th November

Class Assembly 4CP 12.40pm

Term 4 Week 7

Friday 18th November

Grandparents'/Special
Friends' Day

**SAVE THE DATE: Details to
be announced shortly.**

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 25th November

Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Friday 2nd December

St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

Term 4 Week 10

Friday 9th December

Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Friday 16th December

Last Student Day for Term 4

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

This weekend has seen many heart-breaking images of flood areas throughout Victoria. We keep in our thoughts and prayers all the communities that are affected by this great mass of water and the destruction and sadness that it can cause.

*Loving God,
let the waters recede and spare your people.
We ask for your mercy
on those affected by the floods in Victoria.
Fill our hearts with compassion for those
who have lost their homes, businesses or animals.
May they have the courage and energy
to face the long road ahead:
the clean-up, the rebuilding and the
difficult decisions.
Keep our hearts and minds on the
needs of those impacted,
both now and in the months ahead.
We make this prayer through Jesus
Christ. Amen.*



Foundation children 2023 This Friday 21st October we will hold our second Foundation Transition Day for our 2023 Foundation Children. All our children look forward to these days with great expectation. It is a sign of the life and movement that make schools reinvent themselves all the time. Many thanks to Bec Conroy, Emma Hancock, Jayne Mohr and Tom Willmott for working with the children last week.

The next of our Transition Days will be held on Friday 28th October.

Car Park – Traffic Movement I wish to remind everyone that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained. We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic. (This is illegal!). Our staff carpark is not to be used as a pathway to either drop your children at school or pick them up. Car spaces are limited and the onsite carpark is for **staff cars only**. Many thanks for your assistance with these matters.

Class Groupings 2023 This week our teachers are putting the final touches to class groupings for 2023. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations are taken into account to inform decisions.

We are fortunate at St. Francis Xavier to have our teachers plan learning activities that often allow our children to mix across the year group where they are working alongside all the children within their age and class grouping.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

School is a place where children learn how to relate to other children. It is important that children learn to mix with lots of children rather than spending time with just a few favourite friends or children of like ability. They learn about themselves in relationships and identify qualities within others that they find positive and assuring for themselves. It is important at this young age that they experience many varied friendships and children of different learning abilities to their own. We will inform you prior to Orientation Day of your child's class and teacher for 2023.

To assist with managing enrolments for 2023 I ask that any families who already know they will not be returning to St. Francis Xavier to please contact the school office. This allows us to contact families waiting for places as well as assisting with class lists and planning.

Closure Dates – Term 4 2022 Monday 3rd October to Friday 16th December = **11 Weeks**

6	Monday 31 st October	Staff Professional Development Day (Assessment & Reporting)
	Tuesday 1 st November	Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday
7	Monday 19 th December	Staff Professional Development Day (First Aid)
	Tuesday 20 th December	Last Day for Staff - Staff Planning Day

St. Francis Xavier Primary School - Covid-19 Update

Changes to Pandemic Orders The Victorian Government has announced the end of the pandemic declaration and associated pandemic orders. **New settings will apply from 11.59 pm on Wednesday 12 October 2022.**

Requirements for close contacts, like continually testing negative on a rapid antigen test (RAT), will become strong recommendations – joining the strong recommendation to wear a mask indoors, which will remain in place.

We are anticipating the updated Ops Guide late next week which we will share as soon as possible.

For now, we note the following changes:

Changes to COVID-19 isolation requirements.

It is strongly recommended that students:

- Who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate for five days.
- Should not attend school after five days if still symptomatic.
- Who are symptomatic but have not tested positive should not attend school.

Where **students** become symptomatic at school, they should:

- Be collected by their parents/carers.
- Undergo testing for COVID-19.

It is strongly recommended that **staff:**

- Who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate for five days.
- Should not attend school after five days if still symptomatic.
- Who are symptomatic but have not tested positive should not attend school.

COVID-19 reporting requirements.

The Department of Health recommends that a person who tests positive for COVID-19 should inform those with whom they have recently been in contact, including their workplace, school and household.

Schools are therefore asked to continue reporting positive COVID-19 cases to DOBCEL each Friday via the covid@dobcel.catholic.edu.au email until further notice.

Schools no longer have to alert their school community of positive cases.

Face masks. Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when leaving home.

Additionally, the department recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID-19 for 10 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

COVIDSafe Plans.

Schools must keep their COVIDSafe Plan in place, which should be regularly reviewed and updated as required.

Summer Uniform The reason for our school uniform is to ensure that our children are identified as students who belong to the community of St. Francis Xavier Primary School.

- Full summer uniform may be worn from Day 1 Term 4.
- For the first 3 weeks of Term 4 we will be in a transition phase for Uniform. Children are permitted to be in either

Summer or Winter Uniform.

- **From Monday 24th October (Week 4) all children are expected to be in Summer Uniform.**

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Hats, Hats, Hats Remember that our children need to have their school hats from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1 next year!

Assembly Awards Thank you to the children and staff of 2CJ for their assembly on Friday 14th October. The children were marvellous and it was wonderful to see so many families and friends from 2CJ in attendance. Congratulations to our Award winners who received an award for our school value of **COMPASSION**. Please check the attachment for names of the children who received an award. Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering. We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

School Assembly Roster Please note that our School Assembly Program is held weekly at 12:40pm on a Friday afternoon. Assemblies will take place in the Gymnasium. The roster below indicates when each Class will be leading Assembly/Prayer. This has also been updated on the school calendar for your perusal.

Term 4	Week 3	1EM	21 st October
	4	3JV	28 th October
	6	4CP	11 th November

Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; Assembly awards; Anxiety zappers and 6 tips for parenting anxious kids.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Clark, **Interim Principal**



Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 16, 2022 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"

And the Lord continued, "Listen to what that corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he comes?"

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)

Gospel reflection: Why do you think Jesus told us this story? What does he want us to understand?

The widow was ignored by the law, but she didn't give up. She just kept asking the judge to make things right. Eventually, just to get rid of her, he gave her what she wanted, justice.

There are many things that are unfair in our world and there are many people, like the widow in the story, who struggle to make their voices heard. We can pray for these people, but we also have to do what we can to make sure all people are treated fairly.

Our Challenge: This week think about how you can treat other people in our world fairly and justly. What will you do to help others know that you care?



Christine Meneely, **Interim Religious Education Leader**

Learning & Teaching News

Welcome to Week Three!

The Big Write This week we will begin our Big Write sessions where all children will once again be asked to write a narrative from a picture stimulus or story starter. This will provide teachers with a wealth of information and guide our learning in this area throughout Term Four.

Year Three Science Expo

Congratulations to our Year Three teachers and children for showcasing their outstanding Inquiry learning through a Science Expo last week. The children were extremely excited and well-prepared as they shared their learning with SFX children from other year levels, as well as their families. The children shared many of their science learnings and science experiments during this time. Student voice and student engagement was certainly high and it is clearly evident that we have some very passionate scientists in our Year Three cohort. Again, well done to our Year Three children and teachers for preparing this event – our school value of, Excellence, certainly shone brightly!

Enjoy your week,



Bec Conroy
Interim Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement



Wellbeing News

8 THINGS TO SAY TO AN ANXIOUS CHILD

@teenhealthdoc x @mamapsychologists



You are safe with me



It's ok to feel nervous, I do too sometimes



Let's go for a walk



Let's draw the worry, how big is it?



Let's talk back to this worry



I am here for you



Let's sit together until the thought passes



Let's take a few deep breaths together

If you're the parent of a child who worries a lot, you're most certainly not alone!

As much as we'd like to, we can't rid our kids of their anxiety, but we can help them to manage it in ways that enable them to move it from the centre stage of their minds and get on with living a vibrant, rich and meaningful life.

Following on from last week's newsletter, please find attached an article with tips on parenting a child with anxiety and some practical anxiety zappers you can use to support your child.

Christine Meneely, Wellbeing Leader

Sport/Physical Education News

Junior Sports Day At the end of Week 5, on Friday November 4th, we will be conducting our SFX F - 2 Junior Sports Day at Russell Square, Ballarat East. This event is an opportunity for students to participate in a sports carnival-like environment, practice and implement all of the fundamental skills they have been taught during PE lessons and have heaps of fun! Please see the Operoo notice for more details.

Division Cricket SFX will be entering a boys and a girls team in the upcoming Division cricket tournament to be held on Wednesday November 2nd. Information will be circulated shortly regarding selection for these teams.

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SFX Football Jumpers & Singlets If you have any SFX Football jumpers or singlets at home could you please return them to either Mr Down or Mr Carroll.



Term 4 dates:

- Wk 5 - Wednesday November 2 - District Cricket Tournament
- Wk 5 - Friday November 4 - Junior Sports Day (F - Yr 2)

Have a sensational week.

Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

Reconciliation in Action Jacinta Molloy and Sarah Page, **RAP Leaders**

PRESENTING 'BUNDJIL'S TURT-BARRAM (BUNDJIL'S STAR)'

It has been wonderful to have Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and artist Jenna Oldaker spend lots of time at St Francis Xavier this year.

Throughout Term 2 & 3 a small group, with representatives from each of our classes, worked with Jenna and Mrs Molloy to come up with a design for this very special artwork.

Jenna took all of the fabulous ideas and created **'Bundjils' Turt-Barram (Bundjil's Star)'** using acrylic on canvas. We absolutely love the beautiful artwork and can't wait for it to be on display in our new building!

Here is a description of the artwork, written by Jenna:

Bundjil the eagle is the spirit creator of Wadawurrung Country, as he created our land, people and all living things. When Bundjil was finished creating the land, he then taught the people on the land how to live, and to take only what they needed. Bundjil then gathered his wives and children, and instructed Bellin-Bellin (the musk crow and creator of wind) to open his bag and let out all the wind. The wind was so strong that it carried Bundjil and his family to the heavens where they now live as stars looking down on us all, as we continue to live safely on Wadawurrung land.



In the top right-hand corner Bundjil can be seen flying high over Wadawurrung land, as we send thanks to him for continuing to watch over us since his creation. Surrounding Bundjil is the constellation of stars, of which he is now one, along with his family.

In the centre of the artwork is our land Country, surrounded by our water Country including our coastal Country, rivers and wetlands. Within the land Country are the symbols for meeting place, a place where we can all come together to yarn and share stories. The meeting place is also a symbol of community and spirit, as we are reminded that we all need to come together to help care for one another, and this land we call home. In the very centre is the Sisters of Mercy, as we thank them for their kindness and service.

In the top left-hand corner is the beautiful Wadawurrung sun, rising high in the sky as it provides us with warmth, healing and life. The two large arches at the bottom of the artwork symbolise Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip, two culturally significant places on Wadawurrung Country.

As we travel across Wadawurrung Country from left to right, we can see an echidna, echidna tracks, foot prints, eucalyptus leaves, cherry ballart, a kangaroo, kangaroo tracks, and the classic U shapes symbolising people. As Wadawurrung people have cared for this land for thousands of years, the Country has reciprocated and cared for us providing healthy and nourished land and water, allowing us to create new life and spirit.

Nyatne (Thank You)

These were the children who worked in the group with Jenna:



FTW - Damilare Baruwa, FMM - Winter James, FEH - Violet Toohey, FJS - Edie Giles, 1EM - Ava Warr, 1SM - Sofia Shorter, 1GJ - Indie Shillito, 2GH - Logan Psimaris, 2CJ - Winnie Harrison, 2PB - Lily Hunter, 3ND - Myles Youl, 3BL - Bailey McCartin, 3JV - Rhys Bell, 4CP - Molly Danaher, 4BW - Lottie Rush, 4AH - Jessica Youl and Lyla Deturt, 5MM - Charlotte Bell, 5LH - Mackenzie Burbidge, 5OH - Jack Gerdtz, 6JF - Harry Elliot, 6CC - Annabelle Fulcher, 6ZA - Ben Buckland

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