



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
Term 4 Week 4

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### Term 4 Week 4

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Casual Dress Day

Class Assembly 3JV 12.40pm

### Term 4 Week 5

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Student Free Day

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Public Holiday—Melbourne Cup

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Junior Athletics Day

### Term 4 Week 6

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Class Assembly 4CP 12.40pm

### Term 4 Week 7

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

SFX Art Exhibition

3.30pm to 6pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Grandparents'/Grand

Friends' Day 2.30pm

### Term 4 Week 8

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Casual Dress Day

### Term 4 Week 9

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

### Term 4 Week 10

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Foundation Nativity

### Term 4 Week 11

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Last Student Day for Term 4

### 2023 Term 1 Week 1

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

First Student Day for Term 1

**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 Friday we celebrate National Teachers' Day.

I would like to acknowledge ALL our staff at St Francis Xavier Primary School who continue to inspire, teach, lead, learn and grow on National Teachers' Day - 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you to CEB Catholic Education Ballarat for creating this video for us to share. Please click on the link if you wish to view.

<https://biteable.com/watch/3756090/bb1c98426474cf172db0d3400e5f24a6>

*Bless our teachers and school staff.*

*Thank you for calling them to work with our children.*

*Give them a spirit of grace and compassion always.*

*Bless them with strength and endurance to perform their many tasks,*

*and may they know and feel the deep gratitude of those whom they teach and care for.*

*Be with everyone at St Francis Xavier Primary School. AMEN*

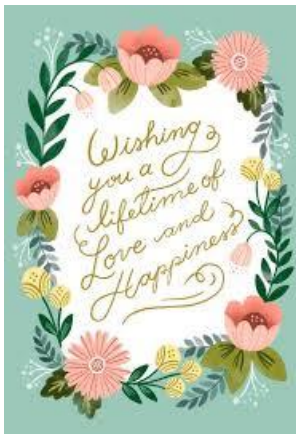
We also would like to keep in our prayers and thoughts all our past students, family members and friends who this week embark on their VCE exams.

### Leadership Appointments 2023

I am pleased to advise the following appointments for 2023 and 2024

1. Religious Education Leader: Christine Meneely
2. Learning Technologies Leader: Carla Cicchini
3. School Sports and Events Co-ordinator: Shaun Carroll
4. First Aid Co-ordinator: Andrea Grant

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the candidates for the quality of their applications. We should be proud at St. Francis Xavier of the depth and passion of the leaders within our school. I am sure you join me in congratulating the successful applicants and we look forward to working with them!



On Saturday Ms Dalton married Zac. Congratulations. What a beautiful photo of Mr and Mrs McGannon. We are glad to hear that "it was the best, best, best day ever." All at St Francis Xavier wish Nicki and Zac a lifetime of love and happiness.



## School Procedures for the Bushfire Season

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has recently advised the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) of the revised Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

As a consequence of this review, St Francis Xavier School has been listed on the 2022-23 BARR and will be required to close on days with a fire danger rating listed as Catastrophic.

The following information will help us plan and prepare our school to support the safety of staff, students and the wider community.

### **Assessing bushfire and grassfire risk**

Schools and early childhood education services are categorised based on their risk of bushfire and grassfire in line with the Victorian Education Facility Bushfire Risk Methodology and review this classification annually.

To inform this classification, we have used the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) analysis informed by the Bushfire Management Overlay, Victorian Fire Risk Register, and terrain and fuel type exposure.

### **Our school's risk**

Our school is rated as CAT 3. This means that St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- Must close on days forecast as 'Catastrophic' by the Bureau of Meteorology within our designated fire district.

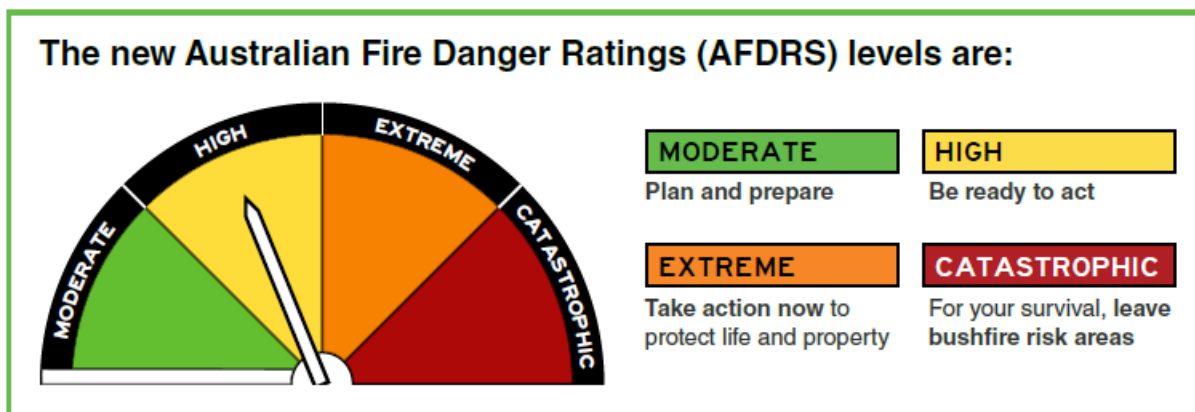
### **Australian Fire Danger Rating System**

In September 2022, Australia introduced a new fire danger forecasting system, the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). A nationally consistent system will more accurately predict fire danger and produce clear, simple messages for communities. Victoria has been using a 6-tier system for fire danger ratings, from 'Low' or 'Moderate' to 'Code Red'. The AFDRS will replace the Victorian system this year and uses 4 tiers of fire danger, from 'Moderate' to 'Catastrophic'.

**Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start.**

**They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.**

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.



- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.

### What can parents do?

Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/>, and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan. You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website <[www.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au)>.

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at <[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)> or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.



Congratulations and our best wishes go to Bec Conroy who has accepted a teaching position at St. Brigid's Ballan commencing 2023. Bec has done an absolutely unbelievable job over many years at St. Francis Xavier in the classroom and in leadership positions. I know that you will join me and congratulate Bec on her new appointment.

### School Disco Reminder: This Thursday night



Friday Lunches Announcement Hot Lunches for 2022 will end Friday 2nd Dec. This will mean hot lunches will **not** be available Friday 9th Dec and Friday 16th December

Class Groupings 2023 We hope to inform you by the end of November of your child's class and teacher for 2022. Teachers are putting their final touches onto these class lists. I thank the staff for the time they put into this process. 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. Many thanks.

Camps Children and staff in Years 4 and 5 are looking forward to their upcoming camps. Thank you to those involved with all the preparation and planning which goes into these to make them so successful.

Our school excursion program offers our children a great opportunity to experience settings and situations that they may not normally experience. Participating in camps allows the children to build on their self-esteem and interact with other children and adults in unfamiliar surrounds. **Year 5 Camp Week 8** **Year 4 Camp Week 11**

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

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

*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.*

**Assembly Awards** Thank you to the children and staff of 1EM for their assembly on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The children were marvellous and it was wonderful to see so many families and friends from 1EM in attendance. Congratulations to our Award winners who received an award for our school value of **HOSPITALITY**. Please check the attachment for names of the children who received an award. Hospitality means welcoming other people. We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.

**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	4	3JV	28 <sup>th</sup> October
	6	4CP	11 <sup>th</sup> November

**Summer Uniform** Our transition phase for school uniform has now ceased. Children are to be wearing full summer uniform or full sports uniform to school each day. Thank you very much for your assistance with this. Please refer to our school handbook on what each of these uniforms look like if you are unsure or your child tells you something different.

Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; Assembly awards; Tricky friendship days; Australian Fire Danger Rating System; Foster Care Information Session Flyer.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Clark, **Interim Principal**



### Religious Education News

#### **THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 2, 2022 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14 Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. "Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)*

**Gospel reflection:** The two men behaved very differently in the temple.

The Pharisee is full of pride- he thinks he's done everything right, that God must love him very much and that he's better than other people.

The tax collector is humble and ashamed- he knows he has done wrong and he knows that only God could give him the forgiveness and mercy he needed.

No matter who we are, where we come from, the colour of our skin, whether we are rich or poor, tall or short, we are special in God's eyes. God loves us all very much.

**Our Challenge:** This week try not to judge others just because they are different to you. Try to treat all people you meet with kindness and respect. *(adapted from the CAFOD website)*

**Free Dress Day this Friday!** October is Mission Month and we are raising funds for Socktober on behalf of Catholic Mission. Catholic Mission creates opportunities for people to be formed in mission, and respond through prayer, fundraising and action, inspiring them to reach out, and give life—within Australia and around the world.

This year we are fundraising for food security in Ethiopia- some of our money will help to set up a goat farm in the town of Embidir!

Please bring along a gold coin or two! All of us at St Francis Xavier engage in mission when we proclaim our faith through our words, actions and lives.

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### Save the Date!

#### Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Liturgy

Your child will be bringing home an invitation this week for them to share with their Grandparent/ Grandfriend to join us for a liturgy on Friday November 18 beginning at 2.30pm.

We will be in our Family Groups for this liturgy and the children will also take our visitors to view our Art Show in the gym. If your special person has any specific needs, please let us know so we can try and accommodate them. We look forward to sharing this memorable time together!



Christine Meneely, **Interim Religious Education Leader**

### Wellbeing News

Relatively small issues, like not being invited to play at someone's house, can arouse big, intense feelings in our children. Because belonging is at stake, friendship challenges will always feel like a life-threatening experience – so be assured that most parents find themselves dealing with powerful tears and shattering disappointments after tricky friendship days. These feelings often intensify in the tween and teen years, as the peer group becomes a bigger influence in our child's life.

#### WEBINAR- Michelle Mitchell presents: Handling tricky friendship days

Michelle Mitchell is an award-winning speaker, and bestselling parenting author. She has been termed 'the teenage expert' by the media and is sought after for her compassionate and grounded advice for parenting tweens and teens. Please find attached her article about handling tricky friendship days and the opportunity to attend a free webinar offering a set of practical ideas to help empower our children (our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas and as a part of this membership we can attend for no cost)

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

### Sport/Physical Education News

**Junior Sports Day** 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. We also look forward to our Year 6 Sports Captains playing a major role on the day.

**Division Cricket** SFX will be entering 2 boys and 2 girls team in the upcoming Division cricket tournament to be held on Thursday November 3rd. Information will be circulated shortly regarding selection for these teams. Please note that originally we were going to play on the Wednesday, however by playing in the Thursday competition we are able to submit 2 girls teams and 2 boys teams therefore allowing more students to participate.

**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 - Thursday November 3 - District Cricket Tournament
- Wk 5 - Friday November 4 - Junior Sports Day (F - Yr 2)

Have a wonderful week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

## Visual Art News



After a 3 year hiatus due to Covid, the SFX Art Exhibition is back! On **Tuesday November 15th from 3.30pm to 6pm**, families and special friends are invited along to our St Francis Xavier gym to see the wonderful artwork that our artists have created during their Visual Arts classes in 2022. We can't wait to celebrate our artists with you! There will also be an opportunity for grandparents and special friends to visit the Art Exhibition during our Grandparents Afternoon on Friday November 18th. We can't wait to celebrate our artists with you!

Jacinta Molloy  
Visual Arts Specialist



## Community News



Tickets can be purchased at [www.melbournerenegades.com.au/tickets](http://www.melbournerenegades.com.au/tickets)