

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter



Monday 14th November 2022
Term 4 Week 7

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Term 4 Week 7

Tuesday 15th November
3.30-6pm SFX Art Exhibition

Friday 18th November
Grandparents'/Grand
Friends' Day 2.30pm

Term 4 Week 8

23rd-25th November
Year 5 Camp at
Kangarooobie, Princetown

Thursday 24th November
7pm Information Evening
for parents/carers of our
2023 Foundation children

Friday 25th November
Casual Dress Day

F-Year 2 Sports Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 29th November
Orientation Day

Friday 2nd December
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day
Last 2022 Hot Lunch Day

Term 4 Week 10

Wednesday 7th December
5pm Christmas Carols

Thursday 8th December
Year 6 Graduation

Friday 9th December
12 noon Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Monday 12th December
9.30am End of Year Mass in
school gym

10.45-11.30 Parent/Carer
Helpers' Thank You morning
tea in staffroom

December 14th-16th
Year 4 Camp at Log Cabin
Lodge, Creswick

Friday 16th December
Last Student Day for Term 4

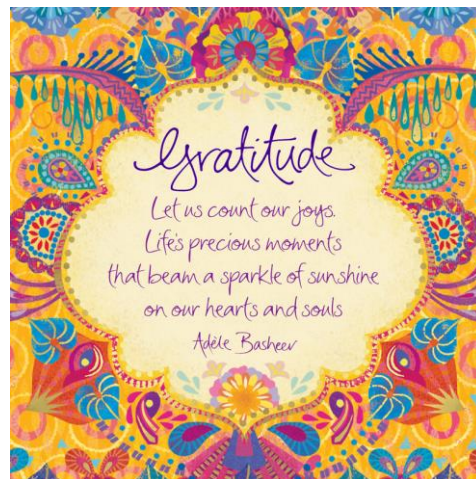
2023 Term 1 Week 1

Monday 30th 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,

In preparing this week's newsletter and in the hustle and bustle of my days I came across this message and prayer. It helped me to slow down and be reminded of my need to be grateful. We have so much to be grateful for in this life each and every day. But the reality is that sometimes constant life demands, struggles, and worries give more room to defeat than to a thankful heart. Or we forget, in the midst of busyness and pressures, to pause and give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do in our lives. Throughout life's trials and blessings, displaying a general attitude of gratitude distinguishes the Christian, but it also makes you a lovely person to be around. Practicing gratitude actually increases dopamine in your brain (the stuff that makes you feel good!) and encourages your brain to seek more of the same. Scientifically speaking, the more you are grateful for, the more you will find things to be grateful for.



Loving God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for the hope you bring through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purpose. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your Son Jesus, for the truth of his word and the example of his life. Replenish our spirits with new strength and prepare us to meet each day with renewed gratitude and joy. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. May all of our words and actions give you praise and glory. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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.

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Teacher Allocation and Class Placements – 2023 Please find below the classroom teacher allocation for 2023. Class groupings will be distributed prior to Orientation day. I ask you to be positive with your children regarding the class groupings they are in. I understand that change is sometimes difficult but in reality, it is the only thing that we can be certain of and it is important for our children to welcome change in their lives for their own growth. On Orientation day a Pop Up Shop will be happening. Details to follow.

Teachers / Year Levels 2023

	Year	Classroom Teacher
Foundation Leader	Foundation	Lindy Harty
	Foundation	Tom Willmott
	Foundation	Gemma Johnson
	Foundation	Megan Mullane
Year 1 Leader	Year 1	Jessie Simpson
	Year 1	Matt Manzl
	Year 1	Estelle McLean
Year 2 Leader	Year 2	Emma Hancock
	Year 2	Caitlin Jans
	Year 2	Georgia Hudson
Year 3 Leader	Year 3	Nicki Dalton
	Year 3	Brigid Ginnane-Smith/Bec Warr
	Year 3	Jess Van Gaans
Year 4 Leader	Year 4	Belinda Wrigley
	Year 4	Cath Pearson
	Year 4	Ann Howard/Carla Cicchini
Year 5 Leader	Year 5	Cynthia Cook
	Year 5	Jack Ferguson
	Year 5	Olivia Hayward
Year 6 Leader	Year 6	Petra Barclay
	Year 6	Zoe Astbury
	Year 6	Michael Marshall
	Area	Specialist
	Principal	Mark Hogbin
	Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement	Jane Clark
	Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity	Jayne Mohr
	Religious Education Leader	Christine Meneely
	Junior Literacy Leader	Emma Hancock
	Learning Technologies Leader	Carla Cicchini
	Wellbeing Leader/School Counsellor	Christine Meneely
Specialist Leader	The Arts – Visual	Jacinta Molloy
	The Arts – Music	Dan West
	Physical Education	Nev Down
	Environmental Education	Sarah Page
	Intervention Teacher	Elisha Martin

Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award – nominations called for The Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award is designed to celebrate the outstanding achievement and contribution to St. Francis Xavier of staff, parents and volunteers working in a diverse range of endeavours at St. Francis Xavier. The purpose is to acknowledge unwavering commitment to our school and the extraordinary outcomes that can be achieved through such commitment.

Endorsed by the St. Francis Xavier Senior Leadership team and the Sisters of Mercy this Award provides a mechanism to recognise those whose efforts are beyond the already high standards of education and care delivered by those involved at St. Francis Xavier. Through such commitment, these people will have made a difference in the lives and/or learning of children or others with whom they come into contact as they carry out their responsibilities in our school community.

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The varied roles through which an exceptional contribution within St. Francis Xavier takes place provide the basis for the Spirit of **Catherine McAuley Award**.

The nominee should be actively contributing to the School Mission statement: "St Francis Xavier is a Catholic primary school community, inspired by the example of Catherine McAuley where we promote for all a sense of belonging, nurture right relationships, inspire a passion for learning and live in harmony with creation.

Charged with the ministry of our vision statement we are committed to the following core Mercy values:

Respect, Compassion, Excellence, Justice, Hospitality

As a guide, some of the following may be relevant:

- Living a Christ-centred life through the integration of faith and life
- Excellence in standards and professionalism in the candidate's work for the school
- "Making a difference" in the lives of students or colleagues or parents through their personal and professional manner
- Role(s) or area(s) in which the nominee has excelled.

Within the spirit of these awards (as described earlier) please submit a one page nomination by 4:00pm Tuesday 29th November 2022 to principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au indicating how does:

1. the nominee demonstrate service worthy of recognition?
2. the nominee's work impact on either a particular field, school, group, community or St. Francis Xavier Primary School at large?
3. this person stand out from others?

Foundation Information Evening – 24th November On Thursday 24th November at 7:00pm we will hold our Foundation Information Evening for the parents/carers of our 2023 Foundation children.

Orientation Day On Tuesday 29th November we plan to hold Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our school. We will also be promoting all the other children into their new classrooms with their new class teachers. This day provides a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with their new peers and class teacher.

St. Francis Xavier End of School Year Mass On Monday 12th December at 9:30am we will celebrate our school year with a Mass. This Mass is our way to formally reflect upon and celebrate all we have achieved this year and to say farewell to our Year 6 students. We hope all families can attend this Mass as it is such a special occasion for our school community. We hope to see you there! Mass will take place in our **school gym** so more people will be able to attend.

Parent Helpers' Morning Tea A warm invitation is extended to all parents or carers who have helped in any capacity this year, to join us for a 'Thank you' morning tea.

When: Immediately following our end of year Mass on Monday 12th December 10:45-11:30

Where: SFX staffroom

All SFX staff look forward to your company as we acknowledge the help and assistance you have given both the children and us this year.

Major Fundraiser - the Christmas Raffle! The **St Francis Xavier Primary School Parents' & Friends' Committee** are thrilled to announce this year's **Major Fundraiser - the Christmas Raffle!** We have over \$10,000 worth of prizes on offer from generous school families and local businesses.

Please send the link far and wide as every dollar we raise goes straight back into developing the school facilities and purchasing new playground equipment.

The lucky winners will be drawn on the night of our SFX Christmas Carols. There are 27 prizes to win.

Thank you for your support & good luck!

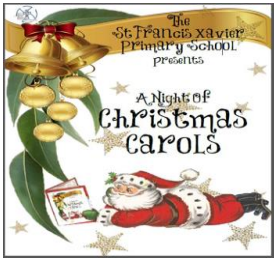


THE ANNUAL
SFX
Christmas
RAFFLE

27 FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!
1ST PRIZE: \$1000 OFF SCHOOL FEES AND \$200 ATHLETES FOOT VOUCHER
2ND PRIZE: \$1000 CROWN VOUCHER. THANKS TO TOOHEY'S FORMCRETE
3RD PRIZE: COASTAL ARTWORK VALUED AT \$880 DONATED BY BEC WARR PLUS MANY MORE!!!

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:
www.rafflelink.com.au/2022sfxmasraffle
TICKET PRICES START AT \$10

End of day pick up times This is just a reminder that teachers will be teaching their classes up until 3:10 each day. We ask that you do not pick your child up any earlier as over time this can add up to many minutes of missed class time. e.g. 5 mins per day=25 mins per week = 100 minutes per month. We are aware of the traffic issues and we continue to be in consultation with the Ballarat City Council about this. Thank you very much for your cooperation with this matter.



St. Francis Xavier Christmas Carols – Wednesday 7th December

Plans are well under way for the Christmas Carols to be held on Wednesday 7th December, 5.00pm - 8.00pm. Come and enjoy a night of carols, food, Santa and Christmas fun! Wear your Christmas colours.

Please note: we will be farewelling **ALL** SFX departing families at the Christmas Carols.

Assembly Awards Thank you to the children and staff of 4CP for their assembly on Friday 11th November. The children were marvellous and it was wonderful to see so many families and friends from 4CP in attendance. Congratulations to our Award winners who received an award for our school value of **JUSTICE**. Justice means making things fair for everyone by making positive changes when we notice injustice. We act for justice because Jesus shows us how to include others and to use our actions to make change.

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

7	Monday 19 th December	Staff Professional Development Day (First Aid)
	Tuesday 20 th December	Last Day for Staff - Staff Planning Day



Please find below the link for the October 2022 edition of “Our Diocesan Community”
<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ODC-October-2022-web.pdf>.

Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; Body safety and consent; Drawing competition.

Have a great week.

Yours sincerely,



A very grateful Jane Clark, **Interim Principal**

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK’S GOSPEL- Sunday November 13, 2022 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19 Some of the disciples were talking about the Temple, how beautiful it looked with its fine stones and the gifts offered to God. Jesus said, “All this you see—the time will come when not a single stone here will be left in its place; everyone will be thrown down.” “Teacher,” they asked, “when will this be? And what will happen in order to show that the time has come for it to take place?” Jesus said, “Be on guard; don't be deceived. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time has come!’ But don't follow them. Don't be afraid when you hear of wars and revolutions; such things must happen first, but they do not mean that the end is near.” He went on to say, “Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be terrible earthquakes, famines, and plagues everywhere; there will be strange and terrifying things coming from the sky. Before all these things take place, however, you will be arrested and persecuted; you will be handed over to be tried in

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synagogues and be put in prison; you will be brought before kings and rulers for my sake. This will be your chance to tell the Good News. Make up your minds beforehand not to worry about how you will defend yourselves, because I will give you such words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to refute or contradict what you say. You will be handed over by your parents, your brothers, your relatives, and your friends; and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a single hair from your heads will be lost. Stand firm, and you will save yourselves. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)*

Gospel reflection: Jesus was with his disciples in the temple and he told them not to be afraid. Just like us, they faced an uncertain world and heard news that made them anxious. He promised that he would be with them always and that they wouldn't be harmed if they put their trust in him.

Jesus is with us always, even in the hardest times. Often Jesus comes to us in the people who help us. We need to always look for the helpers to know Jesus' spirit is still truly among us.

Our challenge: Next time you hear about an earthquake, flood or drought on the news what will you do to help the people affected? How will you help them to know that they haven't been forgotten and that Jesus is always with them?(adapted from the CAFOD website)

Calling all Artists! Catholic Mission Australia is holding a drawing competition - with one winner from every Australian Diocese - looking for the best picture illustrating how Pope Francis inspires children to help other children. The entry form is attached to the newsletter but hurry as entry closes November 30th!

Last week we were fortunate to have **Bravehearts'** present their personal safety education program Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to our children in Foundation, Year One and Two classes.

It was an energy filled presentation with lots of empowering messages and it focused upon following six principles of personal safety:

- Differentiating 'yes' and 'no' feelings
- Recognising the bodies 'warning signs'
- Identifying 'private parts' and 'privacy'
- Helping children identify language and feelings associated with secrets
- Reinforcing that there is no secret that children cannot tell someone

We teach water safety and road safety to the children in our care, let's not forget about body safety and consent!

If you would like to learn more about how to talk to your child about personal safety, download Bravehearts' FREE PERSONAL SAFETY PARENTS AND CARERS GUIDE from the Bravehearts website. Just go to:

bravehearts.org.au/personalsafety.



Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Liturgy

Your child will have brought home an invitation 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**

Learning & Teaching News

Assessment & Reporting – Term Four

Progressive Achievement Test

Over the next two weeks children and teachers will be busy completing their PAT testing. PAT stands for Progressive Achievement Test and it is another tool we use to measure a student's knowledge, skills and understanding in specific areas, particularly the areas of English and Maths. This helps to pinpoint where they are in their learning journey and the targeted teaching they need to progress. PAT testing is an innovative computer adaptive assessment program which children complete using Chrome books or iPads.

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Seesaw Assessment Tasks

Throughout Term Four, we are committed to the use of Seesaw (our digital portfolio platform) as part of our assessment and reporting schedule. Our teachers and children take great pride in the assessment tasks, learning samples and learning experiences showcased in each child's Seesaw portfolio. It is always our aim to strengthen our home-school partnerships through the use of Seesaw, while also enhancing student voice. Each learning piece in the portfolio is selected because it is an authentic representation of what each child has achieved, indicates their next steps in learning and shares insights into your child's educational experience. Please interact with each of the Seesaw posts uploaded by either liking or commenting on the learning being shared - it really does put a smile on our learner's faces when they see a like or comment from home!



Bec Conroy
Interim Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News

Attached is a great article by Jayneen Sander providing you with age appropriate body safety and consent skills you can cover with your child. Her books on Body Safety, consent, gender equality, emotional and social intelligence and many free resources including 'My Body Safety Rules' poster can be found at www.e2epublishing.info.

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Division Cricket We had 4 teams participate (2 x Girls, 2 x Boys) in last week's Division Cricket tournament held at Alfredton Rec Reserve. All 4 teams performed outstandingly, showing skill, energy, sportspersonship and had heaps of fun! The girls SFX 1 team made it all the way to the Grand Final but came up against a very good opposition, while both of the boys' teams played off in an all SFX Final. The SFX 1 boys team managed to get up and will now progress through to the upcoming Regional Finals. Thank you to all of the families that came to support and assist, and a huge thank you to Mrs V, Mr Ferguson and Mr Down for their efforts in coaching, scoring and umpiring the teams on the day.

Regional Golf Well done to Leo Thorp, Xavier Kersley, Lenny Driscoll and Charlotte Bell who participated in the second round of the Primary Schools Golf Tournament at Midlands GC last week. The conditions were tricky but all players played fantastic.

Junior Sports Day Our rescheduled Junior Sports Day will now be held on Friday November 25th at Russell Square. We will follow the same schedule and hopefully the weather is kind for us!

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 8 - Friday November 25th - Junior Sports Day (Russell Square) *Rescheduled date*

Have a wonderful week.

Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



Uniform Shop

Our Uniform Shop will be open Monday mornings 8:40-9:00 and Friday afternoons 3:00-3:30.

Community News



MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS at Bridge Mall Entry is a gold coin donation. Everyone welcome.
Saturday 3rd December, Saturday 10th – Friday 23rd December
A display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica) and see Nativities that prize social justice and the environment.