



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 28th November 2022
Term 4 Week 9

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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 the gym.

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,

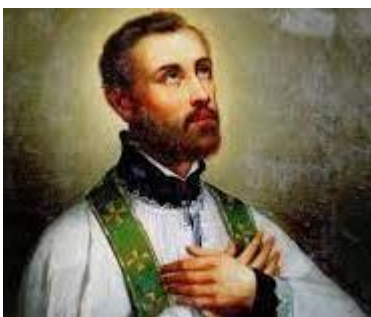
I write this newsletter as my last for 2023. I am taking some long service leave beginning this Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to be the Interim Principal for 6 months at St Francis Xavier primary school.

It has definitely been the highlight of my career and I have learnt so much in this leadership role. I would like to thank Paul Bissinella who confidently handed the reins over to me and believed in me, that I would be able to do the role. I thank Jo Anne Bond, our Educational Consultant from CEB, who has supported myself and Senior Leadership throughout this time when we sought advice.

The Senior Leadership team has been a great group to work with and I thank them very much for their dedication, support, commitment and loyalty. Our wonderful office staff have been always ready to assist me and guide me when needed. Our terrific St Francis Xavier staff have continued working tirelessly to do what is best for their children. I would like to thank them for the way they coped with the change and adapted quickly to the new leadership team.

But most of all I would like to thank the children. They have brought joy to me every day as they say hello and ask how I am going, bringing me in an animal fact or suggesting who should receive a Principal's award. They continually remind me why I love this profession. May our community have a blessed and Merry Christmas and I am so looking forward to working with Mark Hogbin in 2023.

I hand the reins over to Bec Conroy and Jayne Mohr who will preside over the school for the last 14 days of 2022. Many thanks.



Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier (Saturday 3rd December)

Our school will recognise the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier, and celebrate the day on Friday 2nd December. This remarkable man, who was born in Spain in 1506 and died before Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England, was the first Christian and the first Jesuit missionary to visit Japan, which in the sixteenth century was a closed country about which almost nothing was known.

Although Japan was where he would ultimately devote several years of his life, Xavier was determined to spread God's word throughout Asia to the people of what was then known as the Portuguese Empire. Revealing great courage in the days when many still believed the earth was flat, and two centuries before Cook's voyage to

Botany Bay and Australia, St Francis Xavier not only travelled as far as Japan but also journeyed to Borneo, India, the Moluccas, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Mozambique and other areas that had not yet been visited by Christian missionaries, as well as visiting and working in China with a small pioneering band of Jesuit missionaries.

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The Catholic Church officially began the season of **Advent** yesterday. Advent is the time when we begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. All classrooms will be talking about Advent over the coming weeks and many will have an Advent Wreath. If you are planning on having an Advent calendar at home, remember to think about what we are really celebrating as we open up a new window each day. It is also a lovely idea to try to do something special which can show the true spirit of Christmas - the love of Jesus- to the world e.g. children could set the table without being asked, do a special kind deed for someone who needs it, leave a note for someone telling them how much they are appreciated, etc. Have a wonderful time celebrating this magical season!

Advent Prayer

Creator God, we hear the glad sounds around us of people preparing for the coming of Jesus. We thank you, Jesus, for coming each year in a special way. During this month, everyone seems more loving and kind. Through prayers, help us to keep this feeling of joy all year long. God has sent you to us to know, to love and to serve you. If sometimes we forget, please help us. Amen.



Congratulations to the following children who have been elected as **2023 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains:**

Felicity McGrath
Lola Roney
Isa Jones
George Britt
Leo Thorp
Sully Boyd

I am sure that you join me in congratulating our Captains on their appointments!

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.

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

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- Primary School at large?
3. this person stand out from others?

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 gym

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!

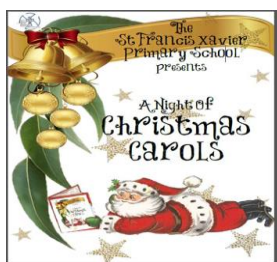
1ST PRIZE: \$1000 OFF SCHOOL FEES AND \$200 ATHLETES FOOT VOUCHER

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



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.

Back Live!

The Foundation Nativity will be presented on Friday 9th December at 12 noon.

It is always a spectacular event not to be missed.



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

I have sent into Catholic Education Ballarat our proposed School closure days for 2023. As soon as they have been acknowledged I will print them into the newsletter for forward planning.

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Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin and Top 3 Misconceptions Parents Have Around Quitting Sport.

Have a great week.

Kind regards,



Jane Clark, **Interim Principal**



Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 28, 2022 First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

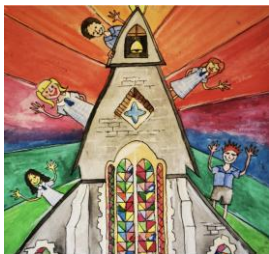
Gospel: Matthew 24: 37- 44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)*

Gospel reflection: As we begin our time of Advent this week (Advent is a word from Latin that means "coming"), we are reminded that we must be ready. We prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. Just as we prepare our house for Christmas by putting up the tree, decorating, sending cards and wrapping presents we also keep focused on what is at the heart of our preparations. Advent is a time to prepare not only our homes, but our hearts and minds through prayer.

Our Challenge: We are reminded that we are also waiting in hope and expectation for Christ who is to come. How can you share hope this Advent?



Invitation for children who have celebrated Sacraments in 2022

Fr. Jorge would like to say a special Mass for students who have received the Sacraments this year. This Mass will be held at **5pm on Sunday December 11th** at St. Alipius Church. Please bring a plate of something to share in the hall following Mass.

Christine Meneely, **Interim Religious Education Leader**

Wellbeing News

When things feel hard, the temptation to quit can be very high.

Olympic gold medalist Nastia Liukin recounts wanting to quit after a hard practice, and her parents would always say: "You can quit. But not today."

Then they would explain: "We all have bad days when we want to quit. But if you do that, you won't achieve great results and you might regret this later. So you can quit on a good day. When you have a good day and still want to quit, let's talk."

So when your child comes home after a hard day at practice, a bad game, or a big loss, remind them: It's ok to quit. Quitting will always be an option, but not on a bad day.

Please find attached a parenting tip sheet on helping your child to persevere when things become difficult.

(Adapted from Big Life Journal)

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

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Sport/Physical Education News

Regional Cricket Good luck to our SFX Boys cricket team that will be participating in the Regional Cricket Tournament at Russell Square on Monday. We look forward to hearing how you go.

Junior Sports Day A magnificent day was had by all last Friday for our Junior Sports Day at Russell Square. Students in F-Yr 2 participated in a range of activities and running events. All of the students 'had a go, tried their best and had a heap of fun!' A huge well done and thank you to the Yr 6 Sports Captains who assisted on the day. Your enthusiasm, encouragement and leadership was outstanding and you should be very proud of your efforts.

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

Term 4 dates:

- Wk 9 - Monday November 28th - Regional Cricket Tournament (Russell Square)

Have a tremendous week.

Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



Uniform Shop News

Second Hand Uniform Pop Up Shop - Tuesday 29th November 9am til 12 noon in the undercover area.

P&F News



Christmas Raffle Tickets on Sale now!

Grab your tickets today to win one of 27 prizes! Raffle drawn 7th Dec at Christmas Carols!

[St Francis Xavier Primary School Parents and Friends Committee Fundraising Raffle | RaffleLink](https://www.rafflelink.com.au/2022sfxxmasraffle)

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

Last Hot Lunches for the Year - this Friday 2nd of December.

Save the date for our Christmas Carols!

See attachments for more information including food truck, menus and preorder details.

Please note: No alcohol is permitted.



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