



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Term 4 Week 10

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

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 4 Week 10

*In the Land of the Wadawurrung People*

#### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

5-8pm Christmas Carols

#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

6pm Year 6 Graduation  
in our Gym

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

12 noon Foundation Nativity

### Term 4 Week 11

#### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am End of Year Mass in  
school gym

10.45-11.30am Parent/Carer  
Helpers' Thank You morning  
tea in the gym.

#### December 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Year 4 Camp at Log Cabin  
Lodge, Creswick

#### 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

Dear Families,

Week Ten of our term already and the second week of the Advent season. Week Two of Advent focusses on Peace. The second week of Advent is **the candle of peace**. This candle reminds us that the angels declared "peace on earth" at the birth of Jesus. Jesus offers us inner peace and peace with others. May you find time in the busyness of the week to take some quiet and peaceful time for reflection.

We can know and experience peace today only through the life of Jesus Christ.

**Farewell to leaving Staff** With only two weeks left with our students this year, it is very appropriate to acknowledge and farewell Ms Rebecca Conroy as she finishes her time with us. Rebecca has been a much loved and valued member of our St Francis Xavier staff for the last seven years, sharing her passion for learning with staff and students alike. Rebecca has worked predominantly in our Junior classrooms over her time here and has spent the majority of this year as Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement. How lucky our Senior Leadership team has been to benefit from her wisdom and sensibility! We wish Rebecca – Bec, all the very best in her new role at St Brigid's Ballan and every happiness going forward. Thanks for your amazing contribution, Bec.

**Carols** This Wednesday we warmly welcome you all to join us on the top oval for Carols. We have been blessed with some great weather over the last few days and the forecast for fine weather is set to continue. Our Parents and Friends continue to do a marvellous job with their organisation – please see the attached flyer for times and how to organise dinner should you decide to.

There are a couple of important considerations we ask you to be aware of to ensure a great night for all.

- Parents are responsible for their children on the night. Staff will be in attendance and facilitate the Carols.
- You are welcome to bring a picnic or buy dinner although this is a No Alcohol event
- Santa will be visiting!
- Please don't take photographs of the larger class groups performing as there are many students who do not consent to being photographed
- The top oval is the only area available for the night – classrooms and offices will be closed

Our teachers and students have been busy preparing for this wonderful occasion and we hope you can join us Wednesday evening. It is also the chance to farewell all out leaving families and acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our Parents' and Friends' committee and our Christmas Raffle will be drawn. Don't forget to wear your Christmas colours!

**Year Six Graduation** This Thursday, we recognise our Year Six students' completion of Primary School with a special lunch and evening liturgy. Graduating from primary school is such a special time full of achievement, hope and promise. To all the staff that has contributed to the Primary School journey over the last seven years, thank you. Families are welcome to join us at 6pm this Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December in our Gym for a Liturgy. Congratulations to the families and students of our class of 2022!

**End of School Mass** Next Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December we celebrate our end of the 2022 school year with Mass at 9.30am in our Gym. This will be a lovely way to thank God for all of our 2022 blessings and to farewell our Year 6 students.

*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.*

**2023 Transition Day** Last Tuesday was a terrific day as all of our students spent time getting to know their 2023 classmates and teachers. We also welcomed our 2023 Foundation students and families into our school. Transition Day is a great opportunity to assist students to prepare for change and we encourage you to continue to talk to positively about 2023 with your children over the summer break.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.45-11.30am

**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](http://www.rafflelink.com.au/2022sfxmasraffle)  
 TICKET PRICES START AT \$10

**The Foundation Nativity** will be presented on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

It is always a spectacular event not to be missed.



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

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

Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; Carols details and food options.

Have a great week.

Kind regards,



Jayne Mohr  
Deputy Principal



In order to streamline our processes in 2023 and to make communication easier for our parents and carers we will be moving away from Operoo and Skoolbag App in 2023.

Therefore, all medical, excursions, absences and transport passes will be accessed via your **PAM (Parent Access Module)** account.

In summary **PAM** will cater for:

- Student Assessment
- Student Absences
- Transport Passes
- Medical Profile
- Excursion Permissions
- General Permissions

**Please look out for an email from St Francis Xavier Primary School on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 that will request an update to each family's account – currently a family shares the one login and password to PAM however with the new development of Single Sign On you will be given instructions in the email that you receive in January to create a new login (a unique email address) and password for each parent/guardian to access the PAM account for their child.**

### Religious Education News

#### **THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judah and started preaching. John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all the country near the River Jordan. They confessed their sins, and he baptised them in the Jordan.

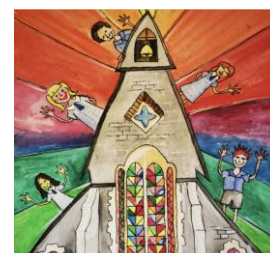
When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, "You snakes — who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these stones and make descendants for Abraham! The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. I baptise you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)

**Gospel reflection:** John the Baptist lived at the time of Jesus. He had great faith and set an example for everyone of how to live a good life. John told the people coming to be baptised that they need to say sorry for the things that they have done wrong and change their lives for the better. Saint Oscar Romero is another great example of how to live a good life. He lived in El Salvador and stood up for poor communities. In El Salvador at the time some families were very rich, but most people were poor. Saint Romero saw that this was unfair and he spoke out against it. He is remembered for his courage, faith and love for the poor. Saint Oscar Romero wanted to change people's lives for the better. His example can show us how we can help others too.

**Our Challenge:** Can you speak up when you see something that is unfair? Can you help others when they are in need? Can you share?

**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 11<sup>th</sup>** at St. Alipius Church. Please bring a plate of something to share in the hall following Mass.



### Making a Scene at Christmas Visit

This week we are very fortunate to have the “Making a Scene at Christmas” display visiting our school with over one hundred nativity sets; with some of these specifically chosen to highlight issues of social justice and theological interpretation.

Children will have the opportunity to see and smell frankincense and myrrh, hold a Roman coin minted around the time Jesus was born and view an oil lamp that also dates to the time of the birth of Jesus. Ask your child what their favourite nativity or historical item was!

If you would like to view the full collection of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries, Fiona and Kay have a display in the Bridge Mall from Saturday 10th – Friday 23rd December (Entry is a gold coin donation). This might be a fun family activity in the lead up to Christmas.



Christine Meneely, **Interim Religious Education Leader**

### **Learning & Teaching News**

#### Assessment & Reporting – Term Four

##### *End of Year Reports via Parent Access Module (PAM)*

Your child’s School Report will be available for download from the PAM site on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. These reports have been well-prepared, well thought-out and represent your child’s Semester Two achievements. Each report has been prepared by your child’s class teacher, then read and commented on by a buddy teacher from within the school and finally read again by our Leadership Team. I commend the teachers for their efforts, professionalism and personalised comments. Please make some time to read the report and initiate discussion with your child/ren about what their teacher has written. And, most importantly, enjoy and celebrate your child's report and their 2022 school year!



#### Preparing for 2023

Over the next 2 weeks teachers will be handing over important information to your child's 2023 class teacher to further enhance your child’s transition to their new learning environment. Each child’s Student Profile is updated, with great professional discussions and learning taking place in these sessions in preparation for 2023. We thank our children, teachers and families for their positivity and commitment to ensuring our children transition with success and a positive mindset.



#### Reading Strategic Improvement Update

Our school is currently working on a strategic transition to an approach to Literacy instruction known as Structured Literacy. This research and evidence-based approach is grounded in the Sciences of Reading and Learning, and we believe that making this shift will improve Literacy outcomes for all students. In 2023, we will be working in partnership with Catholic Education Ballarat and other diocesan schools who are also making this change to practice.

I hope everyone has a terrific Week Ten!



Bec Conroy, **Interim Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement**

## Wellbeing News

As the school year grows closer to the end and festivities of cultural and religious celebrations begin, day to day functioning can become a little harder for both adults and children who have difficulties with social environments, sensory sensitivities or coping with change. Everyone is getting tired, relationships may become strained and demands seem many. Throw into the mix the end of school commitments (not to mention whose turn it is to host Christmas) and no wonder you feel exhausted already!

It is worthwhile to think about how we can reduce the demand of day to day activities to ensure we don't completely deplete our energy. Work out what is important to your family and plan your activities around these things- by focussing on what's important, we reduce the unnecessary demands that come with "filler" activities or things that don't align with your values.

The following information from Raising Children considers the importance of self-care for parents. Attending to priorities such as sleep, good nutrition, regular exercise and relationship building will ensure we have some petrol in the tank for the weeks ahead!

[Wellbeing for Parents and Caregivers](https://raisingchildren.net.au/for-professionals/mental-health-resources/parent-mental-health-and-wellbeing)

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/for-professionals/mental-health-resources/parent-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

## Sport/Physical Education News

**Regional Cricket** Well done to our SFX Boys cricket team that participated in the Regional Cricket Tournament at Russell Square last week. Thank you to Mr Ferguson and Mrs Waller for supporting the students.

**2023 Sports Dates** Last week the Sports Coordinators from all of the Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools met to discuss among things, the dates for 2023. Please see below a list of the dates we have so far for 2023

### Term 1:

- Week 4 - Thursday Feb 16th - District Tennis @ BRTC
- Week 4 - Friday Feb 17th - SFX Athletics Day @ Llanberris
- Week 5 - Friday Feb 24th - District Swimming @ Eureka Outdoor Pool
- Week 8 - Tuesday Mar 14th - Regional Swimming @ Horsham
- Week 10 - Thursday Mar 30th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country @ Fed Uni

### Term 2:

- Week 3 - Thursday May 11th - Division Cross Country
- Week 4 - Tuesday May 16th - Division AFL
- Week 5 - Wednesday May 24th - Division Netball
- Week 6 - Monday May 29th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool
- Week 6 - Friday Jun 2nd - Division Soccer
- Week 8 - Wednesday Jun 14th - Regional Soccer
- Week 8 - Friday Jun 16th - Regional Netball
- Week 9 - Thursday Jun 22nd - Regional AFL

### Term 3:

- Week 7 - Wednesday Aug 23rd - Division Basketball
- Week 7 - Friday Aug 25th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 9 - Tuesday Sep 5th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris

### Term 4:

- Week 1 - Friday Oct 6th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 4 - Wednesday Oct 25th - Regional Basketball
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 1st - Division Cricket
- Week 7 - Wednesday Nov 15th - Regional Cricket

**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.

Have an awesome week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

## Reconciliation in Action News

### A visit to the Art Exhibition from our Wadawurrung Artist friend Jenna Oldaker

A couple of weeks ago 1GJ were very excited to show our Wadawurrung artist friend Jenna Oldaker around our 2022 SFX Art Exhibition. Jenna was blown away by the talent of our young artists! She was both touched and impressed with all of the art that was inspired by her as well.



### Nyatne

To thank/thankful,  
Jacinta Molloy and Sarah Page, RAP Leaders



## 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/2022sfxmasraffle)

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

## Community News

**Basketball Ballarat Junior Miners Holiday Camp** for children aged 5-13 years old of all genders and abilities. Improve your skills, develop techniques, enhance your game, meet new friends and ultimately have fun! The camp catering for the beginner who has never picked up a basketball to the most experience 13 year old in the land!

- Meet your favourite Miners players
- Expert instructions from professional coaches including Miners player and coaches
- Develop new basketball skills and training methods
- Fun and inclusive learning environment
- Structured session content including great games and prizes at every camp
- Learn how to be a great team mate and help other succeed

Registrations are now open, with the camp being held on Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am till 3:00pm at Selkirk Stadium.

For more information and to register: [Adroit Insurance & Risk Holiday Camps \(nbl1.com.au\)](http://nbl1.com.au)

For further details please contact Ethan Fiegert via email [development@ballaratbasketball.com](mailto:development@ballaratbasketball.com) or for urgent enquiries call reception on (03) 5338 1220

*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.*

# SFX REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



SFX are participating in The Reverse Advent Calendar which encourages acts of giving this Christmas.

**Please bring any items to the classroom teacher before the end of WEEK 11 if you wish to contribute.**

**This is an optional activity but SFX and the families of Ballarat would appreciate your support and generosity this Christmas.**