



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 12th December 2022
Term 4 Week 11

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Term 4 Week 11

Monday 12th 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 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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to our last newsletter of the 2022 school year!

As we prepare for Christmas throughout the third week of Advent, let us remember to spread the joy of the festive season with all around us. The third week of Advent reminds us that we are waiting and rejoicing in anticipation for Jesus' birth. May we take the time to find and experience an abundance of joy throughout this week, as we celebrate the closing of our 2022 school year together!

God, as we continue our Advent journey, we remember that you are the source of our joy. May we see your joy in the hopes and dreams of all around the world. We take the time to thank you for the hope you provide, the peace that you give, and for the joy you pour into our hearts. Amen.



End of the 2022 School Year For our children the 2022 school year will come to an end this Friday. Our best wishes to all of our students and families for a well-deserved, renewing and relaxing break. The children are to be commended for their achievements and positive contributions in what has been a successful full year of face-to-face learning and teaching. Their care and compassion for one another has remained with them throughout the year and they have certainly been an inspiration for all. In the words of Catherine McAuley may they continue to be, "...shining lamps, giving light to all around..." throughout the holiday season.



Please note that school finishes this Friday the 16th of December at the normal end of day school times. Buses will also run as normal on this day.

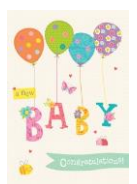
Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award During our End of Year Mass, two worthy recipients were awarded the Spirit of Catherine McAuley Award. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Samantha Murphy and Karen Nunn! Both ladies are to be acknowledged for their unwavering commitment to our school and the extraordinary contributions they have made through their voluntary roles over many, many years.



Year Six Graduation Congratulations to all of the children in Year Six who participated at their Graduation ceremony last Thursday. Many positive comments were made from staff and families regarding the manner in which the children conducted themselves on the night and during their Graduation luncheon. Thank you to Mrs Cook, Mr Ferguson and Ms Astbury for preparing an exceptional day of celebratory events for all to enjoy! We wish our Class of 2022 a wonderful final week here at SFX and wish them endless success and happiness in the future.



Congratulations This week we congratulate our very own Shannon (Mrs Macklin) and her husband Ben on the safe arrival of their daughter, Poppy Isabelle. They are stoked to have their baby girl here and are doing very well as they begin the exciting chapter of parenthood. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Shannon and Ben, and welcoming Poppy into our SFX family.



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End of year Reports to Parents – via Parent Access module (PAM) Your child's School Report will be available for download from the PAM site from 4pm tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday 13th December). These reports have been well-prepared 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!

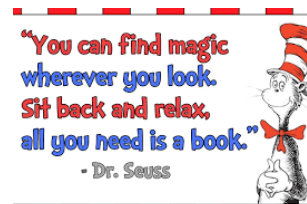
SFX Christmas Carols What a joy it was to have our live SFX Christmas Carols back! The festive spirit was certainly alive, with not even the rain being able to deter us from having fun and enjoying each other's company. A special mention to the fabulous Ange Staley and the P&F Team for volunteering a significant amount of their own time to organise and host this incredible event for us all. Your endless hard work is first-class and certainly does not go unnoticed. Also, a shoutout to the food vendors, and in particular the Pearce family and Carboni's for their generous donations. We are most appreciative of you all!

Our 2022 P & F Major Fundraiser Raffle was also drawn on the evening. We thank the many businesses who generously donated prizes. Congratulations to all of the raffle winners!



Lost Property Our Lost Property baskets are overflowing at the moment with the main item being jumpers, the majority of them unnamed. I urge you to come and search through these baskets and take what might look like your child's item of clothing. I also ask that you make sure all items of clothing are named ready for the return to school in 2023. We understand that children put them down and forget about them so it is much easier to return them when there is a name.

Holiday Reading – Big Summer Read The Big Summer Read is taking place at the Ballarat Library this Summer holidays. If you are up for a challenge and would like to keep reading during the holidays, then I encourage you to view the attached letter from the Ballarat Library for further details. Knowing reading is a fundamental skill for academic success and the enjoyment it can bring, we as a school strongly encourage all children to continue to read books of choice over the holiday period!



2023 School Calendar Please note that the 2023 School Calendar is continually being updated with key dates for the school year ahead. **The First Day of Term 1** in 2023 for students is Monday 30th January. You can access the live calendar by visiting our School Website:

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/news-events/school-calendar/>



Foundation 2023 – Rest Days

Please note the following Wednesdays are rest days for our Foundation children. This means they will not be required at school on these days:

- Wednesday February 1st, 2023
- Wednesday February 8th, 2023
- Wednesday February 15th, 2023
- Wednesday February 22nd, 2023
- Wednesday March 1st, 2023
- Wednesday March 8th, 2023

Our Foundation teachers will invite children to attend school for a short period of time on 2-3 of these days for assessment purposes. Stay tuned for further communication in regards to this!

School Closure Days – Term One, 2023 Please make note of the following Term One School Closure Days in your diary. These dates require all SFX children to stay home as school will not be open. We thank you in advance for your support with this. Our Term Two, Term Three and Term Four School Closure dates will be communicated in the first week of Term One.

Friday 27th January, 2023	First Day for Staff - Staff Planning Day
Monday 13th March, 2023	Labour Day – Public Holiday
Tuesday 14th March, 2023	Staff Professional Development Day (Structured Literacy Partners - Reading)

School Fee Schedule for 2023 All families should have received the School Fee Schedule for 2023. These fees were set out with the support and guidance from DOBCEL (Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited). If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Bus Transport for 2023 If there are any changes with regard to your child's transport from school for 2023 could you kindly fill in a Transportation From School form or contact the office with the relevant changes. If you are a new family starting in 2023 and intend for your child to travel by bus, please contact the office for a Transportation Form for you to complete and return.

Farewell We say farewell to our children and families who are leaving us after many years of dedication to the St. Francis Xavier School Community. I thank them on behalf of the SFX community for their contribution to the school, for their commitment to the life of the school and for their hard work in ensuring that St. Francis Xavier is a nurturing, supportive, welcoming place for all. I thank them and wish them much happiness and good fortune in their futures.

Thank You to Our SFX Staff I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the SFX staff for the positive impact they have had on your child's 2022 school year. This is inclusive of our classroom teachers, office staff, specialist teachers, learning support officers, Dennis (our crossing supervisor), Rick and our leadership team. I thank each and every one of them for sharing their enthusiasm, commitment, expertise, nurturing natures and ongoing compassion with all the children at St. Francis Xavier PS. The way they honour your children and continually go above and beyond to ensure fullness of life for all is commendable. We are extremely fortunate to be blessed with a staff group who always strive for excellence and create the best possible learning environment to ensure every child flourishes. Thank you for all you continue to do!



Thank you for continuing to support our school throughout 2022. Merry Christmas to you all and take care over the holiday season!

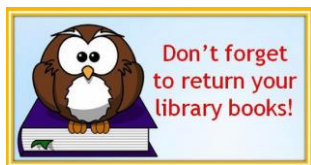
Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; School Fees; Unspoiling your kids this Christmas; Big Summer Read.

Yours sincerely,



Bec Conroy
Interim Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement

School Fees All school fees for 2022 should have now been paid in full. If you have anything outstanding, please ensure it is paid this week. **All families** need to complete the school fee agreement for 2023 and return to the school office before the end of this year.



Library Books Please check at home for any Library books, so that all books are returned by Friday. Thank you.
Any queries, please contact Sue Shuttleworth (sshuttle@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

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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 16th 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 11, 2022 Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing and he sent some of his disciples to him. "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection: John the Baptist wants to make sure that Jesus is really the special person that he has been waiting for, so he sends some friends to check. Jesus answers them by telling them that he is the one who has come to heal the sick and to bring good news to the poor. But what does it mean to bring good news to people who are poor?

Around the world lots of people have all been working for a long time to make the world a better place and to help all the people in our global family to live a good life.

There is some good news to share:

- 9% of people were living in extreme poverty in 2020. This is down from 16% in 2010 and 36% in 1990
- 74% of people have safe water to drink – up from 61% in the year 2000. (Statistics taken from the Sustainable development goals website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>)

This is all really good news but there is still more work to be done. We can all still do something to change the world for better and to help those who are in need.

Our Challenge: How will you try to be like Jesus, helping others and bringing good news to people who are poor?

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End of Year Mass Today we celebrated the end of a wonderful school year with a full-school Mass- it was so wonderful to welcome so many families and friends to our school to pray with us. The focus of our Mass was giving thanks for the many blessings we have received in 2022. We farewelled our Year Six class, with the Foundation class leading an Irish blessing for their “big” buddies. Special thanks to Father Jorge, our Parish Priest, for his thoughtful homily and his Christmas wishes for us all.

Christine Meneely, **Interim Religious Education Leader**

Wellbeing News

Christmas is generally a time of indulgence for most families. Many parents are concerned by the excess consumerism of Christmas and the fear that their children will end up ungrateful, entitled little brats!

This Advent Season at school we introduced Reverse Advent Calendars and we witnessed so much generosity and excitement when children felt they were able to make a meaningful and authentic contribution. This Christmas, “unspoil” your child by reducing the emphasis on crass commercialism with sincere, compassionate giving. Attached are ten top tips to make your Christmas truly memorable!

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

2022 Wrap Up How great was it to have school sports back in 2022? We were fortunate to be involved with lots of different Sports events throughout the year with many outstanding results including:

- 2 students qualify for Regional Swimming
- 9 students qualify for Regional Cross Country
- 2 students qualify for State Cross Country
- SFX Football team qualify for Regionals
- SFX Soccer team qualify for Regionals
- 14 students qualify for Regional Athletics
- SFX Cricket team qualify for Regionals
- and many other fantastic team and individual results.

Thank you to all of the teachers for their time and efforts in supervising and coaching the various teams throughout the year. Thank you to all of the families that came along to support and helped out at the events. A huge well done and thank you to all of the students that put their hand up to participate and be involved in representing SFX and who did so very well. We look forward to another big year of sport in 2023.

2023 Sports Dates

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

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 a fantastic week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**