



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 6th February 2023
Term 1 Week 3

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 1 Week 3

Monday 6th February

5-8pm Year ahead meetings

Wednesday 8th February

Foundation children at home

2024 Foundation
enrolments open

Thursday 9th February

6pm P&F Committee
Meeting in staff room

Friday 10th February

9am Classroom Helper
Session in staff room

12.40pm Start of School
Liturgy in the gym

Term 1 Week 4

Monday 13th February

3.45pm Classroom Helper
Session in 2EH

Tuesday 14th February

3.30-5pm Getting to Know
your Child as a Learner -
Session 1

Wednesday 15th February

Foundation children at home

District Tennis at BRTC

Thursday 16th February

10.30am or 6pm
at St Alipius Church
Compulsory Parent Meeting
for Year 4 Reconciliation

Friday 17th February

Years 3-6 SFX Athletics Day
at Llanberris

Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday 21st February

9.30am School Alive Tour

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday

Foundation children at home

3.30-5pm Getting to Know
your Child as a Learner -
Session 2

Friday 24th February

Casual dress day Donations
to Royal Children's Hospital

Years 4-6 District Swimming
at Eureka Pool

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

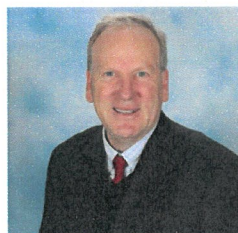
Dear families,

With just one week down we are all beginning to establish our school routines. It may take a while to adjust to early mornings again after the long summer break, but I can tell from the general buzz of excitement around the school that most of us are becoming familiar with new classroom expectations, new friendships and new ways of being. Even the new school shoes don't seem to be posing too much of a challenge at the moment.

Schools are certainly busy places. With so much learning to occur we tend to hit the ground running, and I am aware that for many of our newer families it can be hard to keep up. My advice to you is to remember to read our newsletter each week, check your child's diary each night and talk with your children about what is happening at school each day. They can often fill you in on the latest news. If you are unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to make contact with your child's classroom teacher. We are all working hard to build positive relationships at school and the staff are very happy to reply to any communications as they come along. When it comes to building a positive school environment, we are all in this together.

If you are feeling a little lost at this early time of the year, you are not alone! Like you, I am discovering new things about our school every day. It's a great journey to be on and one which leads me to new wonderings daily. Not to mention a new bunch of names to try to remember! I am really enjoying being a part of this vibrant school community where education, respect, excellence and hospitality are valued so highly. I hope that you are too.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.



St. Francis Xavier School Prayer

Loving God,

Our school has a history. Help us to honour that history, to implement our vision and to live out our call. Guide us to make real the tenderness of Jesus, the courage of Catherine McAuley, the missionary vision of St Francis Xavier and the dreams of those who have gone before us.

Help us gather the young, welcome the stranger and live as Jesus did.

Inspire us to be caring of our earth, just and merciful, to use well the gifts you have given us and to keep alive in us the call to Mercy.

We make our prayer through Jesus who shows us the way and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Term 1 Week 6

Monday 27th February

School Photos

Tuesday 28th February

9.30am School Alive Tour

Wednesday 1st March

Foundation children at home

Term 1 Week 7

Tuesday 7th March

9.30am School Alive Tour

Wednesday 8th March

Foundation children at home

Term 1 Week 8

Monday 13th March

Labour Day holiday

Tuesday 14th March

Student Free Day -

Staff Professional

Development Day

(Structured Literacy

Partners - Reading)

Regional Swimming at

Horsham

Wednesday 15th March

NAPLAN testing commences

Thursday 16th March

Year 4 SFX Sacrament of
Reconciliation

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 20th March

NAPLAN testing concludes

Friday 24th March

Mix + Mingle at Oscar's

Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 29th March

9.30am School Alive Tour

6pm School Alive Tour

Thursday 30th March

Ballarat Catholic Primary
Schools Cross Country at
Fed Uni

Thurs 30th-Fri 31st March

Year 5 Sovereign Hill School

Friday 31st March

Casual dress day

Donations to Caritas

(Project Compassion)

Term 1 Week 11

Thursday 6th April

Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 24th April to Friday

23rd June = 9 weeks

Term 3

Monday 10th July to Friday

15th September = 10 weeks

Term 4

Monday 2nd Oct to Wed 20th

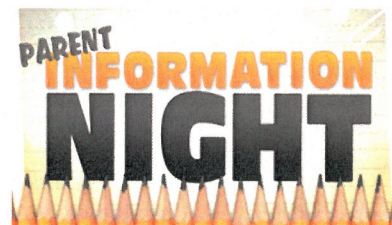
Dec = 12 weeks

School hours Our school is open for supervision each morning from 8.30am. The school day concludes at 3.10pm when children may be collected from their classrooms. Once again, supervision is provided in the undercover area until 3.30 pm. The school office operates from 8.30 – 4.30pm each day.

Year Ahead Meetings Tonight, Monday 6th February St. Francis Xavier will hold a parent information evening for all parents. We are delighted to be able to conduct these meetings onsite this year and we welcome you to attend the various sessions in your child's classroom.

These meetings are intended to give parents specific information about class programs and approaches to teaching and learning. I strongly encourage all parents to attend as we believe that a positive, nurturing, and encouraging home-school relationship is essential in helping children achieve success. The education of each of our children is a partnership between staff, parents and children. The sessions will run for up to 30 minutes with each classroom teacher at the following times:

- 5:00pm Foundation to Year 2
- 5.35pm Specialist Teachers (Gymnasium)
- 6:00pm Year 3 & 4
- 6.35pm Specialist Teachers (Gymnasium)
- 7.00pm Year 5 & 6



Foundation Rest Days Please note Wednesdays 8th, 15th and 22nd February and Wednesdays 1st and 8th March are rest days for our Foundation children. This means they will not be required at school on these days.

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!

Year 6 Leadership Day It was a delight to be able to attend part of the Year 6 leadership day on Friday. Our school student leaders for 2023 are a fine group of young people who are keen to support the ethos of our school. Well done students, you have every right to feel proud!

School Closure Days – Term 1, 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.

Monday 13th March	Labour Day – Public Holiday
Tuesday 14th March	Staff Professional Development Day (Structured Literacy Partners - Reading)

Start of School Year Liturgy Next Friday we will gather as a school community to celebrate the commencement of the new school year. As a Catholic community we ask the blessings of Christ on our endeavours throughout the year as we build our learning community with a focus on our core values of Respect, Compassion, Excellence, Justice and Hospitality. Please join us if you can in the Gym at 12.40pm next Friday 10th February. See you there!

Watches & smart phones In accordance with the St. Francis Xavier Cyber Safety, Digital technologies and Duty of Care policies we ask that all children hand phones and smart watches to the teachers at the start of each day. These will be kept safely in the classroom until the end of the day when children can collect them. If you need to communicate with your child about any changes to their day during school hours please call the office by 2.30pm and we will happily relay messages for you. We understand that most children are very careful with their watches and phones and that in most cases parents will have spoken

with children about responsible usage. However, we are also deeply aware of our responsibility to ensure that we adhere to the Diocesan recommendations around child safety for all students in our care.

Parents & Friends Fundraising for 2023 The Catholic Education Office requires that every school works to raise funds to make up the shortfall in funding received from the Federal and State Governments each year. This means that every year our parents work to raise money to assist in running the school and to provide our children with valuable resources to support them in their education. Our Parents & Friends are an energetic, committed group of people who work to support the school in its fundraising efforts. I commend all of you who support the efforts of the P & F group and ask you to continue this support throughout the year. Last week we welcomed a new executive committee who will be working to coordinate events for us in 2023. Along with you I congratulate them on their new roles:

- President: Steph Nunn
- Vice President: Alison Williams
- Secretary: Lana McKay
- Treasurer: Kathryn Brennan

I would like to acknowledge the outgoing executive who have worked tirelessly to build a strong supportive community and to reach (and often to exceed) our financial goals each year. We thank Ange Staley our outgoing President, Gabrielle Howley (Vice President), Brianna Burbidge (Secretary) and Carolyn Ward (Treasurer). What a great team!



Foundation Enrolment 2024 - Open Day and School Alive Tours We are happiest when prospective families pay us a visit to see for themselves what makes us different. New and Existing Families are invited to join us to learn about St. Francis Xavier Primary School.

Open Days will begin with an Information Session at 9:30 am with **School Alive Tours** to follow at 10:00am:

1. Tuesday 21st February 2023
2. Tuesday 28th February 2023
3. Tuesday 7th March 2023
4. Wednesday 29th March 2023

There is also a 6pm session on Wednesday 29th March 2023.

Event Registration:

To register your attendance for an Open Day, School Alive Tour or Virtual Tour please complete the Registration Form at: <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/opensdays>

Online Enrolment Open from Tuesday 8th February 2022

Attending an Open Day is the first step in the enrolment process. The online **Expression of Interest** is the second step in the enrolment process. If you wish to do so, please nominate St Francis Xavier Primary School as your first preference for your child's education. Please click on this link and fill in and submit the City of Ballarat Catholic School Expression of Interest Form: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Foundation Enrolment 2024 – Existing Families

Enrolments are open for children of existing families who start Prep in 2023. Parents of existing families who have a child to start in 2023 - please complete the form by clicking on the following link to submit a **City of Ballarat Catholic Primary School Expression of Interest Form**: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

Eligibility: Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card on the first day of Term 1 or first day of Term 2 or be a temporary foster parent will be eligible to apply.

Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series begins on Wednesday, February 22 (afternoon group 1-3pm and evening group 7-9pm) at the Mercy Centre in Ballarat East ([16 Gent Street](#)). This will be the first of six sessions (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). If you are interested, kindly send your contact details (mobile number and email) to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au and she will provide you with further information.

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.

Please find attached: St Alipius parish bulletin; Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application Form; Reconciliation letter; 2023 Dates for Sacraments; Parenting Ideas-Building deep emotional connections with kids.

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday , 2023 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

“You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it.

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)

Gospel reflection:

In the reading today Jesus tells us that we are light to the world. We are asked to let our light shine. God loves everybody, no matter where in the world they are from, whether they are rich or poor. God asks us to do the same because we are all members of the same global family. What do you think we can do to show other people that we care about them?

If we love other people and do what we can to help them, then other people will see how great God’s love is. We will be like the light that shines and is not covered up, so that everyone can see.

Our Challenge: How will you be like a shining light this week?



Invitation to our Start of School Liturgy

We welcome families and friends who would like to join us for our Liturgy on Friday February 10 at 12.40pm in the Gym.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather together as we give thanks for the beginning of our school year and our many blessings at St Francis Xavier.

Sacraments in 2023

Attached a letter from the Parish regarding dates for Sacraments in 2023. Please pop these dates into your calendar now! Children in Year 4 and those who have been confirmed are invited to register for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will take place on March 16. Please note there is a compulsory parent information session at either 10.30am or 6pm on February 16 at St Alipius Church.



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

After visiting the classrooms last week, I would like to congratulate all the children and staff on how well they settled into their classes to begin our 2023 school year.

We already have many events planned where we can continue to grow our school - home connections. The first one being tonight, our ONSITE face to face Year Ahead meetings.

Please look carefully at the times to ensure our evening runs smoothly.

Year Ahead meetings tonight.

The sessions will run between 20-30 mins

5:00- 5:30pm	Foundation to Year 2
5:35- 6:00pm	Specialists (Gym)
6:00- 6:30pm	Years 3-4
6:35- 7:00pm	Specialists (Gym)
7:00- 7:30pm	Years 5-6

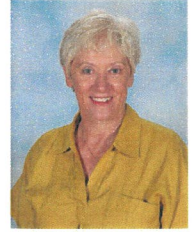
Getting to know your child as a Learner. Session 1 Tues 14th February Week 4 , Session 2 Wednesday 22nd February

Children in Years 3-6 will this week begin our **Spelling Mastery** program. Spelling Mastery is an effective, research-based program that presents spelling strategies, patterns, and reliable rules. Benefits: Spelling Mastery interweaves three spelling strategies according to students' skill development. **phonemic, morphemic, and whole-word** instruction to make spelling easier to learn, leading the way to more effective writing.

Classroom Helper sessions

If you would like to be a classroom helper please come along and attend either of these sessions. These will occur on Friday, 10 February @ 9:00 (in Staff Room) **OR** Monday, 13 February @ 3:45 (in 2EH Classroom - New Building). Emma Hancock our Junior Level Leader and myself will be presenting these sessions.

Have a terrific week.



Jane Clark
Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement

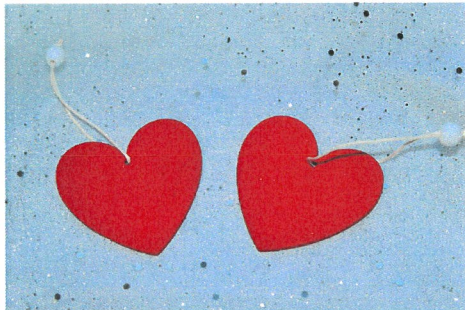
Wellbeing News

After the excitement of the beginning of the school year, meeting their new teachers and friends, some children begin to realise this thing called education is going to take up a significant amount of their time!

Parents can assist by modelling positive coping strategies, having a growth mindset and acknowledging how their children are feeling. Your connection with your child is the most important support you can give!

For any little ones (or even big ones!) struggling with separation as they go back to school after the holidays, here are three simple little tips which really can be so effective in supporting emotional connection:

(Thank you to Dr Mary O'Kane for these strategies)



Matching Love Hearts:

Draw a little heart on your wrist, and a matching one on theirs. If they are missing you during the day, or just feel the need to connect with you, they put their fingers on the little heart. They will feel their pulse, like a reassuring heartbeat, when they touch their wrist. Let them know that you will press your love heart if you are missing them. You can also add a spray of your perfume or aftershave to their wrist, as another little connection to you.

Pebble in my Pocket:

Find two very similar pebbles, gem-stones or crystals. You keep one in your pocket and the child keeps the other in their pocket. Tell them that any time they feel a little nervous or are missing you they give their pebble a little squeeze. It is a very concrete reminder of their connection to you.



Worries in My Pocket:

Talk to your child about any worries they have about school. Write the worries down on pieces of paper or use little worry dolls. Tell your child you are going to carry their worries for the day or overnight, so they don't have to carry them alone. This can really help to ease any fears they may have.

Please find attached an article about emotional connections- how to build on your emotional connection with your children and ways to give emotional feedback.

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

SFX Yr 3-6 Athletics Day This year we will be conducting our Year 3-6 Athletics Day on Friday Feb 17 at Llanberris Athletics Reserve. More information will be presented shortly via PAM.

District Swimming Nominations are now being taken for Yr 4 - 6 students wishing to compete in the District Swimming Carnival in Week 5 at Eureka Swimming Pool. Please refer to the notice sent on PAM or see me for more information.

After School Sporting Schools program This term we are fortunate to be offering via funding from Sporting Schools 2 outstanding programs. For 6 Monday's we have volleyball, and for 6 Thursday's we have basketball. These programs are free but are limited to 30 places in each program. A notice to register interest has been sent via PAM. Please note that registering interest does not guarantee a place in the program.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 1:

- Week 4 - Wednesday Feb 15th - 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

KELLY SPORTS TERM 1 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Wednesdays 3:25pm-4:55pm @ St Francis Xavier PS

Multi-Sports Program (Tennis, Cricket, Basketball, Soccer & Kids' Choice!)

10 Week program

Starting Wed 1st Feb

Concluding Wed 5th April

Boys & Girls, Preps to Grade 6

\$220 + GST for the 10 week program

Enrol: www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Queries: Please call Dom 0417 967 621

P&F News

SFX Parents and Friends Committee Update We are pleased to welcome existing and new members to be part of our Parents and Friends Committee for the 2023 school year. We will be holding our first meeting this **Thursday the 9th of February in the school staff room at 6pm.**

Being part of this committee is not only a great way to meet staff and other parents, but it also allows you the opportunity to be part of the school's vision for the future. 2023 marks the beginning of a new executive committee which includes Steph Nunn as President, Alison Williams as Vice-President, Kathryn Brennan as Treasurer and Lana McKay as Secretary.

We also take this opportunity to say a huge well done and thankyou to the outgoing committee, Ange Staley, Gabrielle Howley, Carolyn Ward and Brianna Burbidge. What an amazing job you have all done, we are so grateful for what you have achieved for our school.

Zooper Doopers for sale on Mondays. 50 cents each, pay weekly.

Please see below a link to sign up to help with Zooper Doopers on a Monday. Your help is really appreciated!

<https://signup.com/go/LSiymVV>

Please be aware that you will need a current Working With Children Check to be a helper. Thank you.

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Save the date for Mix + Mingle

24
March

Lock in your babysitter and enjoy a night out meeting the
SFX teachers and parents.

Friday March 24th at Oscar's (in the Atrium)
More details to follow.

Friday Lunch Orders are Back – Friday 3rd February

The P + F committee are pleased to announce that Golden Nugget and Wilsons Fruit and Veg, will be back as our suppliers for lunch orders this term.

When our good friends at Stewarts Bakery re-open, we will revert back to them as our main supplier for pastries, rolls and donuts. We continue to wish them all the best with their re-build.

Please don't forget to place your child's lunch order prior to 10am on a Thursday morning via the flexischools app. Unfortunately, no late orders can be accepted.

The P + F committee are continually on the lookout for volunteers to help pack orders each Friday. It would only be an hour of your time from 11-12ish, please sign up via the link below.

Thankyou in advance for your support.

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1266996607377888029/false#/invitation>





JOIN THE FUN!

Lake Wendouree Football Club

C.E Brown Reserve, Wendouree

Monday 24/4/2023 - 10/07/2023

5.00pm - 6.00pm

Brent Olszewski 0407 569 392

Register Via QR Code

A poster for a 'Twilight Meet & Greet' event. It features a green background with a white circular graphic on the left containing the text 'Childcare. Swimming. Kinder. One Location.' and a photo of a child in a blue swimsuit. The main title 'Twilight Meet & Greet' is in large white letters. Below it is the 'the Y | Learn and Swim' logo. The event details are in white text on an orange background at the bottom: 'Wednesday 15 February, 4:30pm - 6:30pm', '• Centre Tours • Meet the Educators and YLS Team', '• Sausage Sizzle • Fun and Free Activities', and '40 Water St, Brown Hill'.

Childcare.
Swimming.
Kinder.
One Location.

Twilight Meet & Greet

the Y | Learn and Swim

Wednesday 15 February, 4:30pm - 6:30pm
• Centre Tours • Meet the Educators and YLS Team
• Sausage Sizzle • Fun and Free Activities
40 Water St, Brown Hill

Website: ylearnandswim.org.au Phone: 4320 0850 Email: info@ylearnandswim.org.au