



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 21st July 2025
Term 3 Week 1

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Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21st Jul – Fri 19th Sep

Wednesday 23rd July

5.30pm P&F Meeting in staffroom. *All welcome.*

Thursday 24th July

Vic State Cross Country at Yarra Valley Racecourse (qualifying students from regional event)

Either 10.30am or 6pm
Compulsory Parent Meeting for 2025 Confirmation at St. Alipius church hall

Friday 25th July

9.30am Start of Term/ NAIDOC Week Mass in school gym. Traditional smoking ceremony on lower oval prior to Mass.

Mon 28th July – Fri 8th Aug
Silver Coin Challenge

Friday 1st August

GWR AFL football tournament at Wendouree (selected Yr 5/6 students)

2.40pm Assembly led by FLF

Friday 8th August

2.40pm Assembly led by 1GT

Monday 11th August

Years 3 and 4 Auslan incursion in Library

Friday 15th August

2.40pm Assembly led by 2MH

Catholic Primary Schools Athletics at Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3/4/5/6)

Monday 18th August

9am Book Week Assembly and Dress Up Parade

Friday 22nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL
Division Basketball at Selkirk Stadium (selected Yr 5/6 students)

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome back to a brand-new term, and the beginning of a new semester! There's much to look forward to over the next nine weeks as we continue to learn, grow, and thrive together here at St Francis Xavier.

We hope all families enjoyed a restful winter break. Our staff have certainly appreciated the time to recharge and are excited to reconnect with students for another busy and rewarding term.

As the winter chill sets in, it's a timely reminder to ensure students are dressed in their full winter uniform each day. Our SFX coats are ideal for keeping out the cold, and we appreciate your support in helping children arrive at school in the correct uniform—it really does make a big difference.

We're pleased to continue offering access to the paddock area for play during breaks. This spacious area at the rear of the school is perfect for ball games and imaginative outdoor play beneath the trees. To keep uniforms clean and dry, students will need to bring 'cover-up' clothes if they'd like to use this space. We encourage all children to take advantage of this wonderful area.

As always, please keep an eye out for the weekly newsletter, published every Monday. It's the best way to stay informed about what's happening in and around our school community.

Wishing everyone a fantastic start to Term Three.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



A Prayer for a New Term

Dear God, we thank you for this new school term. We ask for your guidance as we begin this journey. Grant us wisdom to learn and grow, courage to face challenges, and kindness to support one another. Bless our teachers, staff and classmates, and help us create a positive and enriching learning environment for all. Amen.



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Friday 29th August
2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)
- venue to be confirmed

First week in September
Father's Day Stall

Thursday 4th September
School Disco

Friday 5th September
Fathers' Day/Special
Friends' Liturgy

Thursday 11th September
Division Athletics at
Llanberris (qualified
students from Yr 3/4/5/6
from event in Week 4)

Friday 12th September
2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

Trivia Night
in the school gym

Tuesday 16th September
6pm Sacrament of
Confirmation at Damascus
College, Mt Clear

Friday 19th September
12.40pm Assembly led by
FBOK

Term 4 (11 weeks)
Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Friday 10th October
Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 17th October
2.40pm Assembly led by FTW

Friday 24th October
2.40pm Assembly led by 6MM

Friday 31st October
Junior Sports Day for all
Foundation-Year 2 students

Monday 3rd November
Pupil free day

Tuesday 4th November
Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday - Pupil free day

Friday 7th November
No Assembly

Friday 14th November
No Assembly

Friday 21st November
No Assembly

Mon 24th – Wed 26th Nov
Year 5 Camp

Thursday 18th December
Final 2025 day for students

Congratulations Alex!

While we enjoyed a break from classes over the past two weeks, Alex Ponsonby (Yr. 6PB) participated in an international Basketball competition in the United States of America! Alex has perfected his sport over many years and shows great promise as an elite sportsperson. Competitions spread from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and Anaheim and Alex was a valued member of the team, where he was also one of the youngest! We are very proud of you Alex. Well done!



News from our Staff

- We welcome Mr. Canny to our teaching team this term. Liam will be known to many in our school community as a dedicated Learning Support Officer over many years. Having gained his permission to teach, Liam will be working fulltime as a teacher in our school for the remainder of this year.
- We congratulate Ms. Gemma Johnson who represented the Ballarat Foundation in *Dancing with Our Stars* over the break. Gemma raised money to support the Ballarat community and we are very proud of her!
- We welcome back Mrs. Toohey after her honeymoon overseas last term. The children are delighted to have their classroom teacher back with them – and we are too!
- Congratulations to Tegan Moore who married Jayden Edwards over the holidays. We hope that your celebrations went well and that your life together may be blessed in many ways.

News from the Parents & Friends

Our Parents & Friends group has jumped into third term with delicious Hot Chocolates at first break today. Thanks to the team of volunteers for your support. Many hands make light work! We will be meeting at 5.30pm this Wednesday in the staffroom to plan the term ahead and as always, all members of our community are welcome attend. See you there!

Traffic Around School

When turning at the top of Fortune Street - please go to the 2nd group of trees, opposite the golf club (marked with a LARGE X).

Please go up to the cross in a single line and cross to come back down Fortune Street.

As a pedestrian, only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.

Please observe all 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.

Please use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules.

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THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday July 20, 2025 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

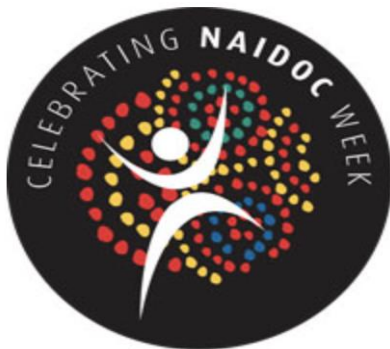
As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!

The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection: Jesus is welcomed into the house of a woman called Martha. Martha is busy with tasks- perhaps she is getting Jesus a drink, making him some food and making sure he has everything he needs. Martha is cross with Mary and wants Mary to do some of these jobs and help her. How does Jesus reply? Jesus tells Martha that Mary is doing the right thing by taking time to sit and listen to him.

What do you think this story teaches us about listening to Jesus? When should we be busy and when should we be quiet? Both are important in our lives, but we need to get Jesus is in everyone, even when we least expect him. Do you make time for other people when they want to talk to you? Do you make time to listen quietly in prayer? Or are you always busy, rushing from one activity to the next? Quiet time can help us to recognise Jesus in other people and to see how we can help each other. This week make some time for God. When you have made some time for God, then make some time for doing what God asks of us: treating all people with kindness, love and respect.

Our Challenge: How will you make time to listen to God this week? (Adapted from CAFOD)



School Term Three Mass

A warm invitation is extended to all our families, friends and parish members who would like to join us in celebrating our start of Term 3 and our NAIDOC Week celebrations with Eucharist.

We welcome our Parish Priest Father Justin Driscoll, who has kindly offered to celebrate this Mass with us and **Wadawurrung Traditional Owners** Aunty Joy and Jenna Oldaker. We will meet prior to Eucharist on the lower oval to join in a traditional smoking ceremony together.

Time: 9.30am Date: Friday July 25, 2025 Venue: St Francis Xavier School Gymnasium



Enrolment for Sacrament of Confirmation Reminder

For all baptised children in Year Three or older, there is a compulsory parish meeting on **Thursday July 24th** for the parents and caregivers of children making their Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

There are two meetings for you to choose from, either **10:30am or 6pm** at St Alipius Church. Children are not required to attend. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Natalie or Cathy at the Parish Office on 53326611.

Please also **save the date** for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be held on Tuesday September 16th at 6pm at Damascus College, Mount Clear.



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader
MHIPS Leader (Mental Health in Primary School Leader)

Semester One Reports on PAM

Your child's school report was released on PAM late last term. Thank you for taking the time to read it and discuss it with your child. These conversations help strengthen the Home-School partnership and support your child's learning journey with a strong team approach.



Upcoming Event Book Week 2025

Book Week is held annually at St Francis Xavier to celebrate reading and engage children in literature and to bring stories to life through play and costume. It's a great time to encourage the joy of reading through dress ups.

Please save the date and more information will follow soon. Book week begins Monday 18th August - Week 5. This year we'll be kicking off Book Week with our dress up day on Monday 18th August. Each year Book Week carries a new theme. The theme for this year is "Book an Adventure!" It's a special year, marking the 80th anniversary of Children's Book Week.

NAPLAN 2025

From the start of Term 3 Individual students' reports will be sent to schools from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority). Once they have arrived we will be distributing them to families who have children in Yrs 3 & 5.



Looking forward to a wonderful Term 3.

Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Teaching and Learning

Sport/Physical Education News

Welcome back to our wonderful students and families after a very well deserved halftime break. As usual, the third quarter is always busy and we look forward to another exciting term of opportunities for our students to participate in and represent our school in various sporting events.

State Cross Country

We wish our 4 students all the very best in this Thursday's State Cross Country Championships at the Yarra Valley Racecourse. Chloe W, Nellie C, Sam N & Lawrence W will be running proudly in their SFX singlet and giving their absolute best. We look forward to hearing hoe you all go.

Regional AFL

Due to the terrible weather conditions for the scheduled GWR AFL football tournament last term, the tournament has now been rescheduled to Friday August 1. Venue and game times remain the same.

2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 3:

- Week 1 - Thursday July 24 - Victorian State Cross County @ Yarra Valley Racecourse (qualifying students from Regional event)
- Week 2 - Friday August 1 - GWR AFL football tournament @ Wendouree (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 - Friday August 15 - Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3/4/5/6)
- Week 5 - Friday August 22 - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Friday August 29 - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) - TBC
- Week 8 - Thursday September 11 - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualified students from Yr 3/4/5/6 - from event in Wk 4)

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 Mr Down or Mr Carroll or drop them into the office.

Have a great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

P&F News

Hot Lunches

Please note, Flexischools have updated when you are placing your child's Lunch order, you are now able to select if your child has any allergies and it will print on your child's lunch bag label, we ask that you are selecting if they have any allergies as it makes it smoother process when it comes to packing lunch orders on a Friday. Also please note cut off for lunch orders is strictly 10am Thursday mornings.

Thank you to our Co-ordinators & Volunteers who come and pack all of the children's lunch orders on a Friday!

Hot Chocolates

First break every Monday Term 3

\$1.50 for a Hot Chocolate & Marshmallow

Thank you to our Volunteers this week – Please sign up to volunteer if you are able – we rely on Volunteers to be able to run this for the children

Uniform Shop

Did you know our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open? Please see the ladies in the office if you wish to look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of the P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs.

Did you know that all items in the Second Hand Uniform shop are \$5? With the exception of woollen jumpers and tunics, which are \$10.

We will be opening the Second Hand Uniform shop up again on a regular basis – starting term 3!

What to look forward to in term 3!!!

- **Silver Coin Challenge** – commencing NEXT WEEK!!!

Monday 28th July – Friday 8th August

How Silver coin challenge works - each class are provided a container, children can bring in coins throughout the 2 week period, the class (1 from each year level) who collects the most amount of money will then have a pizza lunch as their prize at a date selected by the school – thanks to Carboni's

- **Trivia Night** – here's one for the parents (and your friends) – definitely a night not to miss

Friday 12th September – in the school gym

Book your babysitter now, get your table together

More details to follow at the start of term 3!

We are also looking for prizes for our Silent Auction – if you would like to donate a prize/voucher that we can use for our Silent Auction, please contact Lisa on 0412 647 737 – or drop your donation into the office – we would really appreciate your support

- **School Disco** – the kids favourite night of the year!

Thursday 4th September

- **Father's Day Stall**

First week in September – some great gifts for dad!

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Basketball Ballarat – Term 3 Programs Now Open!

Basketball Ballarat offers a fun, safe, and inclusive environment for children to begin their basketball journey, starting as young as 2 years old. Our programs are designed to introduce kids to the game in a way that builds skills, confidence, and a lifelong love of sport.

Our Introduction to Basketball Programs:

- **Mini Miners** – For kindergarten-aged children (2–4 years)
- **Aussie Hoops** – For kids aged 4–11 years, perfect for beginners
- **All Abilities Hoops** – For children aged 5–18 years living with disability
- **Next Level** – For domestic players born 2012–2014, ready to take the next step

Registrations are now open for all community programs, with sessions kicking off the week of August 4th. Come and join the fun on court!

For more information and to register: [Community – Ballarat Basketball](#)

For further details please contact Ethan Fiegert via email development@ballaratbasketball.com or call reception on (03) 5338 1220

A promotional poster for Basketball Ballarat Term 3 programs. The background is a blue gradient with a photo of a female coach in a blue polo shirt with a 'MINERS' logo, talking to a group of children. One child in the foreground wears a black jersey with 'JAMES' and the number '23'. Another child wears a yellow jersey with 'JAM' and the number '6'. The text is in bold yellow and white. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

TERM 3

Mini Miners
(2-4 years old)

Ausse Hoops
(4-11 years old)

Holiday Camps
(5-14 years old)

All Abilities Hoops
(5-18 years old)

Next Level
(10-15 years old)

