



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

To Love, To Learn and To Serve
Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu

No. 15 Thursday 14th September, 2017

Tena koutou katoa.

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,

Yesterday, at the beginning of staff meeting, Mrs Hall shared with us the following reflection. I thought it was great, and later in the evening I shared it with the Board of Trustees.

Notes On An Unhurried Journey

When we adults think of children, there is a simple truth which we ignore; childhood is not preparation for life; childhood is life. A child isn't getting ready to live; a child is living. The child is constantly confronted with the nagging question: "What are you going to be?" Courageous would be the youngster who, looking the adult squarely in the face, would say, "I'm not going to be anything; I already am."

We adults would be shocked by such an insolent remark, for we have forgotten, if indeed we ever knew, that a child is an active participating and contributing member of society from the time he is born. Childhood isn't a time when he is moulded into a human who will then live life; he is a human who is living life. No child will miss the zest and joy of living unless these are denied him by adults who have convinced themselves that childhood is a period of preparation.

How much heartache we would save ourselves if we would recognize the child as a partner with adults in the process of living, rather than always viewing him as an apprentice. How much we would teach each other... adults with the experience and children with the freshness. How full both our lives could be.

A little child may not lead us, but at least we ought to discuss the trip with him; for, after all, life is his and her journey too.

Professor T. Ripaldi

At the PTFA evening recently, our guest speaker, Kathryn Burkett, spoke about the challenges that children face while growing up in the 21st Century.

Among other things, Kathryn explained that children don't understand what it is like to lose a game when it is all too easy to press a button and start again. By now we have all heard about the influence of technology and winning and losing games that are played on devices. Life isn't like that, and consequently this is yet another reason why children are less resilient and perhaps anxious. Sometimes we need to step back and stop ourselves from trying to solve their problems. We need to empower them to think for themselves, talk about a way that they can resolve an issue and give them the skills to deal with situations.

Children need to be able to make "safe" mistakes, fall over and pick themselves up. They need to develop skills to handle situations, including poor choices. This increases their tolerance and ability to cope with the challenges that they will face in life.

As Christians, we have a powerful tool at our disposal when life throws us its challenges, and this is prayer. As parents and teachers let's not forget to pray ourselves and encourage our children to do the same.



"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at this disposition, and listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts."

St Teresa of Calcutta

Craig McKernan - Principal

Address: 1 Percy Street, Whangarei 0112.

Phone: 09-4371039 Cellphone: 027 2784303 Email Office Manager: office@sfx.school.nz Website: sfx.school.nz

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At the moment our focus in Religious Education is on the God Strand.

Y1 FOCUS IS ON GOD IS CREATOR. God is the Creator of all that is 'seen and unseen'. Each person is God's unique creation made in love for love. We are each part of what God made and 'saw that it was good'. We are called to respect our dignity- *tapu* as persons made in God's image, the dignity of others and value all parts of creation. We are scared and Holy because we share in the *Tapu* of God. We are also called to respond with praise and worship of God.

Y2 FOCUS IS OUR GRACIOUS GOD. God is gracious – a great giver of gifts. The greatest of these gifts of love is Jesus who revealed that God is Abba- his loving Father- *Matua*, who is also our Father. Our response to God's gift of grace is to truly appreciate them and to live lives of gratitude.

Y3 & 4 FOCUS IS GOD IS PRESENT IN THE WORLD. God is present in the world in creation, and speaks to people through the scriptures especially when they are proclaimed in the Church. God is active through people who accept his gift of *grace* – *Mana Atua* and God's activity in the world is expressed through different cultures.

YR 5 & 6 FOCUS IS GOD IS FAITHFUL. God is always faithful –*pono*. This is one of the basic messages in the Scriptures. God calls people into a relationship sealed with a *covenant*. People may go back on their word and so awful things can happen, but God's love – *aroha* is constant. In the new *covenant* of Jesus, Christians are called to trust in God, and to build up God's *Kingdom or Reign- Te Rangatiratanga* on earth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK 10-16 SEPTEMBER 2016

This year the children will be looking at "Weaving bonds of belonging" "Knowing our neighbours." "I wish to insist that love always proves more powerful. Many people... are able to weave bonds of belonging and togetherness which convert overcrowding into an experience of community in which the walls of the ego are torn down and the barriers of selfishness overcome." Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*,

WHANAU/FAMILY MASS

Our next Family Mass will be on **Sunday 24 September** at 10am. Kowhai Whanau (Rooms 09, 10, 11 & 12) will be participating in the Mass. The invitation is for as many families as possible, to come and celebrate with Kauri Whanau at Mass. Even if your children does not belong to the whanau that is helping with the Mass please come along and support our whanau. We are all part of **one** family.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018.

Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Holy Communion. For baptised children who will be 8 years of age, or older by Easter 2018 (1st April). Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Office. The first session is on Sunday 17 September at 4pm in our Parish Hall. Enquiries to the Parish Office (09) 4377902.

MEDITATION AS AN 11TH STEP PRACTICE

An invitation to explore the possibility that Christian Meditation may meet a need in putting the 11th Step into practice as part of a 12 Step recovery programme from addiction. Come and listen to Linda Kaye, her story and experience of recovery and meditation practice. There will also be opportunity to experience a time of meditation and also time for answering any queries. This meeting will be in the staffroom at St Francis Xavier Catholic School, Tuesday 17 October 2017, 7pm-9pm. Any queries to Michael Dougherty (09) 4365663/md1@ihug.co.nz

Yours in Christ,

María Wilson DRS

Director of Religious Studies

VOLUNTEER



SWIMMING POOL

It's that time of year again when the pop-up pool needs to be put up ready for Term 4.

Can you help put up the Pool? Come along to a working bee on

**Saturday 23rd of September
at 8am.**

Many hands make light work!

Baptism Photos

There are beautiful photos from the July 30th and August 27th baptisms available to view at the school office.

There are two sizes available,
4x6 \$2.00ea or 5x7 \$4.50ea.

Orders can be made direct with the photographer, Vangie Killalea, who has left order envelopes at the school office.

CASH ONLY or
payment by arrangement with Vangie.

Many thanks to Vangie for her photography on those days.

Our Uniform

There has been a marked increase in children wearing non-uniform shoes to school.

Our uniform is flat, black polishable shoes - **not sneakers**.

Many children are wearing sports shoes to school and these are not part of our uniform.

If your child has a specific medical reason they cannot wear the regulation shoes then a note must be supplied.

If you need any support with the purchase of any items of school uniform then please see Mrs J or Mrs Rudolph in complete confidence.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

The Attendance Dues Sponsorship Scheme - has been created to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues, for students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

The purpose of the sponsorship scheme is to allow parents or caregivers facing financial hardship another option to seek relief where they may be reluctant to approach their school for help.

The existing financial hardship scheme – operated by your school – is also available to parents or caregivers facing hardship and we do encourage families facing financial difficulties to please contact your school Office Manager, Deborah Rudolph.

Application forms are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Schools Office Website: www.catholicschools.org.nz (go to Property and Finance / Finance / Attendance Dues)

If you have any queries or require assistance with the payment of attendance dues under the sponsorship scheme, you are invited to phone in confidence, Carol Krebs (Ph. 360 3069) at the Auckland Diocese office.

Applications to the sponsorship scheme for 2017 attendance dues will be accepted by the Auckland Common Fund Ltd up to **November 2017**.



PTFA Bi-Annual Raffle



Each family has been issued a book of five raffle tickets sent home with the eldest or only child at our school. If you haven't received your book yet please check with your child or the class teacher.

Tickets are \$5 each so \$25 for the whole book. **Cash only.**

Please hand money and ticket stubs into the school office. We can accept partly sold books also.

If you do not wish to buy/sell your tickets please hand your unsold books to the school office so they may be reissued.

First prize: \$2000 voucher for JD Jewellery

Second prize: \$1000 voucher for JD Jewellery

Third prize: \$500 voucher for JD Jewellery

We would like to thank Gail and the team at JD's very much for the generous prizes on offer this year.



School Photos



School Photo days are
Thursday the 14th and Friday the 15th of September.
Our photographer again this year is PhotoLife.

1. Class photos and individual portrait photos will be taken during the photo sitting on photo day.
2. Once individual and family photos are ready for viewing, PhotoLife will issue families with an online unique shoot key. Class photos are not made available for viewing.
3. Purchases can be made online with PhotoLife or you can pay by cheque to PhotoLife by completing an order envelope available at the school office **after** photo day.
NO CASH PAYMENTS.
4. Class and individual photos are expected to be taken today and tomorrow if not completed today. Family/Siblings portraits are expected to be taken tomorrow. Please complete a family/sibling portrait booking form at the school office **today** if you wish to have a family sitting tomorrow.

WPSSA Cross Country Results

Congratulations to all our runners who represented our school at the WPSSA Cross Country at Barge Park in beautiful conditions last Thursday. Our school did very well indeed! Many thanks to all our parents who assisted Mrs Bassett with the team.

Results:

8 year-old Boys

1st Luke Brooke-Smith
4th Taha McLean Saad
2nd overall in Team event

9 year-old Girls

19th Alex Walker

9 year-old Boys

1st Ben Hori-Elliott
13th Jacob Jackson
3rd overall in Team event

10 year-old Girls

2nd Paulyne Iamafana
7th Kate Nyssen
1st overall in Team event

10 year-old Boys

3rd Boston Himiona

All runners who finished in the top 15 will qualify to run at the Northland Champs on Friday 22nd September.







SCHOOL EVENTS

Dates and times for events are subject to change.
Please check this fortnightly newsletter for any changes.

SEPTEMBER

14-15		School Photo Days
15	1:30pm	School Assembly led by Kauri whanau
20		Turbo Touch with Hayley-Jade
20	7pm	PTFA Meeting in the school staffroom
22		Bring a Can Mufti Day (please bring a can of food instead of a gold coin donation)
22		Northland Cross Country Champs
26		Vision/Hearing testing
27		Sausage Sizzle \$2 ea - Please place order with the class teacher on the day
29	2:50pm	End of Term 3

OCTOBER

16	8.45am	School Starts - Term 4
20		SFX vs WPS Shield Challenge
31	7pm	BoT Meeting

NOVEMBER

29-1Dec		Yr 3-4 EOTC Days
---------	--	------------------

DECEMBER

4-6		Yr 6 Beach Education
5	7pm	BoT Meeting

Term Dates for 2017

Term Three:

24 July to 29 September

Term Four:

16 October to 15 December

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

8:45 – 10:25am	Morning session
10:25 – 10.50am	Morning tea
10.50am – 12:30pm	Mid-morning session
12:30 – 1:20pm	Lunch break
1:20pm – 2:50pm	Afternoon session

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CITY CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR REGISTRATION DAY

Registration Day is on Saturday 16 September from 10am – 12pm at the Indoor Centre at Cobham Oval. We are looking for keen boys and girls to join our club and play for the City Juniors for the coming season – up to Year 8. Professional coaching provided. Go into the draw to win Kookaburra Cricket Gear. Parent helpers welcome! Questions and further info please contact Marnie Reid, Junior Coordinator on 021 064 2444, marnie@bluelight.co.nz Follow us out on Facebook – City Cricket Club Whangarei for great parent tips. Website www.citycricketclub.co.nz

THE COLLECTIVE MARKETPLACE

Saturday 23rd September, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Forum North Exhibition Hall. Something for everyone!

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Led by local author Donna Blaber will be held at Whangarei Central Library this coming school holidays. Create New Ideas and Write Gripping Plots - Monday 9th October 2017; Travel Writing - Tuesday 10th July 2017. Workshops run from 9am-3pm daily and cost \$35 per day. Find out more at www.donnablaber.com/workshops

KIDS CLUB DRAMA

(ages 6-9yrs). WEDNESDAYS 4pm- 5pm. \$100 per term @ Northland Youth Theatre, [86 Bank Street](http://86BankStreet.com) www.nyt.org.nz ph: 4384453.

SWIM MAGIC WHANGAREI

To enquire about swimming lessons contact us on: (09) 4304072 or Email: wss@clmnz.co.nz

WHANGAREI SWIM CLUB LEARN TO SWIM

Toddler pool level and stroke development in competition pool, please contact Head LTS Coach Skip 4388222 for more details.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

HUANUI COLLEGE OCTOBER 2017 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

328 Ngunguru Road, Glenbervie

Years 5 – 7 (approx. age 9 – 12)

9am – 3pm cost is \$40 - \$50 per child per day

Science Fun, Horticulture & Agriculture, Food Chemistry, and Bush Craft Adventures

See our website for full programme details www.hc.school.nz or book via <http://bit.ly/2xTc5NF>

Phone: 09-459-1930

KIDS HOLIDAY SURF PROGRAMME

We're running our popular Holiday Surf Programme over the upcoming spring school holidays at Tutukaka & Taupo Bay for students aged 6-16 years old. Limited spaces so please email to book surf@oneillsurfacademy.co.nz or check out our website www.oneillsurfacademy.co.nz for more details.
