



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No. 19 Thursday 23rd November, 2017

Tena koutou katoa.

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,

With just four weeks until the end of Term 4, we are all starting to wonder how we will squeeze enough "to do tasks" in our days. Perhaps we need to listen to the words of William Penn "*In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step home within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God, and feel His good presence; this will carry you evenly through your day's business*".

Last week we were host to two reviewers from the Education Review Office. Their role is to look very closely at the school programmes, and hold us accountable for the achievement of students at our school.

The reviewers met with the Board of Trustees, pupils and some parents to discuss different aspects of our school. Teachers and the leadership team were also interviewed on several occasions. As you can imagine, it is an intense week but we were delighted with the very positive feedback that we received. The draft report will be sent to the school at the end of the term and the final report will be published in early 2018.

I would like to thank the school staff and Board of Trustees for their work and support during this time.

COMING EVENTS: There are a considerable number of events coming up during the next three weeks. Please read this newsletter and put the calendar somewhere safe where you can refer to it. You would be amazed at how many phone calls we get asking when a particular activity is scheduled.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES: Please remember to settle any outstanding fees that you have before the end of the school year. The Attendance Dues are a compulsory payment and will be followed up by members of the Diocese if they are not paid.

BOOK FAIR: What an amazing response we had to the Book Fair! A total of \$5000 was spent. By way of the rewards system the school receives \$1750 in rewards spending. In addition to this many parents took the opportunity to donate a book to the school library, which will increase our stock considerably. Thanks to teachers, PTFA and volunteers who helped make the Book Fair possible.



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

The Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance has been known by several names over the years. It was called confession when the emphasis was on people confessing their sins anonymously in private. It then became known as penance when the emphasis was on doing something to make up for what you had done wrong. Now it is more commonly known as reconciliation and it is celebrated mostly within the community. The emphasis is on recognising our need to change, admitting our failure to love God and people in our lives, asking for forgiveness, receiving absolution and making peace with each other.

Reconciliation

There will be reconciliation for the Years 4, 5 & 6 children tomorrow, **Friday 24th November** at 1:30pm. This is a lovely way in which we help the children prepare for Advent.

Advent

What is Advent?

Advent is the Church season just before Christmas. It is considered a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ, a time for conversion, anticipation, hope and thanksgiving. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest November 30th, the feast day of St Andrew the apostle. Since the start date changes yearly, so does the length of the Advent season. This year, Advent begins on December 3rd. The word Advent means “the coming” in Latin. Beginning as early as the fourth century, Advent has been a time of good cheer and spiritual reflection. It was originally a time when converts to Christianity readied themselves for baptism. Today, many Christian families have adopted the tradition of lighting the candles on an “Advent Wreath” and using the “Advent Calendar” to count down the days until Christmas. During this time the school will focus on Advent in their classes, where they will reflect on members of Jesus’ family.

Nativity

Please come and join us to celebrate our Christmas Nativity Play “Children of the World”. **Feel free to come along dressed in your national costume.** Bring your picnic baskets and a blanket on **Wednesday 6th December at 6pm,** on our school courts.

Please bring an item(s) of non-perishable food.

These will be given to St Vincent de Paul, to help make food baskets given out to those in our community who are in need. There will be other festivities such as our Kapa Haka and Choir. We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 6 Leavers Mass

Our Year Six Leavers Mass (which involves the whole school), will be on **Monday 11th December** in the church, starting at **9:00am.**

Final School Assembly

Our Final School Assembly (Year 6 Prize Giving), which the school attends, will be on **Thursday 14th December** in the church, commencing at **9:00am.**

Please keep checking the events timetable for dates of all school events.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS - Director of Religious Studies

Vatican City Wanderers vs Hacker's Heroes



The Vatican City Wanderers vs Hackers Heroes match was played today with Hackers Heroes winning for the second year in a row, Jacob Jackson scored the winning goal. A goal by Mr Hacker was disallowed due to too many players on the field.

A huge thank you to past student, Jackson West, who umpired the match. Jackson is a qualified Level 1 football umpire, a huge achievement.

Thank you to our staff, students and a few brave ring-ins. What a match!

CAN YOU HELP TAKE DOWN OUR POOL?

We have had a wonderful time with our pop up pool from the Poolz in Schoolz Trust. Can you spend an hour on

Saturday 9th December from 8am

to help bring it down and pack it away? We would be very grateful.

WE REALLY NEED HELPERS PLEASE.

Contact Mrs J glenys@sfx.school.nz or call us on 4371039 if you can help out.

Many thanks.

Mrs J and Mr Hacker

PhotoLife Shoot Keys

By now you should have received your secure photo shoot key. If not, please check with the classroom teacher.

Photos can be purchased online using the shoot key code provided. Please follow the instructions on the card.

How to view and purchase your photographs:

1. Go to www.photolife.co.nz
2. Click "Order Online"
3. Enter your secure Shoot Key Code (make sure you allow pop ups for the payment process).
4. Click "VIEW ALL" to see all the packages available of your child's photos.

If you do not have internet access or prefer not to use the Online Ordering System, please collect an ordering envelope from the school office that you may complete and post away with your preferred payment.

To qualify for free school delivery, ALL orders, online or postal, must be received by PhotoLife before midnight on Sunday 26th November 2017.

You may still purchase after this date but an additional delivery charge will be added.

ATHLETICS

There has been a date change and the WPS Athletics Champs are now scheduled to run on the **30th of November** not the 28th as previously timetabled. This has effected our team as some year 4 pupils have commitments for Outdoor Education and some year 6 pupils have their Pompallier Catholic College orientation day. We have been able to send a smaller team and results will be in the next newsletter.

ARRIVING AFTER 8.45AM

All children need to report to the school office if they arrive after school starts at 8.45am. Office staff will issue children with a late pass for the class teacher then electronically mark the child as present.

STUDENTS LEAVING DURING CLASS TIME

BEFORE COLLECTING YOUR CHILD: ALL parents and caregivers must report to the school office and collect a pass if you are collecting your child early or taking your child out briefly for an appointment. Please report back in at the office when your child returns after an appointment. If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child, who would NOT normally do so, please contact the school well in advance of their arrival otherwise we will need to call a parent/caregiver to verify this arrangement BEFORE releasing your child.

The Great St Francis Xavier Catholic School Book Amnesty

If you have any books, readers and library books etc. belonging to the school, please send them in as soon as possible. We are doing our annual stocktake and need all our resources in to do so. *Many Thanks.*



Northland Rescue Helicopter Book - Lima to the Rescue

If you missed out on supporting the Northland Rescue helicopter by buying a cool book about the adventures of Lima - the chopper, pop in and see Mrs J as she still has some to sell at \$10 per copy.

You can purchase this year's book and last year's book together for the special price of \$15.00. It's a great way to support the fine people who help keep us safe.

Everyone who buys a book will go into the draw to win a free trip on the helicopter simulator at Onerahi airport.

*We welcome Aidan Thorburn
who started in our school recently.*



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**.



SCHOOL EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER

24	1:30 – 2:30	Reconciliation Years 4-6
29 – 1 Dec		Year 3 and 4 Adventure Forest and Surfing
30		Athletic Champs
30		Year 6 Orientation at Pompallier Catholic College
30	5:30	Maori Graduation Evening

DECEMBER

1		Year 3 and 4 Adventure Forest and Surfing
4		Year 6 Beach Ed Trip
5		Year 6 Beach Ed Trip
5	7pm	BOT Meeting
6		Year 6 Beach Ed Trip
6	6pm	Nativity Family evening
7	9:30am	Postponement - Nativity only
9	8am	Pool to be disassembled – help needed – please see Mrs J
11	9am	Leavers Mass
12	11am	Kauri/Puriri Fun Day
12	1:30pm	Karaka/Rimu Fun Day
13	11am	Kowhai Fun Day
14	9am	Final Assembly and Senior Prize-giving
14		Reports Home
15		Christmas Carols
15		School finishes for Term 4

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

Term Dates for 2017

Term Four:

16 October to 15 December

Term Dates for 2018

Term One:

30 Jan to 13 April

Term Two:

30 April to 6 July

Term Three:

23 July to 28 Sept

Term Four:

15 Oct to 14 Dec

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CANCER SOCIETY

This year, Vitalise Whangarei have generously nominated Cancer Society Northland as their charity of choice and are going to make this as exciting as possible.

The Laneway will be shut to the public on the 9th of December, with live music on the stage from 9.30 am – 2.00 pm. There will be an **enormous sandpit** in front of Orrs Pharmacy and **Bumper Cars** for the older kids on James Street. **Kumarani Circus** will be on hand to teach kids some circus acts. However, it wouldn't be Christmas without **Santa**. Proceeds to go to helping Cancer patients and their whanau. What a great day to get some of that early Christmas shopping done and the whole family have fun ☺

RISING STARZ PRODUCTION

Rising Starz production of Beauty and the Beast will be showing between 8th-10th December at Whangarei Theatre Company's Riverbank Theatre on Reyburn House Lane.

There are four performances: Friday 8th 6pm; Saturday 9th 1pm & 6pm; Sunday 1pm

Tickets are \$15 Adult and \$8 Student and are available through our website: <https://risingstarznz.wixsite.com/mysite> Facebook: Rising Starz Whangarei. Email: risingstarznz@gmail.com

SEEKING TALENTED WHANGAREI CHILDREN

Next year for Children's Day we are hoping that the entertainment could be provided by children. So we are looking for talented youngsters who would like to perform at Children's Day in 2018.

Individuals, duets, or small groups, would be ideal. If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact: Hayley Browne, Phone 0272120377 or 09 4302242. Email

hayley.browne@barnardos.org.nz

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

FREE SUMMER HOLIDAY SURF PROGRAMME

Surfing Tutukaka Coast | Free for 11-17 yrs old. FUN, ACTIVE & HEALTHY.

18-22 Dec | 1-5 Jan | 8-12 Jan | 15-19 Jan. Limited spaces, please email to book

surf@oneillsurfacademy.co.nz

www.oneillsurfacademy.co.nz
