



# St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No. 1, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

*Tena koutou katoa.* Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,

It's wonderful to be back at school to see all of the children, teachers and parents again. The school looks great thanks to the hard work of Mr Hacker and the painters who have done a wonderful job of painting all of the roofs and some classrooms. The new colour scheme is refreshing and has certainly given us all a lift.

During the holidays we were made aware of a number of families that lost loved ones or experienced hardships and difficulties. Our prayers and thoughts are extended to all of you.

Pope Francis has announced that during 2016 the Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. The Year of Mercy is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. Pope Francis has told us that the Holy Door is now open and he is encouraging young people to take a part in this celebration.

At St Francis Xavier Catholic School we too opened the door yesterday with a powhiri to welcome all of our new pupils and their families. We thank the parents of these children for choosing our school and for their confidence in our ability to provide learning opportunities and experiences that are going to help their children grow spiritually, physically, socially and academically.

If you haven't had time to call into school yet then we hope to see you in the near future!

*Craig McKernan – Principal*

## Term Dates for 2016

Term One: Wednesday 3 February to Friday 15 April

Term Two: Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July

Term Three: Monday 25 July to Friday 23 September

Term Four: Monday 10 October to Friday 16 December



## **NEW SCHOOL TIMETABLE THIS YEAR**

After some discussion and research we have decided to trial a new timetable for this year. The day will start and finish at the same time as normal, but teaching and learning blocks will be slightly different. We have decided to "tweak" our existing timetable to get the most out of optimum learning times.

The children will need plenty of nourishing morning tea and lunch items to sustain them through the busy days. Remember, water only in drink bottles, no lollies at school. We will be looking at "Hauora-Healthy Me" this term and the children will be learning about the best lunch box choices. It would be great if they could share this learning at home.

## **New Timetable**

Start day: 8:45 - 10:30

First Break: 10:30 - 11:00

Middle Block 11:00 - 12:45

Lunch 12:45 - 1:30

Last block 1:30 - 2:50



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# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome back! It is great to see the children return from their holidays and eager to start the new school year.

## OUR SCHOOL CHARISM

The Charism of our school is the missionary zeal of both Saint Francis Xavier, our school patron saint, and St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) who carried the Word of God to distant lands.

St Francis Xavier, a 'Man of God', had the passion and energy to proclaim the gospel of Christ to all people. He had a unique desire to evangelise and worked tirelessly for others.

It is the faith and life example of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), who founded the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The main principles of her Order arose from her respect for human dignity.

St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop's) Charism is a gift of the spirit which is characterised by:

- Listening to God's call.
- Making room for all.
- Having an attitude of gratitude.
- Doing your bit.

The school community, take on the responsibility of following the examples of St Francis Xavier and St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop).

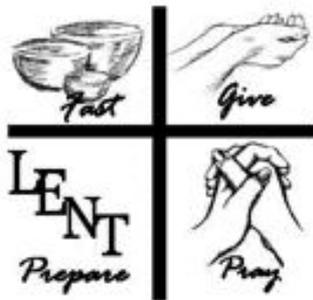
## STUDENT BOOKS

Your child's Religious Education books will be coming home quite regularly. Please ensure they are **returned to school the next day** as they will be required for class.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a Mass, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am in the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ash  
Wednesday 



## LENT

Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday) is a time for renewal and preparing for Easter. The children will be discussing the season of Lent and talking about Lenten promises. A good way to remind your child(ren) about these Lenten discussions is to ask them questions about it.

Please keep all those involved in the sacramental programmes in your prayers.

## BLESSING MASS

We will be having a Mass for people who are involved in schools e.g. teachers, Board of Trustees, support staff, teacher-aides etc. on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. It is a blessing Mass for the year ahead. If you are able to, please come and celebrate with us.

## PASTORAL CARE BASKET

Our Pastoral Care basket is situated underneath the statue of Mary, in the school office area. Non-perishable food items placed in this basket go to families in our community who need support.

May our loving God continue to bless and guide you throughout the year.

Yours in Christ

María Russo

DRS – Director of Religious Studies

## ARRIVING LATE

We are expecting a large number of students to arrive late due to the impending roading detours and road works in our vicinity.

To ensure our students safety, ALL children need to report to the school office if they arrive after school begins, and collect a late pass.

## STUDENTS LEAVING DURING CLASS TIME

If you are collecting your child early for an appointment and returning them to school afterwards, parents/caregivers must report to the school office and obtain an Early Exit pass for the class teacher.

Thank you for keeping our students safe.

## FROM OUR FAMILY WORKER

To all our families, a warm welcome to our school community this year. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and are ready to face the challenges that this new year may bring. Remember I am here to offer support if any of you need assistance in any way throughout the year. I can be contacted on 0274714120 or [liz@sfx.school.nz](mailto:liz@sfx.school.nz).

### SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

I have a good supply of summer second-hand polo shirts and polar fleeces in all sizes but have no girls' tunics nor boys' shorts in the smaller sizes. I also have some sandals in a variety of sizes. If you have any uniform items that you wish to donate to the school then they would be gratefully accepted. Money donated to the office for the second-hand uniforms is used for the pastoral care needs of families in the school. Please remember to name all your uniform items. Wishing you all every blessing for the year.

*Liz Beazley*

## NEW P.E. T-SHIRT

We have a new PE t-shirt as part of our school uniform. This t-shirt is a much more flattering design, it dries quickly and incorporates our colours of navy and teal. It will be available for the 2016 school year at Bethells in The Strand Arcade in town and Northland Schoolwear in Kamo. Families do not need to purchase the new t-shirt until children have grown out of the old ones! If you would like to see the new t-shirt, pop in and see Mrs J. *All other uniform components will remain the same.*



## PTFA NEWS

Hello everyone and welcome back to a wonderful year.

We hope that you all had a fantastic time with friends and family over the holidays and that you feel rested and ready to start another school year.

We have the first gala meeting coming up on Wednesday the 10th February at 7pm. Please join us and get informed on how we can all make this a successful event.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Clare Brooke-Smith

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Luke has been away to Auckland representing Whangarei at the Auckland region BMX Championships and the Oceana Continental Championships. He came away with both titles and is now the Number 1 in Northland, and Auckland Region, our National Number 1, and also the Oceana Continental Champion. We are very proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing him grow this year.





# SCHOOL EVENTS Term 1, 2016

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

## NEW SCHOOL TIMETABLE

<b>8:45 – 10:30am</b>	<b>Morning session</b>
<b>10:30 – 11am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>11am – 12:45pm</b>	<b>Mid-morning session</b>
<b>12:45 – 1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch time</b>
<b>1:30pm – 2:50pm</b>	<b>Afternoon session</b>

## FEBRUARY

3	8:45am	Term 1 Begins
	9am	Powhiri – we welcome new students and staff
<b>8</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAY (WAITANGI CELEBRATIONS)</b>	
9	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6
		<b>R13 - 8:45, R10 - 9:15, R1 - 9:45, R20 - 10:15, R19 - 10:45, R16 - 11:15</b>
10	9am	ASH Wednesday MASS
10	7pm	Gala Meeting, PTFA meeting to follow afterwards
12	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
15		Vision Hearing Testing for New Entrants (not previously tested)
16	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
16	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
19	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
23	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
24	7pm	Gala Meeting, PTFA meeting to follow afterwards
26	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
26		Student Summary to be sent home
29		Yr 5/6 Waitangi visits all week

## MARCH

1	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
1	1:30pm – 6pm	Parent Interviews
2	1:30pm – 6pm	Parent Interviews
4	8:45am	Swimming Yr 5/6 (see above for bus times)
	1:30pm	Full school assembly – Puriri whanau leading (Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4)
7		Life Education Week
14		Life Education Week
16	1.30pm	Reconciliation Yr 5/6
<b>19</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>GALA DAY</b>
21	7pm	Keeping Ourselves Safe Meeting for Parents
22	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
24	TBA	Easter Re-enactment – All School
<b>25</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>EASTER TUESDAY</b>
30-Apr 1		Keeping Ourselves Safe with Constable Toni

## APRIL

4-8		Keeping Ourselves Safe with Constable Toni
5-7		Yr 1-4 Tri Kids with Murray Healey
8	1:30pm	Full school assembly – Rimu whanau leading (Rooms 11, 12, 13, 14)
11-15		Keeping Ourselves Safe with Constable Toni
15	1.30pm	ANZAC Liturgy
15	2:50pm	Term 1 ends

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## \* ACTIVE ATTITUDE

We offer after school gymnastics tuition for Term 1 now. Please contact our Administrator on 9454876 or email [admin@activeattitude.co.nz](mailto:admin@activeattitude.co.nz) for further information.

## \* CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME FOR EASTER

This programme is for Catholics who have drifted away from the Church and are interested in taking another look at the Church as it is today.

Programme starts 7pm 15th February in the Hospitality Area of the Church.

Enquiries to Parish Office Phone 437-7902

## \* DANCE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN

Individual sessions available with Dance therapist/Physiotherapist. Dance therapy is a movement based psychotherapy that can support child development and learning, processing disorders and children on the autistic spectrum. For enquires contact Jan McConnell ph 4353303 or 021598114, email: [lifemovescreativetherapy@gmail.com](mailto:lifemovescreativetherapy@gmail.com)

## \* GARAGE ART

After school art classes starting again Term 1, 2016.

Tues and Thurs 3.30pm -5.00pm

Please phone Sharlene Crawford 021459002 or 4595691.

## \* GUITAR LESSONS

Hello, my name is David Meredith. I have been a guitar teacher at St. Francis for several years. I have really enjoyed teaching the guitar, and some of my pupils have progressed quite significantly. I would like to offer my services to this school again during 2016. If you would like your child to learn guitar this year, please contact me on 4343459 or 0273832633, or you can e-mail me at [caramellow@xtra.co.nz](mailto:caramellow@xtra.co.nz).

## \* KIDS CREATIVE MOVEMENT 4-7YRS

Classes develop creativity, co-ordination and self-esteem to support learning and brain/body integration via dance activities, movement stories and improvisation.

**WHERE:** 116A Bank St

**WHEN:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – 28<sup>th</sup> March 3.30-4.15pm \$10 per session \$60 per term. For enquires and enrollments contact Jan McConnell ph 4353303 or 021598114, email: [lifemovescreativetherapy@gmail.com](mailto:lifemovescreativetherapy@gmail.com)

## \* MARIST NETBALL

The netball season is about to start again. We had a great season last year and the girls really developed their skills and had a lot of fun.

Fees are likely to be around \$90.00 (to be confirmed). The netball season starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. So if you would like to play netball this season please complete a registration form which is available at the school office and needs to be completed as soon as possible.

We are desperate for coaches and managers of each team. Parents **\*we need your help\*** if we are to continue running netball for your children. If you are interested please indicate on the registration form and Pamela Butler 0275983222 (Marist Junior Co-ordinator) will make contact with you. Are you interested in sponsoring a Marist netball team? If so that would be fantastic too and certainly be appreciated. Again this can be noted on the registration form.

## \* RESPITE CARERS WANTED Whangarei Barnardos

Barnardos need people, single/couples and families to provide respite care for children of all ages. As a respite carer you will provide a safe supportive home for a child to give them a holiday /time out from family stress, usually for only a few days.

We will provide training, support; resources and financial reimbursement. Please talk to your family, friends and colleagues about this rewarding opportunity, and give me a call at Barnardos.

Fae Allen

Foster Parent Co-ordinator

[fae.allen@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:fae.allen@barnardos.org.nz)

Phone: 09 95560813

Mobile: 0274 080 408

# SORE THROATS

can break a heart!

## Preventing Rheumatic Fever

Kensington and Otaika Pharmacy Whangarei are offering a free sore throat swabbing programme for children and young people aged 4-19 years and for other eligible members of their Whanau (aged 3-35years)

Free sore throat assessment and treatment is available for those at high risk of Rheumatic Fever:

- Maori and Pacific Island children aged 4-19years
- Families/whanau with a history of Rheumatic Fever
- Families/whanau living in crowded homes

If your child or young person (aged between 4-19 years) has a sore throat visit

Kensington or Otaika Pharmacy Whangarei for a **FREE** sore throat check.

# LUNCH ORDERS

The LunchboxClub and Lunchonline have combined their operations to look after our current school lunch program.

Each registered member should have received personal emails from the new co-ordinator regarding your account.

Lunch orders are not available this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, but will be available each Friday from next week onwards. There is no change to our current food supplier, Regency Pies.



Parents, caregivers and students can order school lunches on Fridays using Lunchonline via the internet. **Regency Pies** have joined our lunch programme to provide your student's food choices fresh to the school in time for lunch.

It is simple all you need to do is visit

[www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz)

4 easy steps to placing your first order:

- Register an account (set up new account)
- Add member(s) (set up your child; school & classroom)
- Make payment (so you have funds in your account)
- Place an order

So register online and link to **St Francis Xavier Catholic School**

Once you have made a payment (credit card or internet banking) then you are set to order from the menu provided – healthy and treat options available.

This lunch service is available starting 12th Feb.