

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School

*"To Love, To Learn and To Serve."
"Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu."*

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No.3 Thursday 5th March 2015

Tena koutou katoa. Good afternoon parents, caregivers and members of our school community.

In preparation for a reflection that I am required to do later this week, Mrs Douglas shared with me an article in the May 2014 edition of the Time magazine. The article, written by President Obama, talks about the Pope's leadership and the influence that he continues to have on people all over the world.

President Obama states, "Rare is the leader who makes us want to be better people. Pope Francis is such a leader. His Holiness has moved us with his message of inclusion, especially for the poor, the marginalised and the outcast. But it has been his deeds, his bearing, the gestures at once simple and profound – embracing the sick, washing the feet of young prisoners – that have inspired us all. Pope Francis reminds us in ways that words alone cannot, that no matter our station in life, we are bound by moral obligations to one another."

Lent is a time of fasting, moderation and self-denial. It is a time when we can reflect on the words of Pope Francis and unselfishly make a difference in our lives and in the lives of others.

GALA DAY: Time is ticking along and Gala Day is fast approaching. The Gala organising committee is, once again, doing a fabulous job and the positive collaboration and professional approach by the team has been great. What a pleasure it is to work with such positive and enthusiastic people.

We would dearly, and desperately, like other members of our parent community, particularly those with children in Years 1-3, to join the team and learn from a mentor so that the gala day is sustainable into the future.

If you have observed the new building work going on at school, it is not hard to see the positive impact that some of the Gala proceeds have actually made.

The Gala newsletters are a great place to start. Have a good read of them, consider how you could help and offer your support so that your children can benefit from the proceeds. It will be a great day!!

SYNOD ON MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY: Francis has convened an extra Synod next year and our Bishops have asked our Catholic community to participate in an online survey "Synod on Marriage and the Family".

Pope Francis invites us to focus on married life and also those relationships that are not within the bond of marriage. A questionnaire has been sent to all Catholic communities across the globe. Please take a few moments to complete it as your voice really does matter.

Please encourage family members and friends to participate, particularly those who see themselves as beyond the Church. Everyone is urged to share their experiences through the questionnaire.

To access the questionnaire online visit www.catholic.org.nz and follow the instructions from there.

CARPARK:

Please be patient in the Church car park. We are doing our utmost to keep your children safe. Please follow these steps:

1. When you arrive at the car park please park your vehicle in a vacant car park and then walk across the crossing to pick up your child.
2. If there are no car park places then obviously you will need to line up, alongside the Parish hall.
3. If a vacant park does come up, then we would appreciate it if you moved your vehicle into the car park. This helps ease the congestion on Park Avenue.
4. Please do not walk your child through the traffic islands.

We appreciate that the car park can become congested but your tolerance and understanding is essential. Our teaching staff do their very best to supervise your children, it is not mandatory that they do so, it is a service we provide to keep your child safe. There would be very few businesses in town that could vacate 460 people in 15 minutes and have their staff usher people into their vehicles.

We are fortunate to have a car park facility, it is not ours but the Catholic Parish's and we need to respect it.

Craig McKernan **Principal**

Religious Education

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

Y1 focus is on Jesus My Friend. Catholic belief is that Jesus of Nazareth, called Christ, is both human and divine. As a human being Jesus was born into a particular society and culture. To properly appreciate his message we need some understanding of these realities of Jesus' life. In learning of Jesus' friendship with his disciples we can come to appreciate his calling us into friendship with him today.

Y2 focus is Jesus showed His love in different ways. Jesus showed his respect and love for the tapu (sacredness) of people in different ways talking, listening, sharing meals, healing and eventually dying for them. We are called to follow Jesus' example. Our best resource for this is the stories of Jesus in the Bible.

Y3 focus is Jesus gives Himself in the Eucharist. The best way of giving thanks to God is joining with Christ's gift of himself in the Eucharist. The Eucharist helps people to grow in holiness and grace – tapu and mana as they recognise Christ's presence in the gathering of his people and in the proclamation of the Word. Above all, they recognise Christ's presence, in the transformed bread and wine. Which have become 'in a way surpassing understanding', his Body and Blood.

Y4 focus is Jesus came to show people how to live and lead them to God. Jesus invites people to grow closer to God by sharing in his life through the gift of God's grace. By accepting this invitation Christians share in Jesus' mission of worshipping God, and bringing about the Kingdom of God, 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

Yr 5&6 focus is The Life of Jesus. Catholic belief is that Jesus of Nazareth, called Christ, is both human and divine. As a human being Jesus was born into a particular society and culture, and lived in a certain geographical location at a precise time in history. To appreciate properly Jesus' message we need some understanding of these realities of his life. We gain this understanding mainly through study of, and reflection on the Scriptures.

FAITH FACT

What does the word "Catholic" mean? Catholic means "universal" or "general" and it was applied to the Christian faith believed 'everywhere, always and by all'. St Ignatius of Antioch first used the word around 35 AD.

It was used to distinguish true believers from false ones (known as heretics).

FAITH FACT

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is one of the two Penitential seasons of the year. It starts with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days, finishing in Holy Week.

It is a time for fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Lent is an opportunity for people to reflect on their lives and identify what they need to change. It is a season of preparation for the feast of Jesus' Resurrection which is the greatest feast in the Church's calendar.

Student Books

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

Yours in Christ

Maria Russo (DRS – Director of Religious Studies)

Welcome to these students who started at school this week.

Angeline Littin, Isaac Wren, Levin Shaji, Kevin Shaji, Taylor Thomsen, Athalia Saunders and Callum Perry.



MEET THE TEACHER – PARENT INTERVIEWS

Our code for this session is D66K5.

Parents and Caregivers are invited to come and meet their child/ren's teacher on Wed 11th or Thurs 12th March. Interview times can be booked online from tomorrow at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code Just follow the prompts. Interviews will be 15 minutes each. If you have any problems logging on, or you do not have access to the internet, contact the school office and we will make an online appointment for you.

Children may be collected early from school at 1.20 pm on interview days.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Annual School Fee Statements will be posted out this week and included in this letter will be a copy of your contact details we currently hold. If any of those details are incorrect, please contact the school office to update them. By having your correct details it ensures we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

FAMILY WORKER NEWS

Families New to the School

There will be a cup of tea/coffee in the Staffroom on March 25th from 9:00am -10:00am for families new to the school this year. This is an opportunity for you to meet other families in the school community and to hear of up and coming events. There is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have concerning the school. All welcome.

Uniforms

I have a good supply of second-hand uniforms available for those who require them. Donations for the uniforms can be left at the school office.

Child Sponsorship

In the last newsletter I mentioned Variety, the Children's Sponsorship Programme.

If you would like to know more about it or think that you would like to apply, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0274714120 or call into my office to see me.

Liz Beazley (Family Worker)

SPORTS NEWS

School Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all our Year 5 and 6 (and a small number of year 4's) who took part in the swimming sports at Pompallier Catholic College last Monday.

It was a wonderful morning and it was great to see so many children having a go.

A big thank you to all the parents who helped out with time keeping, life guarding, marshalling and results recording. We couldn't do it without you!

The following children swam well enough to represent our school at the WPSSA swim champs at Whangarei Intermediate on Tuesday 10th March. They will receive a letter with details of the day.

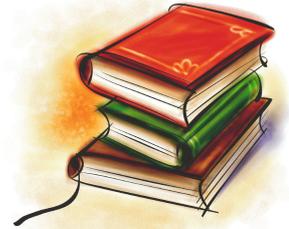
Swim Team: Lily Woodgate, Heidi McGregor, Sophia Ross, Nahuel Racioppi, Nico Healey, Malachi Flower, Mia Diamond, Danae Segessenmann, Maia Lapointe, Jordyn Chapman, Max Diamond, Logan Webb, Peppa Pooley, Natalie Sayes, Abby McInerney, Keisha Morris, Emma Golightly, Josh Werder, Nathan Salmon, Angus Cook, Jayden Himiona, Reuben Crum.

Good luck to our fabulous swimmers!



BOOK AMNESTY

We still have a large number of readers, school journals and library books missing after our stocktake. These resources are essential to our learning programme. Please search around at home, in school bags or book bags for any school books that might be hidden away. Send them to school or drop them into the school office – no questions asked.



ROCKS FOR GARDEN EDGING

We are looking for a very large quantity of rocks suitable for garden edging, to be used in the landscaping of our school grounds. All rocks of the same type would be preferable. Please contact Shaun Hacker, our caretaker, if you can help us out.

ENVIRO NEWS



This week is "Seaweek." It runs from 28th February to the 8th March. There are many ways families can get involved in this annual event. As guardians (Kaitiaki) of God's creation, it is a great way to do our bit and help look after our local coastal areas.

Please visit seaweek.org.nz for more information and activities.

Thanks,
Mrs Douglas and the Enviro. Team

SWIMMING FOR ROOMS 1, 16, 18, 20 BEGINS NEXT WEEK

A reminder that swimming lessons begin for the above rooms on Tuesday 10th March. Please ensure your child has their swimming gear each swim day. A separate notice has already gone home for these classes so check with your child if you have not received one.

Supporting success
in your school.

For every new ASB home loan over \$150,000 taken out before 30 June 2015, ASB will donate:

\$500 cash to participating schools.

Download the voucher from
asb.co.nz/schoolbanking
Terms and conditions apply,
offer ends 30 June 2015.





School Events for this Coming Fortnight

* Swimming – Rms 10, 13, 14, 15, 19		Friday 6 th March
* Swimming – Rms 1, 16, 18, 20		Tuesday 10 th March
* WPSSA Swim Champs at Whangarei Intermediate		Tuesday 10 th March (pp Thur 12 th March)
* Meet the Teacher, Parent Interviews from 1.30pm		Wednesday 11 th and Thursday 12 th March
Children may be collected early from school at 1.20pm on interview days		
* Swimming – Rms 1, 16, 18, 20		Friday 13 th March
* Swimming – Rms 1, 16, 18, 20		Tuesday 17 th March
* BOT Meeting	7pm	Tuesday 17 th March
* Swimming – Rms 1, 16, 18, 20		Friday 20 th March
* Full School Assembly – Kauri Whanau	1.30pm	Friday 20 th March
* SCHOOL GALA		Saturday 21st March

SCHOOL STARTS 8:45am

INTERVAL 10:15-10.35

LUNCH 12:30-1.20pm

SCHOOL FINISHES 2.50pm

Keep Saturday 21st March free for our School Gala

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMPETITIVE AEROBIC GYMNASTICS

A new sport for Northland. If your daughter enjoys gymnastics, dance and fitness, this could be the ideal sport for her. Classes start this term in Whangarei at the Pipe Band Hall (Morningside) for ages 8+. Please contact Ashleigh for further information (09) 945 4876 or 0211457636, email: ashleigh@activeattitude.co.nz

GUITAR LESSONS

Hello, my name is David Meredith. I have been a guitar teacher offering lessons for St Francis Xavier Catholic School students 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 2015. If you would like your child to learn the guitar this year, please contact me on 4343459 or 0273832633, or you can email me at caramellow@xtra.co.nz

INTERESTED IN LEARNING BASIC IRISH?

Qualified Irish Teacher available for lessons. Call Mercy on 022 358 1571.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE

Sacred Heart College are having an Open Day on Wednesday 11th March. The Endeavour Scholarship Programme Applications are open to Catholic Maori and Pasifika boys for Year 7 and 9, for 2016. Check out their website www.sacredheart.school.nz or email enrolments@sacredheart.school.nz for more details.

JUST DANCE WHANGAREI

Where children learn to dance and build confidence in a supportive, positive environment. We offer NZAMD Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Contemporary at a range of levels. Contact Carla on 021 0235 7440 or visit our website, www.justdancwhangarei.biz

DANCE INC NORTHLAND

Dance Inc Northland, Whangarei's only Royal Academy of Dance Ballet school, is offering classes in our new Kamo studio. Studio is at 7A 3/4 Grant Street Kamo, in the newly renovated Griffin Hall. All ages catered for in Ballet from 3 1/2 years and over. Jazz classes from 9yrs and Contemporary from 11yrs.

Tamason Thorley BA RAD RTS NZAMD, Kate Aukett AISTD, Adelle Wetere BA (Dance).

Please phone 4308806, visit www.danceincnorthland.co.nz or e-mail danceincnorthland@gmail.com