



# St Francis Xavier Catholic School



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

#1 Term 1, 5th February 2025

## Principal's Message

Kia ora, Hello, Malo e lelei, Talofa, Habari, Sawadee, Kia orana, Dia duit, Halo, Ma muka chini, Kumusta, Nǎn hǎo, Guten tag, Namaste, Ciao, Bula, Konnichiwa, Buongiorno, Goedendag, Annyeonghaseyo!



A warm welcome back to St Francis Xavier to all of our school community. I hope you have had a lovely time with family and friends over Christmas. A special welcome to all of our new families who join us this term. We know you will have an enriching and supportive experience at St Francis Xavier Catholic School.

This year we welcome Miss Lisa Boessenkool to our school as she embarks on her teaching journey. Lisa has a passion for music and working with young people and is very excited to be working at St Francis Xavier Catholic School.

Our teaching staff have been busy preparing classrooms and learning programmes for their students. Our support staff have all been busy preparing resources and organising our school systems for the start of the new year. Our caretaker has been busy ensuring our school grounds are looking great and ready for our students.

Our whole staff attended a Staff Hui on Creating a Culture of Care and Wellbeing on the 28th of January. It is a focus for our staff in 2025 and we will have more days to work on this throughout the year. Our teaching staff also attended a Teacher Only Day this year on Artificial Intelligence and how that can assist teaching and learning. This term there is also much professional development around the RE, Math and English curriculum. This will also be an ongoing focus for us in 2025.

This year we are very excited to be running a Tuakana Teina Time programme (TTT). This programme will be organised and run by four of our expert teachers, Mr Kini, Mrs Smith, Mrs Nakouzi and Mrs Procter. The programme will include a combination of sports, religious education, music, enviro and art that is designed to be delivered in ways to strengthen tuakana teina practice. This is a new initiative and it will enable the pooling of teacher talents to support whanau teams across the school. We will keep you posted as to how it is all going.

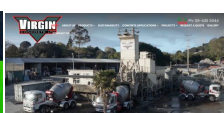
You may have noticed that our Holy Family statue has arrived and is now placed in a central point in our school. This has been a team effort to source, finance, transport and position the Holy Family statue and landscape the garden for it. We know this will be a great focus for families and visitors now and in the future, and a reminder that we are a proudly Catholic school. A huge "Thank You" to those who financially donated towards the costs of the statue, our supportive Board of Trustees and PTFA. A special shout out to the following individuals and companies for their time and expertise to position the 800kg statue and design a great garden worthy of it:

Rob Johnson, Pete Watts, Matthew Van den Bosch, Bernard Luiten, Jason from Kamo Plants, Leon Taylor from Grassroots Landscaping, Whau Valley Nurseries, Greenfingers Landscape Supplies and Matt from Virgin Concrete LTD.

We could not have done this without you!

St Francis Xavier Catholic School now has a beautiful icon for generations to come, to remind us of our mission, as a school whānau, to be welcoming and accepting of all, in this wonderful Northland, Catholic school.

We will have an official blessing at school for the statue, once the remainder of the garden is completed. We will keep you informed about that date.



A BIG THANK YOU to James from STIHL SHOP for his very generous donation of Bibles for our students. Again this is so appreciated. Special Character schools have limited funds and these kind acts really help us to ensure our student resources and environment stay well maintained.

2025 is the Year of Jubilee. Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment. Jubilees are designed to be a time of conversion and increased emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins. They are marked by the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. The Holy Doors, present in each of the four papal basilicas in Rome, are destination points for pilgrims who travel to Rome during a Jubilee and who pass through seeking special graces and outpourings of God's mercy. The last Ordinary Jubilee was the Great Jubilee of 2000, celebrated by Pope John Paul II.



Our staff blessing Mass for the beginning of the year is to be held on the 8th February at 6:00pm in the church. All welcome.

Nga mihi nui,  
Bernadette Hall -Principal



*We welcome all new students and their families to our school.  
We hope that you are enjoying your new school and community.*

Our new students are Mieke Allen, Mikha Anoop, Cecilia Antony, Aiden Bilumon, Miki Chavez, Aiden Chungathil, Daniel Craven, Rhaellerie Cruz, Rowan Davis, Maria Dinu, Campbell Forbes, Jhaira-Leen Fuentes, Nathaniel Geeno, Everly Hirst, Norah Jaison, Eva Jinu, Hannah Jinu, David Joseph, Nehemiah Joseph, Kawa Manahi, Fynn Morrison, Hugh Netzler, Oscar Peacey, Maddie Perkinson, Hannah Pereira, Grayson Roughan, Luca Russell-Roselt, Willow Sanford, Heleina Santos, Edrena Scaria, Conrad Schulte, Rohan Shibins, Anaya Shinoj, Fernanto Sojan, Luca Stanley, Zayn Thambi, Kevin Thomas, Kadmiel Torreliel, Luke Velvin, Ishan Verma, Samantha Villarma, Lochlan Watts, Chloe Willis, Marco Worner and Morgan Wright.

**If you are yet to purchase your child's stationery for this year, Office Products Depot have everything you need. You just need to let them know your child's teachers name and they will have the list/pack you need to purchase.**

**Remember all New Entrant stationery and Homework book bags are to be purchased at our school office.**

Get everything you need for  
**Back to School with**  
**Northland Office Products Depot**

WE ARE LOCAL! NZ owned & operated  
For Back to School 2025

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Has chosen your local Supplier, Northland Office Products Depot  
Located at 21 Commerce Street Whangarei or Shop online from  
16/12/2024 [www.nzschoolshop.co.nz](http://www.nzschoolshop.co.nz) to purchase your school packs.



**PS LTD**  
**OFFICE PRODUCTS DEPOT**  
we love your school

Address: 1 Percy Street, Whangarei 0112

Phone: 09-4371039

Cellphone: 027 2784303

Email Office Manager: [office@sfx.school.nz](mailto:office@sfx.school.nz)

Website: [sfx.school.nz](http://sfx.school.nz)

Email Absences: [absent@sfx.school.nz](mailto:absent@sfx.school.nz)

## Vision Statement

*“Uniting through Christ, Embracing Mana, Enhancing Futures.”*

## Religious Education

**This Sunday’s Reading: (Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time)**

Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**Thought for the Week:**

For our sake, He was presented to the Lord that we may learn to offer ourselves to God - Thomas Aquinas.

### 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).

### Ash Wednesday

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a Mass, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at **9:00 am** in the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Why do we place cold ashes on our foreheads?**

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a time when we stop and assess how we’re doing in our walk with God.

Lent helps us identify spiritual areas in which we can grow and sinful areas that we need to avoid. To repent, put simply, means to turn *away* from sin and turn *toward* God. We use ashes as an outward expression of our need to begin again.

### 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 them.

### Family Masses

During the year, Whanau will be rostered to participate in Family Masses on Sunday at 10:00 am. These Whanau Masses have been a success in recent years and it is a beautiful way of coming together as a school and Parish whanau to celebrate the Eucharist.

Our next Family Mass is on **Sunday, 23rd February** at 10:00 am. Parihaka Whanau (Rooms 22, 21, 23 and 10) will participate.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

### Blessing of School Teachers and Staff at Mass

If you are a teacher, Board of Trustee member or staff member at St Francis Xavier Catholic School, Pompallier Catholic College, or any other school, you are warmly invited to attend our 6 pm Vigil Mass this Saturday, 8th February for a blessing for the coming school year

Yours in Christ

*Mrs Maria Wilson*

DRS – Director of Religious Studies

## Motto

*To Love, To Learn, To Serve - Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu*

# Reminders for Term 1

## Naming all uniform items, lunch boxes and drink bottles

At the end of every term we have a MOUNTAIN of lost property. This includes hundreds of dollars worth of uniforms. We are having a real push on naming EVERYTHING the children bring to school. Please take the time to write your child's name on their property. If they happen to lose it, it can easily be returned! Many thanks for helping with this.



And speaking of uniform..... in Terms 1 and 4 our pupils wear flat, black sandals with a back strap. Long hair must be tied up to avoid the nit nasties! Hair ties must be plain black.

## Hockey Car Park

Please note that the week of **23rd February to the 2nd March** the Hockey car park will be full due to the Hockey Master's being held here in Whangarei. This will effect us for afternoon pick ups. **Please let your children know if there will be changes to your pick up areas.**

## Sun safe

It is our school practice to wear hats during break times and when the children are learning outside during terms 1 and 4. The children may also wear sunglasses, if they are required. We encourage families to apply sunblock at home and some choose to put this in school bags, so children can reapply.

## Phones and Smart Watches

A friendly reminder that all phones and smart watches must be handed to the office as soon as a pupil arrives at school. If parents and children wish to communicate with each other during the school day, this must go through the class teacher or the school office.

## Reporting an absence

Please use one of the following ways to report a student absence: Email - [absent@sfx.school.nz](mailto:absent@sfx.school.nz)

Text Message - 027 2784303

Phone - 09 4371039

Website - [www.sfx.school.nz/report-an-absence](http://www.sfx.school.nz/report-an-absence). Please make sure you change the students room number in drop down menu.

**Report an Absence**

Online Forms

Report an Absence

Update Contact Details

Please fill in all boxes below to report your child as absent. When you "submit" this form, a copy of the details will be sent to the office and your child's teacher at the same time, so there is no need to contact the teacher separately to let them know.

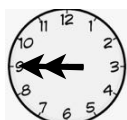
Student's Name\*

Student's Room No.\*

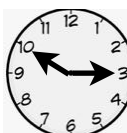
Please ensure that you select your child's room number from the drop-down menu.

## School hours

*Although we issue passes for being late and finishing early, it would be preferable if **ALL** our children are here, and finish at the same time so teachers and their classes are not interrupted and children can learn without disruptions.*



*Morning classes begin at **8:45 am**. It is essential for your child/children to be at school ready to start their learning day before the bell rings.*



*Classes end at **2.50pm**. **Children should be collected by 3.15pm** unless they are with their parents, attending the After School Care programme or attending sports practice.*

SCHOLASTIC

## Lucky Book Club

Scholastic Book Club brochures have been sent home with students. Orders are due back at the school office by

**Thursday 13th February**

**Please check you have named the order form and entered this year's classroom number.**

There are two ways to pay.

If paying by cash please pay the **EXACT** amount as change often gets lost on the way home with students.

For credit card payments you may register online with Scholastic's LOOP service for parents.

To register go to: [scholastic.co.nz/loop](http://scholastic.co.nz/loop)



## Litter-Free Lunchboxes at St Francis Xavier Catholic School

St Francis Xavier Catholic School is proud to be a Silver EnviroSchool, promoting education for sustainability. We teach our students that every small step they take can make a difference in caring for our planet.

One simple way to help? Litter free lunchboxes!

By reducing waste in our lunchboxes, we can cut down on unnecessary litter and protect our environment. Students are encouraged to think about sustainable alternatives such as:

- Reusable containers
- Beeswax wraps
- Compartmentalised lunch boxes
- Paper towels instead of plastic wrap

This initiative empowers students to take responsibility for their lunchboxes and **make choices that are better for our planet.**

**Let's all be kaitiaki of our environment and work together for a cleaner, greener future!**

**Make a difference - pack a litter-free lunch today!**



## ACCOUNTS

Welcome back to school. Next week we will try to have our accounts out to you through email.

If your email has changed, please either call into the office or go to our website: [www.sfx.school.nz](http://www.sfx.school.nz) and change your details.

Thank you to the parents who continued the automatic payments for the 2024 attendance dues. Unfortunately, there are some families that still have not made a payment. The attendance dues are a compulsory payment and a condition of enrolment here at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and at all Catholic schools throughout New Zealand. We collect this on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and forward the amount to them at the end of each month. This year the 2025 attendance dues and donations will be added to your account which will compound the balance. Please start automatic payments immediately to avoid a phone call from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

If you need financial assistance please come and see Mrs Deborah Rudolph, Office Manager, Mrs Bernadette Hall, Principal or our Parish Priest, Father Brian Prendeville, immediately rather than later in the year.

Enjoy your year here at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School,  
Deborah Rudolph

Online Forms

Report an Absence

Update Contact Details

**Update Contact Details**

Do we have your up-to-date contact phone numbers, home address and email addresses? If not, please complete the form below.

Thank you.

All Childrens' Names and Room Numbers\*



**We hope that everyone had a great summer break!**  
**The PTFA are looking forward to another exciting year**  
**working with you and our school.**  
**Our first meeting is going to be in Week 3 - Wednesday 12th**  
**February at 7pm in the staff room at school.**  
**ALL WELCOME!**



Marist Junior  
Netball 2025



Kia ora koutou,

Online registration for Marist Junior Netball for the 2025 season is open through the Sporty Website (see link below).

We welcome players, both boys and girls, from Y0-Y6.

The teams will also need parents to help coach or manage. If you are interested, willing and able to help, please contact Mrs Clegg in Room 18 or via email at

[vivienne@sfx.school.nz](mailto:vivienne@sfx.school.nz).

I look forward to seeing you soon.

[Marist Junior Netball Registration](#)



THE  
Family  
Support  
room

Coffee & bikkies in a  
toddler friendly space!  
(+Breastfeeding friendly zone with seating)

A friendly, non-  
judgemental listening ear.

Space for a confidential  
chat about anything going  
on at home.

Support to find services  
to best match your  
personal situation.

Please text, WhatsApp or email Rosie  
to make an appointment:

**021 028 33587**

[rosie@sfx.school.nz](mailto:rosie@sfx.school.nz)  
[rosie.hughes@pompallier.school.nz](mailto:rosie.hughes@pompallier.school.nz)



MARIST RUGBY  
PARK AVENUE, KENSINGTON

Grades:

Rippa: Under 5, Under 7, Under 8  
Tackle: Under 8, Under 9, Under 10,  
Under 11, Under 12, Under 13

New Players Welcome.

**Registrations Now Open!**

Rally Days: 26th February 2025

and  
19th March 2025.  
4pm-5.30pm

Register on  
Rugby Explorer

Any questions: Contact Shelley on 027 228 7987  
or email: [maristrugbywhangarei@gmail.com](mailto:maristrugbywhangarei@gmail.com)



Marist Rugby Whangarei



# SCHOOL EVENTS

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

## February

6th

8th 6pm

11th Swimming

12th 9:00am

14th Swimming

18th Swimming

20th

21st Swimming

21st 8:45am

25th Swimming

28th Swimming

28th 1:30pm

## March

4th Swimming

5th 9:00am

6th 5:15pm

7th Swimming

10th 9:15-10:20am

11th Swimming

12th

12th 7pm

13th 5:45pm

14th Swimming

14th 8:45am

17th 9:15-10:20am

18th Swimming

20th 5:45pm

21st Swimming

24th 9:15-10:20am

25th Swimming

28th 8:45am

28th 1:30pm

28th Swimming

## April

1st to 4th

1st Swimming

7th to 10th

11th

### Waitangi Day - School closed for instruction

Teacher/Staff Blessing Mass

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

Mihi Whakatau - Welcome for new families and staff - held in the church

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

SFX Swimming Sports - Yrs 5&6 - held at Pomaplier Catholic College

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

### Sausage Sizzle \$2:00 - Place your order with your class teacher at the start of the day

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

Room 22 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am

Room 1 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am

Room 12 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am

Whole School Assembly - Pukenui whanau leading

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am

Room 18 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am

Room 4 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Year 3&4 to start their swimming

Ash Wednesday Mass - Whole school attending

Year 5&6 Camp Meeting

Year 3&4

He Kākano Programme - Session one

Year 3&4

WPSSA Swim Champs

P.T.F.A Meeting - held in Staffroom

Board of Trustees Meeting - held in Staffroom

Year 3&4

### Sausage Sizzle \$2:00 - Place your order with your class teacher at the start of the day

He Kākano Programme - Session two

Year 3&4

Board of Trustees Meeting - held in Staffroom

Year 3&4

He Kākano Programme - Session three

Year 3&4

### Sausage Sizzle \$2:00 - Place your order with your class teacher at the start of the day

Whole School Assembly - Hatea Whanau leading

Year 3&4

Camp 1 Yr 5&6 - Rooms 1, 12 & 16

Year 3&4

Camp 2 Yr 5&6 - Rooms 4, 18 & 22

Last day of Term 1