St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.18 Thursday 21st November 2019

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

Yesterday, I was reading an interesting, but not unusual, article by Pasi Sahlberg, a world renowned educational leader and presenter from Finland. The article was about the importance of child play. Sahlberg maintains that "the biggest issues confronting parents these days all seem to have one common element: smart devices. There is no point demonising smartphones and devices because the problem is not the device it is what we do with it. We know for sure that children suffer more mental health issues than generations before. We also know that kids now sleep much less than they should, and a lack of sleep affects their wellbeing and learning."
Paediatricians around the world are increasingly seeing children exhibiting behavioural and sleep related concerns and they are telling parents to ensure that their children get outdoors and play more, in school and at home. So, over these summer months let's all make a concerted effort to ensure that our students get to play more and enjoy the outdoors.

As the school year begins to draw to a close, I felt it was important to give you an overview of our organisation and areas of focus for 2020.

STAFFING:

Next year, all of our teaching staff are returning and New Entrant teachers will continue to start throughout the year depending on enrolments. We will also be returning to straight Year 3 and Year 4 classes as the numbers of students in these year groups will enable this. Also, we have sufficient numbers of students in year groups 3 and 4 to offer straight Year 3 and Year 4 classes in 2020.
Our Year 1 teachers are Miss Barber, Whaea Sam, Mrs Withers and Mrs Civil.
Year 2 teachers are Whaea Jacqui, Mrs Webber and Ms Malone.
Year 3 teachers are Mrs Schutte, Mrs Cash and Ms Dean (aka Mrs Campbell).
Year 4 teachers are Mrs Wilson, Whaea Rose and Mr Werder.
Year 5/6 teachers are Mrs Gunson, Mrs Bassett, Mrs Hepi, Mrs Wendt, Miss Pirrit and Mrs Clegg.
Mrs Hirst will continue with the Reading Recovery and ESOL programmes.
These days, teachers are released for various roles and tasks in the school and we rely heavily on having great relievers. We are therefore pleased that Mrs Ross, Mrs Smith, Mrs Adams, Mrs Douglas and Mrs Batchelor will be available once again.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Following the four yearly review earlier this year we will work on the recommendations contained in the report. The most significant of these being the support for families to attend Mass.

CURRICULUM:

Next year, the staff and students will be working on Achievement Challenges that have been determined by our Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning). There are three challenges; Wellbeing, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths), and Literacy. It is an exciting time and an opportunity for us to support children to learn new skills and develop a greater awareness of future opportunities.

Craig McKernan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This Sunday's Readings: (Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)
(OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE)
2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23: 35-43
Thought for the day:
God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.

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 2nd .

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.

Bring a Can Mufti Day

Our bring a can mufti day is on **Tuesday 3rd December**.

Please bring an item(s) of non-perishable food. These will be given to Soul Food (who feed people in need in Whangarei) and also St Vincent de Paul, who help make food parcels, which are given out to those in our community who are in need.

Year 6 Leavers Mass

Our Year Six Leavers Mass (which involves the whole school), will be on **Friday 6th December** in the church, starting at **9:00am.**

Nativity

Practising is quietly under way for the Nativity this year. We are blessed to have the talents of the Year 1 and 2 teachers, to help put together a wonderful reminder of the real 'reason for the season'.

We will be holding our Nativity for parents on **Wednesday 11th December** at **9:30am** in the church.

Final School Assembly

Our Final School Assembly (Year 6 Prize Giving), which the whole school attends, will be on **Friday 13th December** in the church, commencing at **1:30pm.**

WEEK	Tuesday Mass 9.00am	Class – Year Level
7	**Karaka** **26 November** Room 20 Room 17 Room 07	Yr 5&6 Mrs Wendt Yr 3&4 Whaea Rose Yr 1 Miss Wellington
8	**Karaka** **03 December** Room 18 Room 19	Yr 5&6 Mrs Bassett Yr 2 Ms Malone
9	**Rimu** **10 December** Room 22 Room 09 Room 21 Room 23	Yr 5&6 Mrs Hepi Yr 1 Ms Saunders Yr 2 Whaea Jacqui Yr 3&4 Mr Werder

Classes Attending a Tuesday Mass at 9:00

If you are able to, you are welcome to come and join your child's class when they attend Mass on a Tuesday morning.

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

Yours in Christ,
Maria Wilson ,
DRS - Director of Religious Studies

NORTHLAND WATERSAFE are at your child's school this Term.

Ask your child how they can keep themselves safe in and around the water this summer.

* Never swim alone. Always have an adult with you actively supervising.
* Check the weather/environment and conditions before you swim.
* Tell someone where you are going and what time you will be home.
* Always wear a lifejacket - keep yourself safe. You are #1.
* IF IN DOUBT, STAY OUT.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The pop-up pool is always a huge success and we appreciate your help in putting it up and taking it down again. We will need lovely helpers again to take down the pool on **Saturday 7th December - at 8am.**

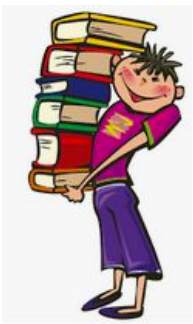
Please mark this date on your calendar and see Mrs J or email her at glenys@sfx.school.nz if you can help.

Come along to the second of our twilight Masses at St Francis Xavier church on Sunday December the 1st.
Mass will be at 5pm followed by a sausage sizzle and games in the St Francis Xavier School playground.
Bring your scooter! Bring a picnic!
Bring your friends and family!
Join our two Parish schools of Pompallier College and St Francis Xavier School and parish families for fun, fellowship and worship.
We hope to see you there!

Please note that the children are not to go to Vege Twins after school unless accompanied by an adult.

S.F.X Book Amnesty is on again....

If you have any books, readers and library books 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 this.



Remember to order your school photos

To qualify for free school delivery, ALL orders, must be received by PhotoLife before midnight on Sunday 24th November 2019.

You may still purchase after this date but an additional delivery charge will be added. Photo shoot key codes have been distributed to students. Photos can be purchased online using the photo shoot key code.

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.
There are more instructions on the website.
If you do not have internet access or prefer not to use the online ordering system,
please contact PhotoLife directly with your shoot key code on Ph: 0800-501-040 or email enquiries@photolife.co.nz to arrange alternative payment.

Enrolments for St Francis Xavier Catholic School

If your pre-schooler is not yet enrolled, or your son/daughter is leaving at the end of the year (not including year six students) then please notify our school office as soon as possible.

*SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

As we are in the final weeks of the year please can I remind you that your school accounts must be paid in full by the end of our school year. Outstanding accounts were sent out at the beginning of term four. Please check your emails and settle the account. Unfortunately, any outstanding accounts may result in a phone call from the Auckland Diocese who may lodge a default listing with Debtworks. We appreciate the families who have already paid their account in full, or have a regular payment in place.

Deborah Rudolph
Office Manager

THE NUKES

On Thursday 14th November we had the amazing Nukes band visit our school.
They took two workshops throughout the day and at the end the children had the opportunity to perform in front of the whole school. It was a wonderful celebration of the musical talent in our school as they all performed with confidence and enthusiasm. Their music videos are on their website www.thenukes.co.nz if your child /children wish to listen.
Ukelele club continues at Monday lunch times at 12:40 - 1:10 in the discovery room.

PTFA NEWS

The PTFA are selling produce bags and stainless steel pegs.
There are two varieties of re-useable produce bags and stainless steel pegs.
Prices are as follows:
'Rubbish Whisperer' coloured mesh bags, set of 5 - $22.50
'Vita Bags' cotton/muslin bags, set of 4 (2 small and 2 large) - $12.00
'Bento Ninja' stainless steel pegs, set of 20 - $20.00
Limited stock left.
We accept cash and online banking. These items are perfect for Christmas gifts!
If you are unable to come into school & pick up, we are more than happy to take an order via email kmckenzienz1@gmail.com Payment can be made online with your child's name & room number, and we'll deliver it to them to bring home.

*Gala

The Gala Day Plant Stall are looking for donations of plants/pots/seeds and sponsorship for soil. Spring and summer is a busy time for Mums Natasha and Megan, planting, dividing and potting up for the 2020 Gala Day. Any donations would be kindly received. Phone/text Natasha 0276878763 or Megan 0274141863 to arrange pick up or drop off.
Are you keen to lend a hand? Please let us know.

We have had some people come forward to offer help, but always need more.
Coordinators we need are for: Silent Auction, Rides/Activities.
Both these areas would work very well with 2 or 3 people. If you'd like to have a talk about what's involved please give me a call.
Also for up coming years, have a think about these roles. It would be great to have you work along side us next year, so you can learn the ropes.
Gala Coordinator, Ticket Coordinator. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Karen Canning
021 054 2172

School Timetable

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

Term dates for 2020

Term 1	3rd February to 9th April
Term 2	28th April to 3rd July
Term 3	20th July to 25th September
Term 4	12th October to 16th December

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

SCHOOL EVENTS

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

November

22nd		Choir and Band visit to Radius Rimu
25th		Year 6 Beach Ed (Rooms 20,22 & 1)
26th		Pompallier Catholic College Orientation Day
27th	1.30pm	He Kakano Programme - Third Session
27th	9am-2.45pm	EOTC Year 3&4 (Rooms 13 & 16 - Forest) (Rooms 17, 11 & 3 - Surfing)
27th		Year 6 Retreat (Rooms 12, 20 & 1)
28th		Year 6 Retreat (Rooms 15, 18 & 22)
28th	9am-2.45pm	EOTC Year 3&4 (Rooms 4 & 23 - Forest) (Room 13 & 16 - Surfing)
29th	9am-2.45pm	EOTC Year 3&4 (Rooms 17, 11 & 3 - Forest) (Rooms 4 & 23 - Surfing)

December

2nd		Year 6 Beach Ed (Rooms 18,12 & 15)
3rd		St Francis Xavier Feast Day
3rd		***MUFTI DAY - Children may wear non-uniform clothing and bring a can for Soul Food & St Vincent de Paul***
3rd	5.45pm	BoT Meeting
4th		Athletic Champs
4th	1.30pm	He Kakano Programme - Fourth Session
5th	11am-12.30pm	Kamo Intermediate Orientation Day
5th	6pm	Choir singing at the Loop Run
6th	9am	Leavers Mass
7th		POP UP POOL REMOVAL - HELPERS NEEDED - PLEASE SEE MRS J
10th	5.45pm	Maori Graduate Evening
11th	9.30am	Nativity Performance in the church, for parents/community
11th		***SAUSAGE SIZZLE $2 (please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day).***
13th	1.30pm	Final School Assembly - Reports go home today
17th	11am	Carol singing
17th	12pm	Last day of school for 2019 - school closes at 12pm

February

3rd	8.45am	Term one starts for 2020