



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.3 Thursday 12th March 2020

Dear parents, caregivers and friends of the school,

Gala Day:

The Gala Day is next Saturday the 21st of March. It is a fabulous annual event that demonstrates what can happen when everyone gets involved in a school community. The proceeds of the Gala will go towards the ongoing development of our playground, school readers and technology. All very rich and wonderful ideas for our students, your children.

The Gala team have once again done an amazing job in organizing the many activities and fun events for children but it is now up to all of us to get in behind them and help out on the day. We especially and desperately need volunteers who can relieve at a stall for some of the time.

The school Board of Trustees have supported whanau by not charging a school donation this year but in order to help resource the school we need your ongoing support.

If you haven't had an opportunity to offer your assistance and you would like to, then we would still love to hear from you. Please phone or text Liz on 021 435 347 or complete the attached Volunteers Needed notice.

Parent, Pupil and Teacher Learning Conversations:

Once again we have had a great deal of support for the parent, teacher and pupil learning conversations this week. We hope that you found the conversations to be informative and productive. Please remember that you are welcome to contact your child's classroom teacher at any time should you have any concern relating to your child's welfare and learning.

Coronavirus / COVID – 19:

Many of you will be aware that three of the four cases of COVID-19 confirmed in New Zealand have had links to four school communities. I appreciate this could be unsettling for some of you so I wanted to provide you with an update.

You might be interested to know that research published by the World Health Organisation notes that children and young people under 18 account for only 2.4% of all reported cases of COVID-19. This means we are unlikely to see widespread cases in schools and early learning services in New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health's current advice is that with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low. So we all have a role here to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Our school staff and leadership remain well prepared for the possibility there might be a case in our community. If that were to occur we are confident we can put our plans in place and know we will be supported by regional health authorities and the Ministry of Education.

I am sure you are all keen to do what you can to prevent risk of infection. The best preventative steps are:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments
- stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish
- get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system

If you want to know more about COVID-19 please make sure that any reading you are doing is from a reliable source. The Ministry of Health is the best source of information for New Zealand and they update this information regularly - <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

[covid-19-novel-coronavirus](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus)

A reminder that anyone who is ill should not be attending school.

The COVID-19 symptoms are a fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. If anyone has these symptoms and has recently been to a [country or area of concern](#), or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, please encourage them to contact Healthline (for free) on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) (or [+64 9 358 5453](tel:+6493585453) for international SIMs) or their doctor immediately.

Schoolwide-Survey

Regarding our Survey/Questionnaire email sent out last week, please contact the class teacher by Thursday the 19th of March if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the school-wide survey. A reminder that student questionnaires will be completed in class between 23rd-27th of March. Your child who is the eldest at our school will bring home the whanau questionnaire for you to complete at home during that week also. Alternatively you may complete the whanau questionnaire online using this link: https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8FWVPKvH0HmYKTb

Thank you for your participation.

Craig McKernan
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This Sunday's Readings: (Third Sunday of Lent)
Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

Lenten Reflection:

Give up complaining - focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism - become an optimist.
Give up discouragement - be full of hope. Give up bitterness - turn to forgiveness.
Give up harsh judgments - think kindly thoughts.

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.

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. Then it 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.

It is good to celebrate this Sacrament during Lent.

Reconciliation:

On Thursday **19th March at 11:00am**, Years 4, 5 & 6 will participate in Rite 2 Reconciliation, as part of their Easter preparation.

Holy Thursday-Easter Re-enactment:

Our Easter re-enactment this year will focus on the Stations of the Cross. The children will be praying the stations on Holy Thursday, 8th April, in the church starting at 9:30am.

As part of our Holy Week celebration, the children will be offered a hot cross bun at morning tea.

If your child has any food allergies or does not want to receive a hot cross bun at morning tea, please inform your child's teacher.

Classes Attending a Tuesday Mass at gam

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

WEEK	Date	Tuesday Mass gam	Class - Year Level
7	17 Mar	Karaka Room 20 Room 19	Yr 5 & 6 Sharon Wendt Yr 2 Emily Malone
8	24 Mar	Karaka Room 18 Room 17	Yr 5 & 6 Jenny Bassett Yr 4 Rose Johnson
9	31 Mar	Rimu Room 21 Room 22 Room 23	Yr 2 Jacqui Taylor Yr 5 & 6 Deb Hepi Yr 4 Karwyn Werder

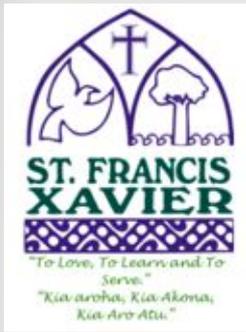
Please keep checking the events timetable for dates of all school events.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs Maria Wilson DRS - Director of Religious Studies



Last weekend Greta Pool and her big sister Shanae attended Bishop Michael's episcopal ordination in Auckland. Bishop Michael is the cousin of Greta and Shanae's mother Junita. Bishop Michael will be coming to our 25th School Anniversary and we look forward to meeting him. Our thanks to Greta and Shanae for representing our two Catholic schools.



You are Invited to our Silver Anniversary Celebrations

Please join the St Francis Xavier Catholic School (Whangarei) family as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our school.

We will begin with a thanksgiving liturgy on Friday 3rd April at 9:30 at St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangarei.

This will be followed by morning tea at 10:20 in our school staff room. After morning tea, guests are welcome to walk through the classrooms and see the developments we have made in our grounds.

We hope you can be with us as we give thanks for the past, present and future of St Francis Xavier Catholic School,

Kind regards,
Craig McKernan
Principal

RSVP to Glenys Jakicevich
glenys@sfx.school.nz



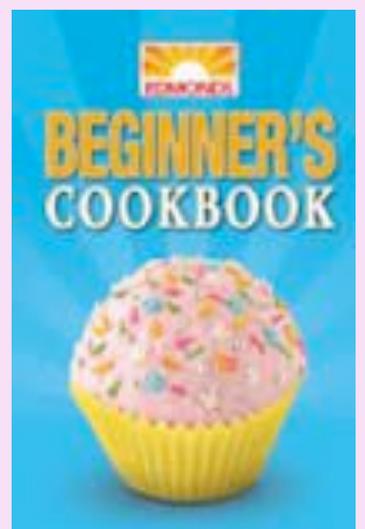
Welcome to our new students who started with us recently...

Myla Macnay, Sebastian Malcolm and Billy Wallace

Literacy Tips

Literacy Tip #3: Get them in the kitchen!

Reading for a purpose can be very powerful. Give your child a recipe or set of instructions then either allow them to work independently or get them to read you the instructions while you work together to create the product. Before they read the instructions it might help to talk to them about the sort of things they think they will need to do and what they might need to use. This helps them to start thinking about the kind of words they might need to be able to read in the instructions.



Swimming Results

We had a great morning of swimming up at the Pompallier Catholic College pool on Monday. A big thank you to all the parents who help as timekeepers, marshalls and lifeguards. Here are the results and good luck to the SFX team as they head off to the Whangarei Primary Schools champs to compete next week.

Backstroke- Yr 4 Boys 1st-Nathan Hewitt

Yr 4 Girls 1st-Anna Hewitt, 2nd-Sophia Higgins, 3rd-Sienna MacPherson

Yr 5 Boys 1st-Te Rauroha Paki, 2nd-Isaac Johnson, 3rd-Ricky Halvorson

Yr 5 Girls 1st Keira Davis

Yr 6 Boys 1st-Kees Tamboer, 2nd-Lachlan Ross, 3rd-Jack Fortune

Yr 6 Girls 1st-Keakealani Seve, 2nd-London-Rose Gould, 3rd-Claudia Skelton

Breaststroke- Yr 4 Boys 1st Nathan Hewitt

Yr 4 Girls 1st-Anna Hewitt, 2nd-Sophia Higgins, 3rd-Sienna MacPherson

Yr 5 Boys 1st-Te Rauroha Paki, 2nd-Nikolas Halliday, 3rd-Ricky Halvorson

Yr 5 Girls 1st Keira Davis

Yr 6 Boys 1st-Kees Tamboer, 2nd-Lachlan Ross, 3rd-Astin Hay-Knight

Yr 6 Girls 1st-Keakealani Seve, 2nd-London-Rose Gould, 3rd-Carly Morgan

Freestyle- Yr 4 Boys 1st Nathan Hewitt, 2nd -Henri Ardouin

Yr 4 Girls 1st-Sienna MacPherson, 2nd-Lana Johnston-McCluskey, 3rd-Anna Hewitt

Yr 5 Boys 1st-Te Rauroha Paki, 2nd-Isaac Johnson, 3rd-Nikolas Halliday

Yr 5 Girls 1st Keira Davis, 2nd-Te Kaea de Goey, 3rd-June Underwood

Yr 6 Boys 1st-Kees Tamboer, 2nd-Lachlan Ross, 3rd-Astin Hay-Knight

Yr 6 Girls 1st-Keakealani Seve, 2nd-London-Rose Gould, 3rd-Izzy Hill

Summertime Twilight Mass. Sunday 15 March 5pm

Come along to the third of our twilight Masses at St Francis Xavier Church on Sunday 15 March. 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 Catholic College and St Francis Xavier School and parish families for fun, fellowship and worship. We hope to see you there!



SICKNESS

If your child is complaining of not feeling well, please keep them home and let us know. With this heat, bugs are spreading fast.



Reading your Newsletter helps to keep you informed on what is happening in our School Community

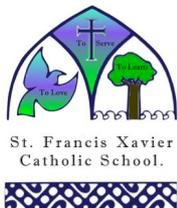
SHOES!

We seem to have lots of non-regulation shoes creeping in. The summer uniform shoes are flat, black with a back strap.

Jandals, sneakers and shoes are not part of our summer outfit.

Please see Mrs J if you have a problem sourcing the correct footwear, or try our PTFA uniform pool. The office has slips to fill out and then our fantastic PTFA uniform mums will find you an item for a donation.





SCHOOL EVENTS

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

March

13th	1.30pm	School Assembly - Puriri Whanau
16th	3.15 - 6pm	Parent Teacher Meet and Greet for Room 2 only
18th		Reconciliation Yrs 5 & 6 (some Yr 4) to be confirmed
18th	1.30pm	He Kakano Programme - Session 1
18th		WPSSA Swim Champs
18th		Vision/Hearing Testing
21st		SCHOOL GALA DAY
24th	1.30pm	He Kakano Programme - Session 2

April

1st		PTFA SAUSAGE SIZZLE \$2 (please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day)
1st	1.30pm	He Kakano Programme - Session 3
3rd	9.30am	<i>St Francis Xavier Catholic School 25th Anniversary Liturgy</i>
8th	9.30	
am		Holy Week Reenactment
9th		Holy Thursday
9th	2.50pm	End of Term One

School Gala-Saturday 21st March



FREE dental care for under 18s
Kei raro iho i te tekau mā waru, kāhore he utu

Dental care is **FREE** from birth till your 18th birthday, even if you are no longer at school.



Need a dental appointment for your child?
CALL 0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384)

NORTHLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Supporting success in your school.

If you're a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you take out a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate \$500 to your chosen participating school.

\$500

ASB's lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. Eligibility criteria: Documentation of the facility agreement must be done by 30 June 2020. For this promotion to apply, you must make mention of it during the home loan application. Only applies to loans which are secured by residential owner-occupied property with a minimum of 20% equity. The offer is limited to one donation per new home loan. The donation will be made to the chosen school on complete drawdown of the home loan. Excludes lending through brokers. Full eligibility criteria, exclusions, terms and conditions are available at asb.co.nz/promotions/supporting-success-in-your-school.html

ASB
ONE STEP AHEAD

ASB Bank Limited 56290 024768 0719

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 One:

3rd Feb to 9th April

Term Two:

28th April to 3rd July

Term Three:

20th July to 25th Sept

Term Four:

12th Oct to 16th Dec (to be confirmed)