



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No. 6 Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,
Tomorrow is a beautiful feast day-the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
The message and focus of this feast day is pure and simple-Love.
As a child, I believed there was no greater love than the love my parents had and gave to me. Like many children and teens, I often took this for granted-how could they not love me? I was wonderful!
When I became a parent, I did not realise love could be so instant and fierce. New parent love was also a little bit scary-what if I didn't do a good job?

The Bible tells us these kinds of love are only a shadow of the love God has for us. Wow! The depth and breadth of divine love is hard to get one's head around.

Pope Francis said this about the love God has for each one of us:

"It is a love that cannot be understood. A love that surpasses all knowledge. It surpasses everything. The love of God is so great; a poet described it as a 'bottomless sea without shores...' This is the love that we must try to understand, the love that we receive."

Our Christian beliefs are clear that the love God offers comes without strings. It is unconditional and everlasting and was revealed through his son, Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis went onto say;

"How does God manifest his love? With great works? No: He makes himself smaller and smaller with gestures of tenderness and goodness. He approaches His children and with his closeness He makes us understand the greatness of love."

Pope Francis says we do not need great discourse on love, but men and women "who know how to do these little things for Jesus, for the Father." "Our works of mercy," he said, "are the continuity of this love."

The Pope said that throughout the history of salvation, the Lord has revealed his love to us: "He has been a great teacher."

Tenderness, mercy, goodness. Wonderful words of love that we can all carry out each day.
Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart to you all.

Glenys Jakicevich
Deputy Principal



P.S. We are all going to Mass on Friday 3rd of July at 9:15 am and families are warmly welcome to join us. We would love to see you all there.

SCHOOL SURVEY

As we informed you in our last newsletter, our school is one of 40 schools participating in a strengths-based survey conducted by Dr Melinda Webber and we would like to invite you to be part of that survey. This survey consists of a teacher, student and a whanau questionnaire and schools that have participated so far have found the results to be very beneficial in helping to shape the delivery of the curriculum.

All Year 3-6 students will complete their questionnaire in class by the end of this week (15-19 June), with help from their class teacher or older students, if needed.

After students complete their questionnaire in class, your child, or the eldest of your children at our school, will bring home the whanau questionnaire for you to complete together. Please complete the questionnaire and return in the accompanying envelope to the class teacher or school office by Monday 29 June.

Alternately you may complete the **whanau questionnaire** online using this link https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8FWVPKvH0HmYKTb

Many thanks for your assistance; your feedback is vital in helping schools.

Address: 1 Percy Street, Whangarei 0112 Phone: 09-4371039 Cellphone: 027 2784303

Email Office Manager: office@sfx.school.nz Website: sfx.school.nz Email Absences: absent@sfx.school.nz

MID-TERM REPORTS

Next Friday, 26th June, your child will bring home his/her mid term report. This year, our mid-year report looks a little different due to the Covid-19 situation and as a consequence, Term 2 assessments were unable to be completed.

This mid-year report gives you an overview of your child's development within the Key Competencies.

These are capabilities for living and lifelong learning, as stated in the NZ Curriculum.

You are invited to discuss your child's report at parent meetings scheduled Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS

TUES 30th June and WED 1st July

1.30 - 6.00 pm

This meeting involves the student, parent and teacher. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's next steps in learning.

Each interview is 15 minutes long.

Classes will end at the earlier time of 1.15 pm on these days.

Appointments can be made online.

Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Enter the booking code: **3xru7**

Follow the instructions.

If you have any problems or need help booking an appointment please see the school office.

Welcome to Alaina Diju, Daisy Doble and Keomonny Sngoun who started at our school recently.

An Invitation to the Sacrament of Baptism for School Age Children

Mrs J and our Parish Priest, Father Chris Martin, will be running a Baptism programme at school in term three.

The programme is for children who are **7 years or older** who have not yet been baptised.

We will have three short classes in the staffroom at school from 8:45am-9:30 am on these dates;

Wednesday 29th July, Wednesday 5th August and Wednesday 12th August.

There is an expectation that an adult family member will accompany the child. Once a parent has accompanied one child through the programme, younger siblings can be baptised too.

The timing of the lessons is such that the children can go straight to class after the lesson.

Please sign in at the office before the session starts.

Baptism will be on a Sunday later in the term. Mrs J is happy to answer any queries about the Baptism programme, or the any of the Sacramental programmes of our church glenys@sfx.school.nz Ph4371039.

If you have a child **younger** than 7 years old - parents and caregivers are welcome to attend the parish programme and details for this are available from Janet, the Parish Secretary on 4377902. Please contact Mrs J if you need any further information.



Religious Education

This Week's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33

SCHOOL MASS

'Having an attitude of gratitude' is one of St Mary of the Cross (Mackillop's) values that we aspire to live by at St Francis Xavier. With that in mind, you are warmly invited to come and join us in celebrating Mass, as a school family, **on Friday 3rd July at 9:15 am.**

Yours in Christ

Maria Wilson

DRS – Director of Religious Studies

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A photo information leaflet and email was sent home last week regarding the school photo date and process.

Here is the process again:

1. Class photos and individual/sibling portrait photos were taken on Tuesday.
2. PhotoLife will send us your online access key once portrait photos are ready for viewing and purchase. **This process may take at least three to four weeks.**
3. Class photos are not made available for viewing.
4. Once you have your access key code, purchases can be made online with PhotoLife. **NO CASH PAYMENTS.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support as a result of the Covid-19 Virus with the payment of 2020 Attendance Dues for students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager on 09-360-3069 at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/covid-19-attendance-dues-assistance/>

UNIFORMS

Now that things have settled down, we do expect all the children to be in correct winter uniform. Our uniform shoes are flat, black, polishable shoes - **not sneakers or basketball boots**. We wear navy socks, not tights, in winter.

There is a good selection of uniforms in our uniform pool. We even have some school shoes. These items can be purchased with a small donation. Email Mrs J: glenys@sfx.school.nz with your child's name, class, size and which items you require.

Please note shirts, vests, polar fleeces and shorts are measured in even numbers but skirts are measured in centimetres. Check what size your child is currently wearing, to request the new size you wish to order.

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MARIST HOCKEY

First meeting will be on Wednesday 1st July at 3.15 pm at the Marist Club to collect uniforms, meet the team and coach.

MARIST FOOTBALL

Inviting year 5 and 6 girls to play in our all girls football team this season. Please come and join some of your SFX friends, we still have 3 spaces left. Training's are on Wednesday's at 4.15pm on Kensington Park. If you are interested please contact Caroline Davis on 021 048 26897.

HEALTHLINE

For children's health, the best information source is the Ministry of Health website. You may also call Healthline any time, Ph: 0800 611 116.

PTFA NEWS

Dear Families,

Following our AGM last evening, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Anne-Marie Franks has been elected as our new Treasurer and Mrs Renee Procter has been elected as our new Chairperson. They join Mrs Kate McKenzie to make up our PTFA Officers for the coming year. Both of these wonderful ladies bring experience and enthusiasm to their new roles. Special thanks to our outgoing Treasurer, Mrs Jo Walker, who has done a fabulous job managing our accounts and finances.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the PTFA committee for their hard work and support during my years as Chairperson. It has been a humbling and rewarding experience.

God Bless,
Serena Ross



Literacy Tip #7

All reading is good reading!

It is sometimes believed that children need to read a certain type of book to make progress. While it is important that children extend themselves and are exposed to a wide range of texts, sometimes they just want to read for enjoyment. Consider the books and TV shows you enjoy and I'm sure you will

find plenty of content that is "just for fun".

Similarly, children may enjoy sticking to the same books (yes, even Geronimo Stilton) or they may prefer comics. This is completely acceptable. It is great to encourage your child to experiment with other books, however, any reading is good reading provided it is content appropriate.

Book of the week:

The Arrival by Shaun Tan (Graphic Novel)

SCHOOL EVENTS

June

- 24th 1.30 pm, **3rd Session** He Kakano Programme
- 26th School reports go home
- 29th Whanau Questionnaires completed/ returned by today
- 30th 1.30 pm - 6 pm, Parent Interviews

July

- 1st 1.30 pm - 6 pm, Parent Interviews
- 3rd 9.15 am, Full School Mass
- 3rd Last day of Term 3

Term Dates

Term Three: 20th July to 25th Sept
Term Four: 12th Oct to 15th Dec