



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.2 Term 4 Rāpare-Thursday 11th Whiringa-ā-rangi - November 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

Whew! This Covid stuff is hard work isn't it? I appreciate that the Government Departments are doing their level best to keep us all safe and the implications of decisions being made are enormous but it just seems relentless. Nevermind, we all can be assured that Christmas is coming and whatever form it takes it will be welcomed. The reason for Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus and no one can change that. Not even Covid.

Postponements and Cancellations:

In our last school newsletter I alluded to the fact that, depending on Alert Levels, there would be further postponements and cancellations as the year progresses. We have given a great deal of thought to our end of year activities and are following the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines especially in regard to the restrictions. One of the restrictions is that we are not allowed to have parents onsite for large gatherings such as assemblies.

With this in mind, I wish to advise you that the Leavers' Mass for our Year 6 students has been cancelled, as has the end of year Final Assembly and Prizegiving. We will endeavour to record and/or stream the events for parents. The Year 6 Retreat days will still go ahead but the advisers from Auckland will not be able to join us. The Year 6 visit to Pompallier Catholic College has been cancelled.

Volunteers and Parents at School:

As from the 15th of November all teachers, support staff, volunteers and anyone else who may come in contact with children while the children are at school or are on school trips, are to have received their first vaccination.

As a school we rely heavily upon parent helpers to assist with a range of activities such as class excursions, fundraisers and tasks around the school. We are exceptionally grateful for your assistance and we sincerely hope that you can continue to support us.

If you volunteer regularly, or are required to assist on a school trip, then please provide our School Office Manager, Mrs Deborah Rudolph, with evidence of your vaccination.

If you are unvaccinated you are still able to come to school to pick up or drop off your child. Please avoid talking to other children whilst on the school grounds.

Mask Wearing:

There are very good reasons to wear a mask when visiting the school and we appreciate it when parents follow this guideline. As is the case with scanning the QR codes it is not something that we can enforce but we appreciate the effort that you are making.

School Only Day Reminder:

School will be closed for instruction on Monday, November the 15th. Please do not send your child to school on that day. ALL Staff will be completing and refreshing their First Aid qualifications.

Thank you for taking the time to be part of the several small ways we can all keep each other safe. The weather is warm and the joys of summer are nearly here. We have a lot to be thankful for!

Craig McKernan - *Principal*

Parent Health and Physical Education Survey

Every two years our school consults with the school community on aspects of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Our health and PE programmes are all underpinned by our school's special character. "Don't you realise that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?" Corinthians 6:9

We would appreciate your feedback on the importance of aspects of Health and PE by completing a survey via the following link.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciFqFDluRLea4h_c8IPTsyUjUTjCXPdVReapy12PMEZNOiBw/viewform

Religious Education

This Sunday's Reading: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18,; Mark 13:24-32

Rosary beads can be purchased from the school office for \$1.50.

Bring a Can Non-Uniform Day

Our bring a can non-uniform day is on **Friday 12th November**. Non-uniform days are when children may wear regular clothes instead of their school uniform to school, for a donation. This time we are requesting an item of non-perishable food. These will be given to St Vincent de Paul and Soul Food.



World Day of Prayer of the Poor

Sunday 14th November 2021 is the fifth World Day of the Poor, initiated by Pope Francis in 2017 with the theme of “let us love, not with words but with deeds”. We are called to follow the example of Jesus in loving God and neighbour, especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis reminds us, “If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor.” He challenges us to get to know those who may have been invisible to us and to understand and change the structural causes of the poverty in our midst.

Prayer

*God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor.
Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited.
Open our mouths to defend you in the public square as well as in
private deeds.
Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you.
Amen.
(US Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

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 November 28th.

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.

Please keep checking the events sheet in the newsletter to keep up to date with postponements or cancellations.

Yours in Christ

Mrs. Maria Wilson

DRS-Director of Religious Education

Welcome To Our School



Welcome to the following students who have started at our school recently.....Denisse Belarmino, Hunter Chambers, Juan Jomichan Paikkattu and Vince Quezon.

Book Return



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.

CAN YOU HELP?

As you may be aware Countdown has started a "Bricks" promotion.

For every \$30 spent you are rewarded with an item that can be used in conjunction with their brick packs.

We would like to ask that if you are not collecting, or have double ups, that you consider donating the packs to our school. We are able to use these items in our intervention groups to support learning with children throughout our school in a variety of ways. The packs can be placed in the box at the main office.

We greatly appreciate your help in collecting these.

Nirvana Withers - Learning Support Coordinator



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.

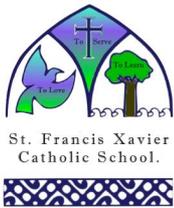
SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

We are nearly at the end of Term 4, so we would like to please ask families that your school account is paid by the 1st of December 2021.

Thank you to our families who have already paid their account in full, or have a regular payment in place. This is a friendly reminder from the Auckland Diocese for parents and caregivers of students who will be leaving St Francis Xavier Catholic School at the end of this year; Attendance Dues must be paid in full by 1st December 2021. Families who have an on-going automatic payments are exempt from this date but must commit to continuing payments until the account is paid.

Unfortunately failure to pay the account or make contact with either Carol Krebs at the Auckland Diocese 09 3603069 or Deborah Rudolph, School Office Manager, to arrange alternative methods of payment, may result in the overdue account being sent to Debtworks NZ Ltd for default listing at credit reporting agencies.

Deborah Rudolph - Office Manager



SCHOOL EVENTS

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

November

- 12th No Uniform Day - Bring a can days are when children may wear regular clothes instead of uniform to school, for a donation of an item of non-perishable food. Remember to bring a hat. No hat- no play!
- 15th Staff Only Day - Closed for instruction**
- 17th PTFA Sausage Sizzle \$2 (Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day.)
- 22nd 1:30pm He Kakāno Programme - Session 1&2 Room 9 **(Monday)**
- 23rd 1:30pm He Kakāno Programme - Session 1&2 Room 10 **(Tuesday)**
- 24th Vision & Hearing
- 25th & 26th Yr 6 Retreat
- 30th 1:30pm He Kakāno Programme - Session 3&4 Room 9 **(Tuesday)**

December

- 1st 1:30pm He Kakāno Programme - Session 3&4 Room 10 **(Wednesday)**
- 1st Rm's 13 & 16 EOTC - Surfing
- 2nd Rm's 11 & 17 EOTC - Surfing
- 3rd Rm's 4 & 23 EOTC - Surfing
- 3rd Saint Francis Xavier Feast Day
- 8th Reports sent home
- 14th 12:30pm Last day of Term 4

February 2022

- 3rd 8:50am Start of Term 1 for 2022

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 2022

Term 1	3rd February to 14th April
Term 2	2nd May to 8th July
Term 3	25th July to 30th September
Term 4	17th October to 16th December