



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.3 Term 4 Rāpare-Thursday 25th Whiringa-ā-rangi - November 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

Firstly, thank you for the time that you are taking to read this newsletter. It is important that you hear what is happening at your child's school especially as the end of the school year is approaching and there are lots of things to organise.

In an earlier newsletter, I advised you that the school Nativity was cancelled this year because under Level 2 we are unable to hold events involving large gatherings of people. We are blessed to have talented, creative teachers and they are endeavouring to still give our junior school children the opportunity to perform and celebrate the Nativity. By working with individual classes, Ms Malone our Music teacher, is going to splice together a few scenes and create a video that can be shared on Seesaw.

We are conscious that this time of the year is very special for our Year 6 students as they prepare to leave our school.

We have retreats planned for the Year 6 pupils this week. The children will receive a Leaver's Gift from the PTFA, as has been the tradition in previous years. The school Leavers Mass and the End of Year Assembly will also be adapted to meet the Covid 19 protocols. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend this year but we are once again hoping that we can record it so that it can be shared with your whanau.

School Master Plan: The Board of Trustees has appointed Boffa Miskell, a landscape design company from Auckland, to work with us to reinvigorate and redesign areas within the school. The junior playground and some other spaces are looking tired and need to be upgraded to meet the safety code.

The team at Boffa Miskell are consulting children, staff, the Board of Trustees and parents by way of a survey. It would be appreciated if you could add your ideas and thoughts by completing the survey via this link: [Link to survey](#)

Craig McKernan - *Principal*

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

As we only have a few more weeks remaining for the year we would like to remind our families your school account should be paid before we finish school on the 14th December. Please contact Deborah Rudolph, Office Manager should you have any queries. Many thanks to those families who have already paid their account in full or have a regular payment in place.

A friendly reminder from the Auckland Diocese for parents and caregivers of students who will be leaving us at the end of the year that the Attendance Dues must be paid by

1st December 2021.

Families who have an on-going AP are exempt from this date but must commit to continuing payments until the account is paid.

Should you be experiencing financial difficulties please contact Deborah in our school office to discuss payment options, in confidence.



Our hotly contested annual football and netball matches between Vatican City Wanderers and SFX 1st XI Hacker's Heroes and Yr6 netball were recently held. Loved by players and spectators alike, these games are always lots of fun. Sport was the winner on the day!

**STUDENTS
VS
STAFF**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This Sunday's Reading:
(First Sunday of Advent)

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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

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.

Your in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS-Director of Religious Studies



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.

Brick Collection

Thank you to everyone who has sent in brick packs, we're making good use of them already and the children get so excited seeing what new items have arrived. We would appreciate any more packs, or separate items if you have double ups, so please keep sending them in.

Nirvana Withers -*Learning Support*





SCHOOL EVENTS

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

November

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 Holiday Programme

- Kids aged 7 - 13 years
- Mon 20th - Thu 23rd December
- 8:30am - 4:00pm
- The Home of Northland Futsal @ Excellere College, Kamo
- 1 day: \$45 per day
3+ days: \$40 per day
- 10% discount for siblings

details and registration online
www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
or contact Christian
021 246 7328

Parent Health and Physical Education Survey

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to respond to our Health and Physical Education Survey. We appreciate the comments you made and will take these into consideration when planning our programmes.



Returning Books

If you still 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.

Thank you.

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