



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.4 Term 4 Wednesday 7th December 2022



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

We started the school year with Covid restrictions, no assemblies and no large gatherings but this coming week we finish with the junior school nativity, prize giving and final assembly. What could be better than being able to meet as a whole school community again?

As Christmas fast approaches, we are reminded of the real reason that we celebrate this very special time of the year. It is not all about the presents and Father Christmas (although this still holds a lot of appeal), but it is to celebrate the birth of Jesus. At our Catholic school the children have been busy preparing for this special time through Advent. A Christian time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. It is a time when we all need to take a breath and reflect on the meaning for the season.

The end of the school year is also an opportunity for us to acknowledge the work of some of our fabulous colleagues and thank them for the contribution that they have made at St Francis Xavier Catholic School. I therefore take this opportunity to thank Mrs Michelle Matthews for her fabulous work as a New Entrant teacher while she has been with us. Michelle has a wealth of experience and she has assisted many of our children as they have transitioned from Early Childhood to St Francis Xavier. We wish her all the very best as she moves to Maunu School.

We also congratulate and thank Miss Hannah Gee. Hannah, while also being a support staff worker, has successfully completed her teaching degree. She has been appointed to a teaching position at Kamo Primary which is a fabulous opportunity for her.

Recently we appointed Mrs Sharyn Smith and Mrs Carika de Wet to permanent positions at our school. Both teachers are currently working for us but we congratulate them on their success.

I also wish to announce that Ms Jennie Dean will be Acting Principal in Term 1 next year, Mrs Glenys Jakicevich and Mrs Tracey Balks will be supporting Jennie in this role. I have been fortunate to have been granted a sabbatical for the term so I look forward to rejoining the team in Term 2.

As this is our final newsletter for 2022, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and to wish you God's blessings this Christmas. I especially want to wish our departing families and the Year 6 children every success for the future.

Despite the ongoing challenges that Covid has presented, we have had yet another very successful year and the future looks very bright.

God Bless you, your whanau and friends this Christmas

Craig McKernan
Principal



Religious Education



This Sunday's Readings:

(Third Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Thought For The Week:

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives"

***The Jesse Tree**

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating our Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.



Dates to Remember

***Leavers Mass**

Our Year Six Leavers Mass (which involves the whole school), will be on **Monday 12th December** in the church, starting at **9:15am**.

***Final School Assembly**

Our Final School Assembly, (Year 6 Prize Giving), which most of the school attends, will be on **Wednesday 14th December** in the church, commencing at **9:15am**.

***Ash Wednesday 2023**

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 22nd February 2023. Please note this date on your calendars. We will begin our Lenten journey with a school Mass at 9am.

Please keep checking the events sheet in the newsletter to keep up to date with school events.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all Christ's blessings for the New Year.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki ā kōrua (peace be with you)

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



This morning, the Junior School shared the Nativity story in our church. Songs of joy, peace and love were heard, as angels, shepherds, people from many lands, wise men, Mary and Joseph, told this very special Christmas story.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the making of this prayerful production.



Year 3 & 4 Reotahi and Goat Island Trips

Over the last couple of weeks all students in Year 3 & 4 took part in an Experiencing Marine Reserves learning programme. Students in these classes had been learning about caring for our Marine Environment and were able to gain a greater understanding of their learning when they visited two marine reserves - Reotahi, which is near McLeod's Bay and Goat Island, New Zealand's oldest marine reserve, which is near Leigh.

The Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) programme specialises in marine education and it helps empower schools, communities, and individuals by providing hands-on experiences in the ocean.



Year 6 Beach Ed

During Week 7, the Y6 students visited Ruakaka Beach to learn about water and sun safety. The lifeguards have inspired us to become one of them and save lives too. All the games we played taught us to be safe. In one activity, we used life-saving tubes to rescue and keep our friends safe. We had the opportunity to observe all the gear our lifeguards use every day, like boats, resuscitation equipment, a new jetski and rescue tubes. If you stay between the flags, that will help the lifeguards and give them the greatest chance of helping you. Guess how many people have drowned or passed while taking a dip between the flags? None! That was a very important and relieving fact to know.

Our groups have learnt thoroughly about rips and about the three main Rs if you are caught in one:

1. Relax 2. Raise 3. Ride.

We are very grateful to the Surf Lifesavers for sharing their passion and knowledge with us.

Written by Madison M, Indy and Kierra.



Year 5 & 6 Story of Whangarei



Over the past two months, Ms Malone has been working with the teachers and students of our Year 5 and 6 students to present a video that is the students creative interpretation on "The Birds Eye View" of the Legend of Reitu and Reipae, incorporating our school whanau groups. The video was made as a consequence of us being unable to stage our Year 5 and 6 production. Today, we invite you to enjoy this special piece of work with your children. Please click onto the link [Birds eye view](#) to see what our film stars have to offer.

SFX Book Amnesty is on again.....

Please look for any journal books, readers or library books at home or in school bags. We are doing our annual stocktake and need all books to be returned as soon as possible.



Lost Property

Please, please, please come and look through the lost property in the foyer at the end of room 1. There are mountains of un-named and un-claimed items, including sandals. All lost property that is not claimed will go to our uniform pool at the end of the year.



School Accounts

Thank you to all who have paid their child's school account in full or have an on-going automatic payment in place. Please continue this until the account is paid. Unfortunately, for those with an outstanding balance, you will received a friendly reminder from our Auckland Catholic Diocese. If there is no alternate arrangement made with us, this may result in overdue accounts being sent to Debtworks NZ Ltd for default listing at credit reporting agencies.

School Reports

Over the past few weeks, teachers have been busy completing your child's end of year school report. The reports will be sent home on Wednesday 14th December. Enclosed with the report will be an introductory letter from your child's 2022 teacher and a class stationery list. Please read on for further stationery details.

Ordering School Stationery for 2023

This year, our school stationery is Northland (Baigent's) Office Products Depot (OPD)
The stationery will be available for purchase in store and on line from the 14th December 2022.

- Go to www.nzschoolshop.co.nz
- Start entering our school into the search field and select from the options that appear.
- Follow the instructions and prompts on how to order.
- If you have another child at a different school, you can simply add another school and student to the same order.
- While the site allows you to adjust the quantity of any item, the lists are approved by the school and are the minimum mandatory requirements for the school year.
- The pricing has been negotiated by the school to get your family the best rate.

Your class stationery lists are available on our website www.nzschoolshop.co.nz and in store

We are local, NZ owned and operated
Supporting New Zealand Schools, it's just what we do

Local Stock Local People Great Prices Free Delivery Options

We are Community Minded
Proudly Supporting Lifeline Aotearoa, KidsCan & North Haven Hospice

LIFELINE KidsCan hospice

Payment Options Available
Debit or Credit Card via PayPal
Internet Banking via PCUI
Pay in 4 instalments via afterpay
WDC Payment Card accepted in store

BAIGENTS OFFICE PRODUCTS DEPOT
21-23 Commerce Street Whangarei
info@nzschoolshop.co.nz
09 438 4979



*Thank you so much to the families that have sponsored
the extras for our sausage sizzles!
With these extra sponsors alongside the generous sponsorship from
Whangarei Gourmet Meats, every dollar we make on
sausage sizzle days gives back to the school and our children.
Have a safe and very happy Christmas with your whanau and friends.
Enjoy the summer break.
From your school PTFA*



SCHOOL EVENT

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

DECEMBER

7th	1:30-2:30pm	He Kakano Programme - Session Three
7th	9:30am	Nativity for parents
8th	5:30pm	Choir singing at Hatea Loop Run
12th	9:15am	Leavers Mass
14th	9:15am	Senior Prize giving
16th	12:30pm	Last Day of Term 4 - School closes at 12:30pm

JANUARY

31st	8:45am	Start of Term One
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2023 TERM DATES

TERM ONE:

31st January to 6th April

TERM TWO:

26th April to 30th June

TERM THREE:

17th July to 22 September

TERM FOUR:

9th October to 15th December TBC



**The Gringe of Christmas has been
spotted riding around our school this
week creating lots of Christmas spirit
and joy.**

Ray White Hatea Loop Run - Choir Event

Unfortunately the Hatea Loop Run Choir Event which was to take place tomorrow evening has been postponed until February.



Upright Piano - needing a new home.

Our trusty, old piano is ready to move to a new and loving home. As a school, we have moved to a more modern version – the electric keyboard.

If you are interested in tendering for the old girl, email Mrs J at glenys@sfx.school.nz. Please state how much you are willing to offer for the piano.

You will need to arrange for the pick up and relocation of the piano.

Thank you

Tamariki Hauora Day

FREE tamariki health services, food, music, activities and spot prizes
First 50 to arrive get a free goodie bag



Te Ora Hou

104 Corks Rd, Tikipunga, Whangārei
9 December 9am-3pm

- Immunisation • Well Child Tamariki Ora checks
- Dental • Hearing and Vision + More!

All tamariki and their Whānau welcome – No entry fee

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



NORTHLAND SNORKEL & PADDLE SERIES 2022-23

Experience the wonders of your local marine environment! The EMS programme has planned Community Guided Snorkel & Paddle Days around Whangārei. We provide free hire of all snorkel/paddle equipment and provide experienced guides to lead your discovery.

Koha of cash, online or donations of time volunteering are appreciated for all events.

Paddle Day	Snorkel Day
Waikaraka Paddle - 11th Feb	Rotahā Snorkel 1 - 17th Dec
Whānauaki Paddle - 8th Apr	Maitai Bay Snorkel - 11th Jan
Pātāua Paddle - 9th Apr	Tāpūtāua Snorkel - 12th Jan
* Ruakaka Paddle - 15th Apr	Rotahā Snorkel 2 - 14th Jan
* Oruru River Paddle - 16th Apr	Omere Bay Snorkel - 22nd Jan
	Whānauaki Snorkel - 28th Jan
	Rotahā Snorkel 3 - 12th Feb
	Kohāwheua Bay Snorkel - 25th Feb
	Mātāpouri Wight Snorkel - 7th Mar
	Maungani Snorkel - 11th Mar
	Pātāua Drift Snorkel - 12th Mar
	Kai Iwi Day Snorkel - 18th Mar
	Kai Iwi Night Snorkel - 18th Mar
	Oke Bay Snorkel - 25th Mar
	Rotahā Snorkel 4 - 26th Mar

Free Ferry cost only

For COVID event updates, registrations, weather calls and booking dates visit www.facebook.com/emsnz or www.emsnz.org.nz or contact info@emsnz.org.nz

SINGING CAROL SERVICE

Where: St Francis Xavier Catholic Church; corner of Kamo Road/Percy Street.

Time: Start time – 5pm
Finish time and shared supper – 6pm.



CHURCH MUSIC GROUPS

WHEN: SUNDAY
18TH DECEMBER
2022

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

ISAIAH 9:6

EVERLASTING FATHER

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

At our instructor-led holiday programme, children are kept busy in an interactive learning environment. Activities and games are designed to teach fundamental skills of sports, such as tennis, hockey, football, basketball—and just about any other sport you can imagine!

LOCATION	PRICE
Northland Badminton Centre (Porowiri) New	1 day \$47 2 days \$84 3 days \$116
DATES	17-19 January and 24 - 26 January
TIME	9:00am-2:30pm
AGE GROUP	4-10

WHAT TO BRING

Morning tea, lunch and drink bottle

A Playball certificate will be given to children enrolled for 3 days.

ENROL AT PLAYBALLKIDS.COM/FRANCHISE/NORTHLAND



WHAT IS PLAYBALL?

Playball is an international multi-sport and movement programme, teaching skills from a variety of sports in a fun, positive environment from professional coaches.

As well as our holiday programme, we also offer weekly classes during term time for 2-9 year olds. For more information, visit playballkids.com Email: dean@playball.co.nz



Education at Kiwi North 2022 Wrap Up

As the year draws to a close, Kiwi North would like to thank the schools that have participated in our Education Programmes throughout 2022. With the uncertainty at the beginning of the year, it has been awesome to have schools able to visit us again as the year went on. I have also enjoyed being able to visit you in your schools and provide learning opportunities for your ākonga.

Look out for more details about how you can celebrate Seaweek in 2023 with Kiwi North (Term 1)

Space Programme

With the support of the US Embassy the space in schools programme has been popular and a huge success. This will continue to be offered throughout Terms 1 and 2 next year. Let me know if you would like to be a part of this programme.

"A great programme that was well delivered"

"All students were fully engaged"

Seaweek

"Engaging and educational"

The programmes experienced by ākonga this year have included conservation and history themes.

"Our visit was amazing"

"I really appreciate the ease of organising this trip and we will definitely be revisiting"

Student comment: "Old things are very cool"

"It really enhanced our class learning"

"Such a positive learning experience"

"The children were really buzzing"

On Site Visits

The programmes experienced by ākonga this year have included conservation and history themes.

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Student comment: "Old things are very cool"

"It really enhanced our class learning"

"Such a positive learning experience"

"The children were really buzzing"

I'm sure 2023 will be with us before we know it. I am planning to offer some funded programmes, delivered to you in your schools. Whilst also, of course, continuing to offer programmes based at our site, encompassing the Museum, Kiwi House and Heritage Park. We have much to offer here at Kiwi North. Our programmes are Ministry of Education approved, and created to suit your specific learning objectives. We welcome visits from teachers who are considering a visit here with their ākonga. Please get in touch with me if you would like to call in during the holidays for a no obligation chat and a look around our site. Hoping the rest of the year goes as smoothly as the end of the school year can!

Suzanne Woodgates
education@kiwinorth.co.nz
027 550 3905 or (09) 438 9630 Ext 804



School Holiday Tennis Camp

Pete Stenberg Tennis

I will be running a school holiday tennis camp catering for all ages and abilities of young players, 5yrs - 17yrs.

December 20/21/22nd 2022
Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday.

Children will be separated into groups organised around their ability and will work on both technical and tactical parts of their game using game-based drills and ball machines etc. There will be mini tournaments run each day designed around their abilities to give them some match play to test their skills.

WHEN: 9am - 12:30pm each day

WHERE: Tennis Northland Headquarters, Thomas Neal Memorial Park, Winger Crescent, Kamo, Whangārei

What to bring: Tennis Racket, shoes, drink bottle, morning nibbles, good attitudes, spare rackets will be provided.

COST: \$120 per person for the 3 day camp

Please contact Pete Stenberg: pa.stenberg@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 2700 229 to make any inquiries and confirm reservations for the camp.