



St Francis Xavier Catholic School



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

No.1 Term 1 Wednesday 8th February 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,



Welcome to all the new students and their families to our school.

We hope that you are enjoying your new school and community.

Our new students are Nathan Anoop, Maria Balsalubre, Asher Biji, Kimberlyn Bradshaw, Ahyeon Cho, Rhiane Cui, Nouf Disu, Cherril and Michelle Elamthuruthy, Hayley Gilmour, Johan Gladwin Chullikkattu, Siennah Janish, Edison Jithu, Mia Keogh, Kiwa-Nikau Kite-Poutai, Shilo Lubo, Carl Martin, Phoebe Menor, Isabella Peacey, Taj Pevats, Stella Pishief, Everlyn Rony, Ana Ruiz, Adriel Sourin, Thea Tan, Tirzah Tony, Roseanna Thor, Joshua Toby Tom, Dylan Todd-Jones, Amalia van Holst, Sylvia-Rose Williams and Noah Wise.

Principal's Message

A warm welcome to both new and current families to St Francis Xavier Catholic School. I hope you've all had some quality time together and enjoyed the holiday break despite the weather challenges. I guess this is a good time to introduce myself. I am Ms Jennie Dean who is the new face in Mr McKernan's office this term. As you know, I was acting DP last year. I am an Aucklander by birth, I went to Waitakere College and then Waikato University. I have taught in Auckland, the Waikato, and England. Ten years ago, I ventured to the beautiful Northland and taught at Onerahi Primary School.

This year our overarching concept is **Connections**. I love this concept as it gives scope and curiosity for so many learning possibilities. At St Francis we value strong connections and relationships between the school, whanau and tamariki to help develop each learner to become the best they can be. Positive connections between parents and teachers have been shown to improve children's academic achievement, social competencies and emotional well-being. When parents and teachers work as partners, children do better in school and at home. We encourage all parents to introduce themselves to teachers early on in the year, ask questions and stay in contact to discuss your child's development as the year progresses. We also have an important date for your dairies to ensure you have an opportunity to meet with teachers.

Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd Feb 1.30 - 6pm. On these days you may pick your child up from 1.15 pm. Those who remain at school will stay in the St Joseph's room until the 2.50 pm bell.

continued

It is also an important reminder to keep connected to the school newsletter. Every fortnight the newsletter is emailed to you. The newsletter includes many important events and information you need to know for the weeks ahead. In the event of an emergency, for example, our recent weather natural disaster, we will always be in contact via email. We also insist that any form of device that has a way of communicating such as a cell phone or smart watch be handed in at the office before school starts. Children can pick these up at the end of each day.

The St Francis Xavier Catholic School Motto is To Love - Kia Aroha, To Learn - Kia Akonga and To Serve - Kia Aro Atu. This term we focus on Kia Aroha. The most important commandment Jesus gave us is to love God and love others (Matthew 22:34-40). Healthy positive relationships are so important in every aspect of life. The first part of our Motto is about building the skills in our students to be respectful of all, be secure in the knowledge we are a child of God, to be responsible for our own actions, and show integrity. Discussing and using this motto at home can connect you to their learning and school life. 'He waka eke noa' – we are all in this together. When we paddle together and in the same direction we achieve more.

I look forward to our St Francis Waka doing great things in 2023.

Kia pai tō ra – have a good day,

Blessings to all your whanau,

Jennie Dean

Acting Principal

Important Dates for Your Dairies

Week 4 Term 1

Teacher, Parent, Student Meet and Greet. 22nd & 23rd February.

Week 7 Term 1

Please be aware school will have an early finish on Wednesday 15th March at 12.30 as staff will be participating in a professional learning afternoon.

Looking ahead to Term 2

Monday 24th April will be a teacher only day. School will be closed to all students. Staff will be training in the refresh of the new curriculum in Mathematics and Statistics.



PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER MEET AND GREET

Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd February 1.30 - 6.00pm

This meet and greet involves the student, parent and teacher. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher together and get to know each other better.

Each interview is 15 minutes and parents and children are encouraged to attend.

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

Appointments can be made online.

Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Enter the booking code: **22exf**

Follow the instructions.

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

Religious Education

"...no eyes has seen, no ears has heard, no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him" 1 Corinthians 2:9

This Sunday's Readings:

(Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time) Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Thought For The Week:

"The measure of a person is not how great their faith is, but how great their love is". 1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

***Our School Charism**

The Charism of our school is the missionary zeal of both Saint Francis Xavier, our school patron saint, and St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) who carried the Word of God to distant lands.

St Francis Xavier, a 'Man of God', had the passion and energy to proclaim the gospel of Christ to all people. He had a unique desire to evangelise and worked tirelessly for others.

It is the faith and life example of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), who founded the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The main principles of her Order arose from her respect for human dignity.

St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop's) Charism is a gift of the spirit which is characterised by:

Listening to God's call.

Making room for all.

Having an attitude of gratitude.

Doing your bit.

The school community, take on the responsibility of following the examples of St Francis Xavier and St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop).

***Ash Wednesday**

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a Mass, on **Wednesday 22nd February** at **9:00am** in the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Why we place cold ashes on our forehead.

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a time when we stop and assess how we're doing in our walk with God. Lent helps us identify spiritual areas in which we can grow and sinful areas that we need to avoid. To repent, put simply, means to turn *away* from sin and turn toward God. We use ashes as an outward expression of our need to begin again.

Lent

Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday) is a time for renewal and preparing for Easter. The children will be discussing the season of Lent and talking about Lenten promises. A good way to remind your child(ren) about these Lenten discussions is to ask them questions about them.

***Family Mass**

During the year, Whanau will be rostered to participate in Family Masses on Sunday at 10:00 am. These Whanau Masses have been a success in recent years and it is a beautiful way of coming together as a school and Parish whanau to celebrate the Eucharist.

Our next Family Mass is on **Sunday, 26th March** at 10:00am. Hatea Whanau (Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be participating).

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Yours in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS - Director of Religious Studies



Baptism for school-aged children

Do you have a child or children between the ages of 7 and 12 who have yet to be baptised? A new programme is starting on 14th February after 10am Mass and runs during term 1.

The programme is called Walk in the Light- Hiko i te Marama.

Attached to this newsletter is an invitation and an outline of the programme.

For more information email Mrs J at St Francis Xavier Catholic School glennys@sfx.school.nz or contact Janet at the parish office.

School Uniform

We have a lovely uniform and we expect our students to wear it with pride.

We are in full summer uniform at the moment so this means flat, black sandals with a backstrap, a summer tunic or skirt, and our school polo shirt.

It is very, very warm and we encourage the children not to wear sweatshirts.

Please pop PE gear into bags for sports and games.

We are already noticing that nits are on the rise, so all long hair must be tied up.

On Monday we will start our "no hat, no play" break times. Please ensure your child has a school hat.

PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS.

Nail polish is not part of our uniform and please keep jewellery to stud earrings, a cross necklace, or taonga.

Many thanks for supporting our uniform standards.



Coffee & bikkies in a toddler friendly space!
(*Breastfeeding friendly zone with seating)

A friendly, non-judgemental listening ear.

Space for a confidential chat about anything going on at home.

Support to find services to best match your personal situation.

Please text, WhatsApp or email Rosie to make an appointment:

021 028 33587

rosie@sfx.school.nz
rosie.hughes@pompallier.school.nz

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club brochures will be sent home with students this week. Orders are due back at the school office by

Monday 20th February

Please check you have named the order form and entered

this year's classroom number.

There are two ways to pay.

If paying by cash please pay the **EXACT** amount as change often gets lost on the way home with students.

For credit card payments you may register online with Scholastic's LOOP service for parents.

To register go to: [scholastic.co.nz/loop](https://www.scholastic.co.nz/loop)



SFX/Marist netball 2023 Years 1-6



The netball season is about to start again. We managed to play some great netball last year; the girls developed some wonderful skills and had a lot of fun.

Fees are likely to be around \$90:00 (to be confirmed). The netball season usually begins at the start of Term 2 (to be confirmed).

If you would like your child to play netball this season please register online as soon as possible,

via the Sporty website; www.sporty.co.nz/clubs.

We usually only have 1 team at each year group and they fill up very quickly. Y1/2 teams will play on Monday afternoons, Y3-6 teams play matches on Saturday mornings.

To enable us to run lots of teams for your children, we must have coaches and managers for each team and for this we need your help parents. We cannot do this without you. There are plenty of online courses and websites with ideas - you do not need to have played to coach young players, just be prepared to have some fun. If you are interested in helping, please indicate this on the registration form and I will make contact with you.

Are you interested in sponsoring a Marist netball team? If so, that would be fantastic too and most certainly appreciated. Again, this can be noted on the registration form.

Feel free to email or call me with any queries or ask Mrs Clegg at school.

Pamela 0275983222 or peterandpamelaplus4@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTFA

Kia Ora and Welcome back to 2023.

We hope that you had a great break with whanau and friends and managed to get out in the sunshine in those moments when the sun was out!

The PTFA is looking forward to a great year ahead, helping and connecting with families of our school, rolling out some exciting fundraising events and co ordinating parent and whanau evenings.

We would love for you to join us!

Our first meeting is in the school staffroom, come along and see what it's all about
Wednesday 1st March at 7pm

See you there!



SCHOOL EVENTS

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

February

10th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
10th	5:15pm	School choir Singing at the Hatea Loop Challenge	
14th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
16th	5:45pm	Board to Trustees Meeting in Staffroom	
17th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
21st	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
22nd	9:am	Ash Wednesday Mass	
22nd & 23rd	1:15 - 6pm	Teacher, Parent, Student Meet and Greet.	
24th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
28th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

March

1st	7pm	PTFA Meeting in the Staffroom	
3rd	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 22 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 1 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
3rd	1:30pm	School Assembly - Pukenui Whanau leading. Whole school attending	
6th		Senior Swimming Champs at Pompallier	
7th	Swimming	Year 3/4 start their lessons	
9th	5:15pm	Camp Parent Evening	
10th	Swimming	Year 3/4	
14th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 1 (To be confirmed)	
14th	Swimming	Year 3/4	
15th		WPSSA Swimming	
15th	12:30pm	School closes at 12:30 for staff to attend Professional Learning	
17th	Swimming	Year 3/4 lessons	
21st	Swimming	Year 3/4 lessons	
22nd	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 2	
22nd		Vision & Hearing	
24th	Swimming	Year 3/4	
28th to 31st		Camp 1	
28th	Swimming	Year 3/4	
29th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 3	
31st	Swimming	Year 3/4	

April

3rd to 6th		Camp 2
6th		Holy Thursday
6th	2:50pm	End of Term 1

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

1 Percy Street, Whangarei

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

Ph: 09 437 1039

Email: office@sfx.school.nz
Website: www.sfx.school.nz

TERM DATES FOR 2023

TERM 1: Tue 31st Jan - Thur 6th Apr
TERM 2: Wed 26th Apr - Fri 30th Jun
TERM 3: Mon 17th Jul - Fri 22nd Sept
TERM 4: Mon 9th Oct - Fri 15th Dec TBC

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An invitation to the Sacrament of Baptism for School Age Children

Walk in the Light-Hikoi i te Mārama

***“For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
Galatians 3:27***

The Parish of St Francis Xavier Whangarei extends a warm invitation to families and whānau to be part of **Walk in the Light-Hikoi i te Mārama**. This a programme of learning and growing in our Catholic faith and will lead to the children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. After receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, the children can be part of the sacramental programme which leads to First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation, later in the year. Walk in the Light- Hikoi i te Mārama is based on the Sunday Gospel and the programme will run after 10am Mass on Sundays until 12:30. There is an expectation that at least one parent will accompany the child/children to Mass and to the sessions. The programme will be as follows:

10am Mass

11am- Gather in the St Joseph’s Room at St Francis Xavier Catholic School.

11:10- Morning tea

11:30-12:30- Learning session

The team includes Fr Peter McDermott sm, Karen Sturge, Jeanette Atabelo and Glenys Jakicevich

Session Dates and Gospel Focus:

Sunday 12th February: Meet and greet. A time to get to know one another and ask questions.

Sunday 19th February: Gospel Matt 5: 38-48 Turn the other Cheek

Sunday 26th February: First Sunday of Lent. Gospel Matt 4:1-11 Jesus in the Desert

Sunday 5th March: Second Sunday of Lent. Gospel Matt 17:1-9 Transfiguration

Sunday 12th March: Third Sunday of Lent. Gospel John 4:5-42 Living Water

Sunday 19th March: Fourth Sunday of Lent. Gospel John 9:1-41 Light

Sunday 26th March: Fifth Sunday of Lent. Gospel John 11:1-45 I am the Resurrection and the Life.

Sunday 2nd April: Palm Sunday. Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem Matt 21:1-11

Easter Sunday 9th April 10am Mass-Baptism of the children.

If you would like more information, please contact Glenys Jakicevich glenys@sfx.school.nz 4371039. To register your child or children for this programme please see Janet the Parish secretary or phone 4377902.

Nau mai, haere mai! We hope to see you there!