



# St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.3 Term 1 Wednesday 8th March 2023



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,

As you walk around the school every day and visit classrooms there is always a positive vibe. The energy of the students and excitement towards learning brings a smile to our faces. Senior and middle school students have been buzzing about swimming, Year six students' leadership roles have been announced, which has led to pride and responsibility. There has been Scottish dancing with Ms Malone and we have had expert providers in the school teaching our children new skills in technology and maths.

Planning and implementation of a wide range of programmes allows our students the opportunities to access a wide range of experiences. In this newsletter I would like to acknowledge and celebrate some of the wonderful extra programmes we have.

## ESOL

Mrs Leasa Hirst, our English Speakers of Other Languages teacher offers a programme that supports second language learners helping our tamariki to become more proficient in English. Our two newly appointed migrant workers Jerlene Krebs and Binitha Varghese also support our students.

## The Family Support Room

Mrs Rosie Ponofasio, our Family Worker, offers a welcoming space for all children and families. A service for whanau to best match any personal situation. Rosie is often spotted outside her room during the week inviting children to read in the sunshine.

## Learning Support Coordinator

Mrs Nirvana Withers is our learning support coordinator. Her role is to identify and plan for the learning support needs of children in the school.

## Music Specialist

All classes take part in having music with Ms Malone, she also takes our Choir and Church Band.

## Diving Deeper

A wide range of teachers deliver the Diving Deeper programme to students who have strengths and passions in different areas of the curriculum. For example Mr Kini - EPRO 8 problem solving. Mr Werder - Sport, Ms Malone - Philosophy, Mrs Webber - Art, Mrs Gunson - Stream Environmental group and Whaea Rose - STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, arts and music).

## Kapa Haka

All classes in Years 3-6 have Kapa Haka classes every Tuesday with Matua Shane Maunsell. Junior school also partake in Kapa Haka each Tuesday under the guidance of Whaea Jacqui.

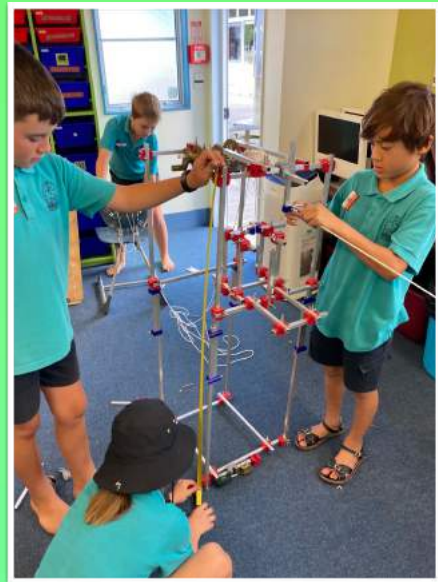
These are just some of the extra programmes offered. We are always refining and adapting our school wide programmes to best meet the needs and strengths of our students. Here are some pictures of some of the great experiences our tamariki have had in the last few weeks.

*Jennie Dean*

Acting Principal



Music lessons with Ms Malone



EPRO 8 - Diving Deeper.



ESOL  
Room

Learning  
Support  
Room



Matua Shane - teaching our  
Year 3 & 4 students.



Digital Circus - Technology workshops.



The Learner First - Maths workshop.



# 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: (Third Sunday of Lent)**

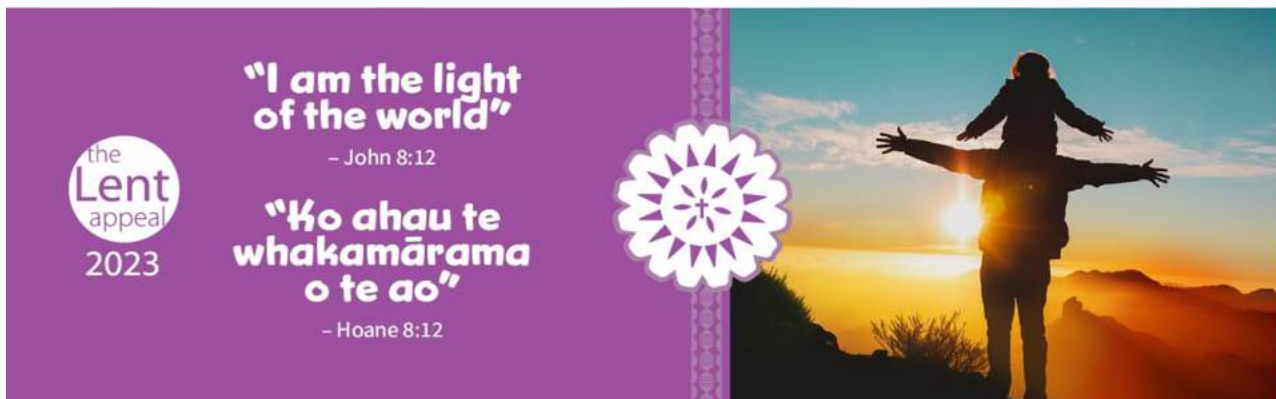
Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

### **Thought For The Week:**

- Give up complaining - focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism - become an optimist.
- Give up discouragement - be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness - turn to forgiveness.
- Give up harsh judgement - think kindly thoughts.

## **Lent**

Lent is getting ready for Easter a bit like Advent is getting ready for Christmas. In Lent, it is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving is donating money, food, or other items to the poor or needy, especially as a spiritual practice. Almsgiving helps us experience giving freely. Caritas helps us focus on Lent and our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The theme this year is "I am the light of the world."



## **Holy Week**

As part of our Holy Week celebration, the children will be offered a hot cross bun at interval, on Thursday. If your child has any food allergies or does not want to receive a hot cross bun at interval, please inform your child's teacher.

## **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, 26<sup>th</sup> March** at 10:00am. Hatea Whanau (Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be participating).

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

## **10 am Masses**

A warm invitation is extended to all our families to come along to 10 am Mass every Sunday. The 10am Mass will be a family and children-focused celebration. The readings will be from the Children's Lectionary, the Children's Eucharistic prayer will be used and the music will include songs the children know and love.

A group of our young people are making the journey through the "Walk in the Light-Hikoi i te Mārama" programme. Many of them will be baptised on Easter Sunday. Coming to 10 am Mass is part of that journey, so it would be great to support them with our presence.

As a Parish and a School, we are focused on making Sunday Eucharist a place we can all gather and celebrate as the whānau of St Francis Xavier and the family of God, so come along and share the joy!

Yours in Christ

*Mrs Maria Wilson*

DRS - Director of Religious Studies



Thea Patel and Charles Whitfield who have started at our school recently. We hope that you are enjoying your new school and community.

### Food Sharing

As much as food sharing can be enjoyed, especially around birthday times, we ask that all families please do not bring any food for sharing to school. This is a health and safety requirement as we have many students with dietary and allergy conditions.

### 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. Birkenstock-style sandals are not part of our uniform. Our sandals need a back strap. 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. Please remember "no hat, no play" break times. Please ensure your child has a school hat and **all items are clearly named**.

### PTFA Sausage Sizzle

The PTFA is excited to announce we will be having the first sausage sizzle of the year this **Friday 10th March**. Sausages are \$2 each, please give the money to your class teacher before 9am on Friday morning. All sausages are generously donated by Whangarei Gourmet Meats.

If anyone is interested in joining the sausage sizzle team we would love to hear from you! It is a lovely way to meet other parents from the school and contribute to our biggest fundraiser which directly benefits our children. Please contact Lisa on 0210678067 if you would like to help out.



### Thank you

Huge thank you to all our parent helpers. Without your help we are not able to take our tamariki on trips outside of school grounds. .



**FREE dental care for under 18s**  
Kei raro iho i te tekau mā waru, kāhore he utu

**Fluoride in toothpaste helps prevent tooth decay**

Avoid eating or drinking after brushing teeth, Especially at night so the fluoride can keep working to protect and strengthen teeth.

**5 TIPS TO KEEP YOU SMILING**

Need a dental appointment for your child?  
**CALL 0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384)**

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand  
Te Kaitiaki



**YOU'RE AWESOME!**

**A huge thank you to all those parents and caregivers who support staff and children by using the pedestrian crossings in the church car park and on Percy St.**



**The safety of children should always be our priority.**



Last week was NZ Multiple Birth Awareness week! We celebrated by gathering the 8 sets of SFX twins together for a photo.

Twins in NZ make up about 2 out of every 100 pregnancies. 75% of these will be fraternal (non-identical) & 25% identical. Our school follows that trend with 6 sets of fraternal boy/girl twins & 2 sets of identicals.

You can find out more about Multiple births at [www.multiples.org.nz](http://www.multiples.org.nz). Or join our local Facebook group – "Multiples Whangārei & Northland"



Twin Mums!



We also have 3 twin Mums working at school: Mrs Wanders, Whaea Jacqui & Rosie.

Mrs Wanders (whose twins are now 28) says that the best part of having twins is double the fun, love & laughs...but unfortunately, when the twins were babies that also meant double the sleep deprivation & twice as much crying!

Whaea Jacqui has 35 year old twins who were born during Cyclone Bola. Her favourite saying is: "life's a breeze with 2 to squeeze!"

Rosie (whose twins are nearly 7) says that she's still in the thick of it all, but has her head above the water so far!



Tavia & Tobias



Miller-Rose & Tristan



Beauden & Lucas



Maddison & Indie

Twice  
as nice!



Matthew & Sharyn



Melani & Asher



Abel & Ann



Aidan & Amelia





# SCHOOL EVENTS

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

## March

9th	5:15pm	Camp Parent Evening	
9th		EPRO 8 Challenge	
10th		<b>Sausage Sizzle- \$2 Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day</b>	
10th	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
14th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 1	
14th	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
15th		WPSSA Swimming	
15th	11am - 11:50am	Reconciliation	
15th	12:30pm	<b>School closes at 12:30 for staff to attend Professional Learning</b>	
17th	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
20th	9am	Rooms 4, 11 & 17 Hatea Loop Walk	
21st	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
22nd	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 2	
22nd		Vision & Hearing	
23rd	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting in Staffroom	
24th		<b>Sausage Sizzle- \$2 Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day</b>	
24th	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
27th		Rooms 15, 19 & 23 Hatea Loop Walk	
28th to 31st		Camp 1	
28th	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
29th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 3	
31st	Swimming	<b>Room 17</b> Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am	<b>Room 23</b> Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am
		<b>Room 4</b> Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am	<b>Room 15</b> Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am
		<b>Room 11</b> Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	<b>Room 19</b> Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

## April

3rd	12:pm	Chrism Mass
3rd to 6th		Camp 2
5th		Easter Mass (to be confirmed)
6th		Holy Thursday
6th	2:50pm	End of Term 1

## Community Market Day for Ukraine

25th March in Parish Hall 8:30am - 1pm

Responding to Pope Francis' call to us to help the people of Ukraine, the Parish Pastoral Council are organising a Market Day fundraiser for Ukraine. We are inviting suggestions as Art for Sale, Stall, Entertainment and any other suggestions of ways we can raise funds to help support the people of Ukraine. Please call the Parish Office if you have ideas or initiatives you are willing to contribute on 4377902.