



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.1 Term 2 Wednesday 1st May 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 Cecilia and Maria Antony, Keanu Boyd, Amaiah Brown, Blessing Chikasha, Antonio Cinto, Ethan Donaire, Kacey Jerry, Gabriella Naidoo, Osiris and Sophia Tolhopf.

Principal's Message

Thank you to all of you who have welcomed me back to the St Francis Xavier Catholic School family after my return from sabbatical. I have had a wonderful break and am looking forward to the year ahead.

In my absence there was a great deal happening at school, floods, storms, strike action to name a few events. I wish to congratulate and thank the school staff and Ms Jennie Dean our Acting Principal for steering the school through this difficult time. They all did a fantastic job and I know that you, like myself, appreciate the efforts that they went to.

School Attendance: Over the past year there has been a great deal of publicity concerning pupil attendance rates at school. Although the Ministry of Education has praised our school on its high attendance (90%+) it concerns us that there are still some poor attendees.

In a recent review of achievement of some of our students achieving at a lower level of the curriculum, it is very obvious that their poor attendance correlates strongly with their underachievement.

With winter approaching it is inevitable that sickness will affect a child's attendance however this means that when children are not sick then it is very important that they attend school.

Arriving at school on time is also really important. It enables children to get organised for the day, meet their friends and feel settled before the bell rings. In my experience children who are late to school are often unsettled, anxious and ill prepared for the morning session of school.

Please remember that we are here to assist you to get your child to class but ultimately it is the parents responsibility to get their child to school. Secondly, always plan to have your family holidays in the school holiday break. I appreciate that it is often more expensive but please consider what is best for your child.

The Ministry of Education is investing heavily in programmes and efforts to ensure children attend school. We need to support this initiative. As Mary of the Cross MacKillop said "Do your bit."

Playground update: The Board of Trustees is working closely with a project team and the Diocese to deliver a new playground, paving and outdoor meeting space. We have been super fortunate to receive two grants to assist us in the project. Last term a \$87,000 grant from Grassroots has enabled us to purchase the new junior playground. We are grateful for the support of the Grassroots Trust.

Craig McKernan
Principal

Vision Statement

"Uniting through Christ, Embracing Mana, Enhancing Futures."

Religious Education

Welcome back! It is great to see the children return from their holidays and be eager to start the new term.

This Sunday's Readings: (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

Thought For The Week:

Cast your cares upon the Lord, for he cares about you. - 1 Peter 5:7

Non-uniform Days:

Our Non-uniform Days this term, are on **Friday 19 May**, is our Bring a Can, no uniform day. Please bring an item(s) of non-perishable food on this day. These will be given to St Vincent de Paul and Soul Food.



Our second non-uniform day is **Friday 23 June - YCC DAY (Caritas)**. For YCC Day in 2023, the children's gold coin donation will go towards supporting **Oecusse School in Timor Leste**. The school is in dire need of support to repair and replace all broken and unsanitary toilet bowls, repair hand washing stations in the toilet facilities, and to fix water pipes for transporting water to different areas in the school.



Family/Whanau Mass

Our next Family Mass is on Sunday, **28th May** (Pentecost Sunday) at 10:00am. **Kauika Whanau** (Rooms 7, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will be participating). ALL ARE WELCOME.

Mother's Day Liturgy

Save the date! Our Mother's Day Liturgy will be on **Friday 12th May** at 1.30pm, in the church. Mothers, please come and join us as we thank God for the wonderful gift of you, our mothers.

Pastoral Care Basket

Our Pastoral Care basket that is situated underneath the statue of Mary, in the school office area. Non-perishable food items placed in this basket goes towards a family in need, in our community.

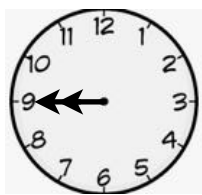
Yours in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

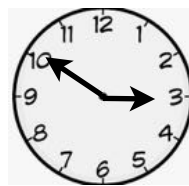
DRS - Director of Religious Studies

Please Note For Term 2:

Although we issue passes for being late and finishing early, **it would be preferable if ALL** our children are here, and finish at the same time so teachers and their classes are not interrupted and children can learn without disruptions.



Morning classes begin at **8:45 am**. It is essential for your child/children to be at school ready to start their learning day before the bell rings.



Classes end at **2.50pm**. **Children should be collected by 3.15pm** unless they are with their parents, attending the After School Care programme or attending sports practice.

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ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Many thanks to the Year 6 leaders and their families who represented our school at the Dawn Service last Tuesday morning. Some of our pupils laid a wreath on behalf of our school. It was a moving occasion and our children represented us very well.

Football kit

Has your child lost a pair of football boots and green football socks? Mrs J has some expensive-looking football gear in her office. Please contact her if this might be yours.

Mathathon

The Basic Facts are the tools children need to use when mentally solving number problems. The purpose of this event is to enhance children's ability to recall these Basic Facts and at the same time give the children the opportunity to raise money for our school. As this will be a sponsored event, the money raised will go towards the building of a new playground. Sponsorship forms and practice sheets were sent home last week.

We encourage all children to learn these Basic Facts at home to enhance their ability to have instant recall.

Dates : Weeks 1-5 : Children continue to learn and practice Basic Facts.

Week 6 : Administer test during the week and send home result sheets.

Weeks 7-8 : Money to come back to school by end of week 8. 16th June.



Scholastic Book Club

Brochures have been sent home and spare copies are available at the school office. ALL orders are due back at school by the 10th May 2023. Please make sure you have your child's name, classroom number and caregivers phone number on the form along with the correct change.

Winter uniform - Term 2

By the beginning of week 3, all students should be in full winter uniform. This includes flat, black lace-up or velcro shoes, that can be polished (not sneakers or canvas shoes).

If you would like to obtain items through our school's second hand uniform pool, please pop into the office and fill out a form. Alternatively, e-mail Mrs J with your requirements, and she will try and source what you need. glenys@sfx.school.nz Please include your child's name, class, and size. A koha or donation is appreciated.

We have noticed that a lot of the sweatshirts in the second-hand pool have the child's name written right across the inside of the collar. If you could name sweatshirts on the white tag, it is much easier to re-name when another family purchases it. **Thank you for naming all your clothes!**

A friendly reminder that long hair is to be tied up with navy or black hair ties and nail polish is not part of our uniform.

Free Piano

We have a piano going free which is in the St Joseph's room if you wish to view. If we have more than 1 interest we will place in a ballot draw. If you are interested please let the office staff know.

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SCHOOL EVENTS

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

MAY

10th		Sausage Sizzle- \$2 Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day
12th	1:30pm	Mother's Day Liturgy
17th	6:30pm	PTFA Parent Information Evening
19th		Non-uniform day - Please bring a can
24th		Yr 5 & 6 WPSSA Winter Sports
26th	6:30pm	PTFA Quiz Night
31st		Sausage Sizzle- \$2 Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day
31st	1:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 1

JUNE

5th		King's Birthday - School closed
7th	1:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 2
14th	1:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 3
15th	5:45pm	BOT Meeting
21st	1:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 4
21st		Sausage Sizzle- \$2 Please place your order with the class teacher at the start of the day
23rd		Non-uniform day - Gold coin donation



Life Education Trust Whangarei presents:

Parents Cyber Safety Evening

With Rob Cope - Author, Parent & Filmmaker of the 2020 documentary: 'Our Kids Online'

- Understand the harms our kids are facing online in relation to cyber bullying, predators, pornography, gaming, social media and the 24/7 switched on effect on the developing brain.
- Learn practical solutions to keep your children safer online.
- Get advice on healthy ways to approach these tricky topics.
- Learn what to do when your child has been exposed to something harmful.

Watch the promotional video here - [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

KAMO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2023 | 6.30PM - 8.30PM
10 HAI LES ROAD, KAMO, WHANGAREI

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS HERE: <https://mytickets.co.nz/keeping-our-kids-safe-online>

To find out more about Rob's work
visit www.ourkidsonline.info

Attention all parents

We want our Northland schools to be a safe place for our children.

Because of the rapidly changing times our tamariki are growing up in and the mounting challenges and harms they are facing online, we need to start talking about and tackling this as a community. As such, Life Education Trust Whangarei have organised Author, Filmmaker and Speaker Rob Cope, producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover

- Cyberbullying - How cyberbullies can reach our kids 24/7
- Social media - The pressure for kids to build an online brand that is often far removed from their authentic selves. FOMO, Highlight Reels
- Gaming and the developing brain - An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- Naked Selfies - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school
- Online predators - The methods they use, how to spot them, and how to get out from under their control if your child has been trapped
- Online porn vs healthy sexuality - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.
- Solutions
- Filters - Which filters are best and how to install them
- Smartphones - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- Boundaries - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- 3 golden rules - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- Talking to your kids - How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- Challenging our own phone and device usage - Reconnecting as a family.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL PTFA
PRESENTS

Quiz night

WITH LIVE BAND
"CAKE AND EAT IT"



THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSOR Whangarei Gourmet Meats

All funds raised from the Quiz Night will go towards our new school PLAYGROUND and surrounding play and meeting spaces!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
SPONSOR THIS AWESOME
EVENT?

We would love table sponsors, auction items, prize sponsors and more. If you think that you could help please

GET IN TOUCH WITH RENEE
0273132142 or
Reneeprocter82@gmail.com

FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

QUIZ STARTS AT 7PM

**Marist Clubrooms
39 Park Ave
Kensington**

**\$25 per person
6 People per Team
Price incl. Table Platter.**

Bring along cash for the bar and extras that you won't want to miss!

**PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED &
WINNING TEAMS!!**

Tickets and Tables are limited so complete the booking slip to get your place.

To get your slip and entry please contact
Renee - 0273132142