



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

Term 4 No:4 Wednesday 29th November 2023



Tēnā koutou whānau,

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation as we await the coming of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God is With Us.

Advent provides us all with a wonderful opportunity to slow down a bit, take time out from the often frenetic pace of the end of year and Christmas.

Advent is a season of waiting, but sometimes we skip right over the preparation and want to get right to Christmas. Maybe we could consider the benefits of the season of Advent to slow down. We are invited to ponder the gift of our Saviour in our prayer and patience. This waiting during the four weeks of Advent can allow our hearts to be stretched open wide to make us ready to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Waiting seems to be something that we are inclined to do less and less in our modern lives. We often expect an instant reply to texts, instant action on emails, instant meals that take little or no preparation, even instant noodles!

Here's a couple of small suggestions that you might like to consider for your family this Advent.

- make a simple Advent wreath and light a candle at dinner each evening.
- read the wonderful Gospel stories that accompany Advent.
- make a list or discuss of all the things you have been grateful for this year.

Speaking of preparation, a lot of time and effort has been put into some of the exciting end of year activities that mark the closing of the school year. If you have helped out with or been part of events such as our cultural evening, the junior Nativity play, athletics, trips to Matakohē Island, beach education days, sausage sizzles, book fairs or anything else that makes our school so rich and vibrant, then THANK YOU! We value your generosity when we ask for help.



Congratulations to the young people from our school who begin their journey to Baptism this Sunday after 10am Mass. We are excited about the Walk in the Light Programme Hikoi I te Marama. Please keep these candidates and their families in your prayers.

With every blessing
Mrs J

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.

Vision Statement

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

Religious Education

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

Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

Thought For The week

*And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written,
"KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*



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 Sunday 3rd December. The word Advent means "the coming" in Latin. Advent has been a time of good cheer and spiritual reflection as early as the fourth century. 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.

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.



Nativity: *Preparations are quietly underway for the Nativity this year. We are blessed to have the Year 1 and 2 teachers' talents to help create a wonderful reminder of the real 'reason for the season'*

We will be holding our Nativity for parents on Wednesday 6th December at 9:30am in the church.

Year 6 Leavers Mass: *Our Year Six leavers Mass (which involves the whole school), will be held on Monday 11th December in the church, at 9:00am.*

Final School Assembly: *Our final school assembly, (Year 6 Prize Giving), will be held on Wednesday 13th December in the church, commencing at 9:00am.*

Yours in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS- Director of Religious Studies

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Reporting an absence

We have had a number of absent emails go through to the Catholic Parish. Please, please, please check that you are sending your emails to the correct address.

Email address for student absence is absent@sfx.school.nz

You may still call the office to leave a message on Ph: 09 4371039 or call or text the school mobile on 02702784303



SFX Book Amnesty

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

School Accounts

We are nearly at the end of Term 4, so we would like to ask families that your school account is paid by **1st December**. 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 St Francis Xavier at the end of this year; Attendance Dues must be paid in full by the 1st of December 2023**. Failure to pay the account or make contact with Deborah Rudolph (Office Manager), to arrange alternative methods of payment, may result in the overdue account being sent to Debtworks NZ Ltd for default listing at credit reporting agencies.

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.



Ordering School Stationery for 2024

All stationery requirements will be ready for purchase online or in store from the 13th December.

- Click on the attached link <https://nzschooishop.co.nz/> or on the arrow
- Follow the 6 easy steps
- If you have another child at a different school, you can simply add another school and student to the order.
- The pricing has been negotiated by the school to get your family the best rate.



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Students versus Staff at Netball

Term 4 antics at lunch time gave us a Students versus Staff Netball game. Lots of laughs and great fun was had by participants and spectators. A good natured game ending in a draw.



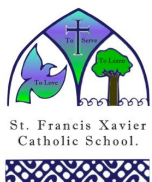
Year 3 & 4 Matakoho Trip

This week, as part of the Year 3 & 4 Education Outside the Classroom programme, the children and parent helpers visited Matakoho-Limestone Island. They were able to make connections to their local community, explored the island's environmental sanctuary and learnt about its history. The island was once an important Māori pa site and the remains of kumara cultivation can still clearly be seen on the northern slope of the island. There are also impressive ruins of one of Whangārei's earliest industrial sites - the Limestone Island cement works, founded in 1856. It has been replanted by the community and pests eradicated and is now an important conservation refuge for rare and endangered native animals. Special thanks to the island's ranger, Bevan, and his wife (Department of Conservation), and to those parents/caregivers that helped on the day.



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SCHOOL EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER

29th		Room 11 & Room 4 Matakohē Island Trip
29th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kakāno Programme - Session 3
29th		WPSSA Athletics
30th	5:45pm	BOT Meeting in Staffroom
30th		Vision & hearing
30th	9am - 2:30pm	Year 6 Students Retreat for Rooms 13, 16 & 18

DECEMBER

1st	9am - 2:30pm	Year 6 Students Retreat for Rooms 1, 12 & 22
4th	9am - 2pm	Year 6 Students Beach Ed for Rooms 1 & 16
5th	9am - 2pm	Year 6 Students Beach Ed for Rooms 13 & 22
6th	9am - 2pm	Year 6 Students Beach Ed for Rooms 12 & 18
6th	9:30am	Nativity for Parents
6th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kakāno Programme - Session 4
7th	1:20 - 2:15pm	Reconciliation for Yr 4-6 students
7th	6pm	Hatea-Loop Choir
11th	9am	Leavers Mass in the church
13th	9am	Final Whole School Assembly
14th	11am	Christmas Carols in Parish Hall
14th	12:30pm	School finishes for the year

Festival of Christmas Trees
decorated by local community groups

St John's Golden Church
149 Kamo Road, Kensington, Whangarei

Open daily, 1 - 24 December
10.00am - 1.00pm & 6.30 - 9.30pm

Free craft sessions for children every Wednesday,
sessions starting at 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday 24 December at 10.00 am

Christmas Day Service
at 10.00 am

Free Kids Only
Holiday Surf Programmes

Holiday Surf Programmes | Dec & Jan
Surfing is an amazing sport that will challenge, entertain, and educate.
Our popular 'Holiday Surf Programmes' give kids the confidence to be active and have fun in the ocean through the enjoyment of learning how to surf.

Where: Taupo Bay & Tutukaka Coast
Dates: 18-22 Dec | 8-12 Jan | 15-19 Jan | 22-26 Jan | 29 Jan-2 Feb

We provide surfboards, wetsuits together with fun & enthusiastic surf coaches.

Free Surfing | Break-Away

- o Funded by Break-Away
- o Free for 11-18 year olds who school in Northland / Far North
- o Small cost for those 6-10 years

Break-Away
School Holiday Programmes
Family & community services
Department of Social Services

2024 TERM DATES

TERM ONE:

30th January to 12th April

TERM TWO:

29th April to 5th July

TERM THREE:

22nd July to 27th September

TERM FOUR:

14th October to 16th December

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Te Kura Akoranga o Tāmaki Makaurau
Incorporating the Auckland College of Education

Are you interested in studying teaching at the University of Auckland Whangārei campus? There is a New Start University Preparation programme available for individuals aged over 20 years who may be looking to complete a Bachelor Of Education in 2024. For more information email Cherioe Tautolo the student hub team leader c.tautolo@auckland.ac.nz or see the brochure in our school office.

school holiday program
futsal...but so much more

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd December
8:30 - 4:00pm

details & registration
www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
christian@northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
021 246 7328

NORTHLAND FUTSAL ACADEMY

SMNZ Surfing New Zealand
NZ SURF NEW ZEALAND
Water safety NEW ZEALAND

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!

A special trip to Flip Out is included at the end of each day.

LOCATION
Northland Badminton Centre (Porowini Ave)

DATES
16-18 and 23-25 Jan 2024 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

TIME
9:00am—2:30pm

AGE GROUP
4-9

WHAT TO BRING
Morning tea, lunch and drink bottle

PRICE

	1 day	2 days	3 days
1 Child	\$49	\$88	\$122
2 Children	\$88	\$156	\$224
3+ Children	\$35/child, per day	\$35/child, per day	\$35/child, per day

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