



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.1 Term 1 Wednesday 7th February 2024



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,



*We welcome all new students and their families to our school.
We hope that you are enjoying your new school and community.*

Our new students are Adin Anand Xavier, Eva Maria Aneesh, Helaina Antogin, Ivan Abraham, Tristan Ares, Chase Beuker, Adina Bineesh, Marco Caguioa, Sok Chea, Rithy Chhor, Giselle Coleman, Hanna Danto, Zade Drake, Emelia Eales, Avery Estrella, Christel Jijo, Gaabriel Jijo, Sandra Jobin, Lucia Tujnovich, Finn Klauss, Nadia Liddle, Liya Lloyd, Elren Madayag, Thabo Masuku, Zahra Miller, Nike Murray, Ngaro-Ki-Te-Uru Neumann, Charlotte Newson, Emilia Pallassery, Jovaan Saneesh, Ivania Saneesh, Austin Sanosh, Aiden Sanosh Mathew, Edrea Scaria, Edric Scaria, Reuben Shaw, Chris Shiju, Jherianne Siwa, Jherriel Khyll Siwa, Raksmejudom Sok, Jacob Tapungot, Jayden Thomas Jijo, Hannah Toby, Ann Vinod, Ivana Vinod John, Brookelyn Wahapa Ham and Jesse Zappelli.

Principal's Message:

Kia Ora Koutou,

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a fantastic break with your families and friends over the Christmas holiday season. I also hope the first days back to school are going well for families as routines are being set.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your new Principal. I am Bernadette Hall from Rotorua. My previous experience in schools has included the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. I have been leading in various roles at Hamilton Schools, and St Mary's Rotorua and as Principal at Bishop Gaines School. I am married to Mark and we are blessed with five children, (Charlotte, Luke, Zach, Kyle and Francesca). I feel blessed and privileged to be leading St Francis Xavier Catholic School. I am so looking forward to working with the staff and students here. I have been impressed with the dedication of the senior leadership team, the teachers and the support staff and the office administration team, with their preparation for the 2024 year and their support for students and families. I am also looking forward to getting to know our community, Board of Trustees, and the families here at St Francis Xavier and members of the Parish and our amazing Priests. I have noticed our friendly tamariki have been kind in their interactions with each other in and outside the classrooms. Ka pai tamariki.



Our 2024 year phrase is: **"God saw all that He made, and it was very good"**. Genesis 1:3. God was **very** pleased because it reflected His character, power and nature. He wanted the very best for us as His children and as kaitiaki of the planet. That also includes us. God does not make carbon copies - we are all unique and precious with a life purpose.

We have an exciting term of learning planned and hope you encourage your child/ren to always do their very best, and to be prepared for each day. Setting good routines, like being prepared for school and knowing what is happening in their week, helps children to feel settled, and therefore more likely to be able to concentrate on learning and making good connections with their peers and teacher.

Some reminders:

Child concerns

If you have any concerns about your child and their learning or wellbeing the first person to see and discuss your concerns with is their classroom teacher. Your child's teacher will understand your child best and they have the most interaction with them in the school day. Most issues or concerns are dealt with at this level. However, if you feel a matter is unresolved after trying the teacher first, then you may contact the team leader of the whanau group.

Parking and pick ups

The church car park gets very busy. We strongly encourage our parents and caregivers to utilise the Marist carpark (photo attached at the end of the newsletter). We are fortunate to have this accessible for our use. Students are brought across after school by a teacher, to the car park and supervised until picked up. This reduces congestion at the church car park, saves parents and caregivers time as the students are brought to them and they don't have to wait for a park, and helps students to stay safe.

Cell phones

Our school rules are that all cell phones brought to school need to be handed into the school office upon arrival and collected at the end of the day. St Francis Xavier already has rules in place for cell phones. The Ministry of Education requires schools to have rules around cell phones in place by Term 2 this year. By Term 2, regulations will require that students do not use or access a personal phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks.

Playground update

Our playground and Te Manawa space are looking amazing. We have had a slight delay with some fixtures, but are anticipating it will be complete over the next few weeks. This will be an incredible addition for our school and students. We will keep you updated.

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.

Thank you all and God bless,

Bernadette Hall

Principal

PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER MEET AND GREET

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th 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: **2nvwr**

Follow the instructions.

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

Religious Education

This Sunday's Readings: (Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1; Mark 1:40-45

Thought For The Week:

The first step to wisdom is silence; the second is listening. A wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. Proverbs 1:5

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 14th 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 Masses

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, 25th February** at 10:00am. Hatea Whanau (Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be participating). **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Blessing of School Teachers and Staff at Mass.

If you are a teacher, Board of Trustee member or staff member at St Francis Xavier Catholic School, Pompallier Catholic College, or at any other school, you are warmly invited to attend our 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 10 February for a blessing for the coming school year

Yours in Christ

Mrs Maria Wilson

DRS – Director of Religious Studies

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Week 4 Term 1

Monday 19th February - Teacher Only Day - **school will be closed** while staff attend a professional development day.

Week 5 Term 1

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February - Teacher, Parent, Student Meet and Greet.

Week 9 Term 1

Tuesday 2 April - **School will be closed**, this is an extra holiday for schools after the Easter Holidays.



Reminders for Term 1

Naming all uniform items, lunch boxes and drink bottles

At the end of every term we have a MOUNTAIN of lost property. This includes hundreds of dollars worth of uniforms. We are having a real push on naming EVERYTHING the children bring to school. Please take the time to write your child's name on their property. If they happen to lose it, it can easily be returned! Many thanks for helping with this.

And speaking of uniform.....

in terms 1 and 4 our pupils wear flat, black sandals with a backstrap. Long hair must be tied up to avoid the nit nasties! Hair ties must be plain black.

Sunsafe

It is our school practice to wear hats during break times and when the children are learning outside during terms 1 and 4. The children may also wear sunglasses, if they are required. We encourage families to apply sunblock at home and some choose to put this in school bags, so children can reapply.

Phones and Smart Watches

A friendly reminder that all phones and Smart Watches must be handed to the office as soon as a pupil arrives at school. If parents and children wish to communicate with each other during the school day, this must go through the class teacher or the school office.

Reporting an absense

Please use one of the following ways to report a student absence:

Email - absent@sfx.school.nz

Text Message - 027 2784303

Phone - 09 4371039

Website - www.sfx.school.nz/report-an-absence. Please make sure you change the students room number in drop down menu as below.

Student 1's Name *
<input type="text" value="Student name"/>
Student 1's Room No. *
<div><div>✓ 1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div></div>

SCHOLASTIC

Lucky Book Club

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

Thursday 15th February

Please check you have named the order form and entered this year's classroom number.

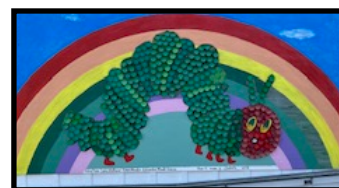
There are two ways to pay.

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



We are needing dark and light green milk bottle lids to refresh our Hungry Caterpillar mural. If you have any of these lids, please send them along to Mrs Balks, or drop them into the office. Many thanks.



Marist Car Park - Park Ave
Please make use of this huge car park right next to our school.
The entrance is off Park Ave.





Welcome back to 2024!

We hope that everyone had a great summer break!

The PTFA are looking forward to another exciting year working with you and our school. We would love to see new faces at our PTFA meetings this year, come along to find out more about supporting our school and tamariki. We have a great group of parents and staff members who are friendly and welcoming.

Our first meeting is going to be in **Week 4 - Wednesday 21st February at 7pm** in the staff room at school.

We also have our first PTFA parent information evening coming up for all parents and caregivers on **Tuesday 19th March at 7pm** in the school staffroom. This will be an informative evening on a topic relevant to all of our students. More information will follow.

We look forward to seeing you all around school over the next few weeks.

Nga Mihi Nui - Your PTFA

As part of the annual Aotearoa Bike Challenge in February this year Bike Northland have teamed up with the NTA road safety team to run some free bike related activities.

Free Bike maintenance/fixit sessions on the 14th February from 4-6pm outside the Te Iwitahi building and Pohe Island Bike Park respectively. Bike mechanics will be there to answer all your queries and there may be a few treats and giveaways too.

Details of all these events are on the Bike Northland Facebook page and website



Weekend Learn to Ride Sessions

Our fabulous biking teacher, Kevin, will take families for learn to ride sessions at the Pohe Island bike track on the weekends, if there is enough interest. Kevin also has bikes and helmets to borrow. If your family (all ages) would be interested in this, please email Mrs J glenys@sfx.school.nz and she will pass your details to Kevin. There is no charge.



THE Family Support room



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

SYNOD ZOOM-IN



Come to an online Zoom talk with the three New Zealanders who were at the 2023 Assembly of the Synod on Synodality in Rome

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin, SM, St Joseph's Levin parish Priest Fr Dennis Nacorda, and Auckland Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley attended the Holy Father's Synod on Synodality in Rome in October as part of the Oceania group. Hear what they have to say about it as we all prepare for the Second Assembly of the Synod in Rome this coming October.



Register now to attend one of their special Zoom sessions

Tuesday 13 February 7:30pm. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8c2s28>

Thursday 15 February 7:30pm. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/4e2hnf9a>



Joining one of these Zooms will give you precious insights of the Synod process and help to prepare you for taking part in the New Zealand discussions leading up to the Second Assembly of the Synod in Rome this coming October.



SCHOOL EVENTS

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

February

9th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
13th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
14th	9am	Ash Wednesday Mass	
15th	5.45pm	Board of Trustees Meeting in Staffroom	
16th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
19th		Teacher Only Day - School Closed	
20th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
21st	7pm	PTFA Meeting in Staffroom	
23rd	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
27th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 16 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 13 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 1 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
28th & 29th	1:15 - 6pm	Teacher, Parent, Student Meet and Greet.	
29th		Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports at Pompallier Collage	

March

1st	1.30pm	School Assembly - Whole school attending
1st	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons start (timetable to be confirmed in next newsletter)
4th		Year 5/6 Waitangi Trip
5th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
6th		Year 5/6 Waitangi Trip
6th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 1
8th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
12th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
13th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 2
15th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
19th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
19th	7pm	PTFA Meeting and Parent Evening in the Staffroom
20th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 3
21st		EPro 8 Competition
21st	5.45pm	Board of Trustees Meeting in Staffroom
26th	12pm	Chris Mass
26th	Swimming	Year 3/4 swimming lessons
27th	1:30 - 2:30pm	He Kākano Programme - Session 4
28th		Holy Thursday
29th		Good Friday - School closed

April

1st		Easter Monday - School closed
2nd		Easter Tuesday - School closed
12th	1.30pm	School Assembly - Whole school attending
12th	2.50pm	End of Term 1