



# St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.4 Term 1 Wednesday 20th March 2024



Kia ora, Malo e lelei, Habari, Hello, Sawadee, Kia orana, Dia duit, Ma muka chini, Kumusta, Namaste, Ciao, Bula, Annyeonghaseyo, Talofa!

## Swimming Sports

Well done to those finalists who represented SFX at the recent inter-school swimming sports. We are so proud of you all! Also thank you to Jenny Bassett and Glenys Jakicevich for accompanying the group on the day.

## Staff Professional Development

At SFX staff optimise opportunities to learn best evidenced practice. Some of our staff are undergoing new learning around the new Religious Education Curriculum with our RE Advisor from the Auckland Diocese - Margaret Fitzpatrick. This is an exciting and comprehensive curriculum with new resources. Our Junior school teachers had their professional development in 2023. This year our Year 3-4 school teachers are completing the PD.

We also have teachers doing the Incredible Years Programme. This is a developmentally-based early intervention programme designed to strengthen child well-being, promote social-emotional learning, academic competence, and also prevent, reduce, and treat behavioural and emotional problems in young children.

## PTFA Easter Raffle

Our amazing PTFA are running an Easter Raffle this year. Imagine...winning a great Easter basket just in time for Easter! A huge thank you to our community for your support for this. We have several raffles now up for grabs!

The PTFA will be selling tickets for the raffle in school during the mornings before school and afternoon pick up time. Tickets will be sold **Friday 22nd - Thursday 28th March**. The Raffle will be drawn - Thursday 28th March at 12:30pm

The stall will be positioned in the Te Manawa Space before and after school. Funds received all go back into our school for student resources and learning. Please support our awesome PTFA with this initiative.

## PTFA Parent information evening

An evening with Lyn Smith from the Auckland Diocese. There was a great turnout for this last night. Thanks to those who were able to join us to listen to Lyn and the explanation of how we teach health and healthy relationships to our students from a Catholic lens. Lyn has a wealth of experience and knowledge in delivering Catholic education and facilitating teachers and staff with this journey too.

## Student Space

Each newsletter I would like to include something about the learning our tamariki are doing. This may be a whanau group focus or a class focus. This newsletter student space addition comes from the SFX music group.

If your child has a significant accomplishment that you are happy to share please email me with a short description and photo. [principal@sfx.school.nz](mailto:principal@sfx.school.nz)

Examples; obtaining a level in martial arts or dance, or a significant placing in a solo sport, art award, drama or music achievement or performance. It is great to hear what students in our school are doing outside of school.

Special mention to those students who helped at the recent market day in the parish hall on 10th March, to help raise funds for a new carpet for the Church. Special thanks to Essa and Karen.

*Bernadette Hall*  
Principal

*Thank you!*



# Religious Education

*"God saw all that He made and it was good" Genesis 1:31*

**This Sunday's Readings: (PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD)**

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

**Thought For The Week:**

*Give up complaining-focus on gratitude. Give up on pessimism-become an optimist.*

*Give up discouragement-be full of hope. Give up bitterness-turn to forgiveness. Give up harsh judgement-think kindly thoughts.*

**Classes Attending a Tuesday Mass at 9:00:** If you can, you are welcome to come and join your child's class when they attend Mass on a Tuesday morning.

Week 9 - 26th March	Parihaka whanau Room 19 Room 8	Yr 3&4 Karwyn Werder Yr 1 N/E Karyn Marnitz
Week 10 - Easter Tuesday	No school	
Week 11 - 9th April	Hatea Whanau Room 1 Room 2 Room 3 Room 4	Yr 5&6 Viv Clegg Yr 2 Whaea Jacqui Yr 3&4 Deb Crook Yr 3&4 Maria Wilson

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



**Good Friday:** -29th March: Stations of the Cross:10.30am St Francis Xavier School Grounds. (Church if wet)

**Family Masses:** -Our next Family Mass is this **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday)** at 10:00 am. Parihaka Whanau (Rooms 9, 17, 19 and 18 will be participating). **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**Ready the Way:** -Sacramental Programme 2024: To prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist. Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Office. Registrations close on Thursday 11 April. Information and Orientation meeting for all the Parents/Guardians on Friday 3 May at 7 pm here in our Church. This will explain the requirements of the programme and the Kaupapa (purpose). (Parents only please) The programme starts: on Sunday 12 May 2024 at 10 am Mass at Saint Francis Xavier Church for parents and children, followed by a preparation session in St Joseph's Room at St Francis Xavier Catholic School. Age Guideline: A candidate should be 8 years old to start the programme.



Yours in Christ  
Mrs Maria Wilson  
DRS - Director of Religious Studies

## PTFA evening with Lyn Smith

Thank you to our wonderful PTFA who hosted an evening with Lyn Smith last night. Thank you to the parents who came along. Lyn works for the Auckland Catholic Diocese and for Te Kupenga-the National Centre for Religious Studies. She is the co-author of [Wonderfully Made in God's Image](#), which supports Catholic schools in their teaching of the sexuality component of the NZ Health curriculum. Lyn also co-authored [Aroha and Diversity](#) which was published by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference.

Lyn was able to clarify the church's teaching on some complex issues and gave practical advice on how we can support our tamariki as they journey through life-Te Wa. Please click on the links to these documents, they are excellent reading for all parents and teachers.

Thank



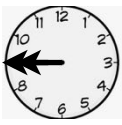
A BIG thank you to the many parents who up-dated their details when we had the meet and greet recently. We have entered the 320 that were returned into our database. We also had to update the Ministry site of which there were over 48 changes.

**Please if any of your details change at any time, let the school office know immediately.**

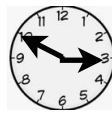
### ***Please Note:***

***Classrooms do not open until 8:15am therefore we ask that you refrain from dropping your children off before 8am.*** Children who arrive from 8am are asked to wait on the front courts or in the Te Manawa area.

***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.***



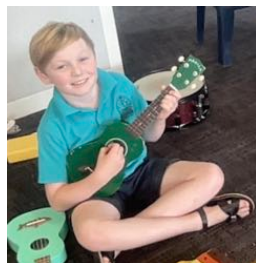
Morning classes begin at **8:45 am**. It is essential for your child/children to be at school ready to start their learning day before the bell rings.



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.

### **This week's student space is brought to us by ... our amazing Music teacher Emily Nakouzi.**

Children's World Day of Prayer in March was celebrated with students from both Pompallier and our school choir at Mass. SFX students are fortunate to be able to participate in music lessons at school. We have a vibrant and growing school choir.



### **School Accounts**

Many thanks to all those who have paid their child/ren's school attendance dues and donations in full or have started regular payments. If you haven't received your school account please check your spam or junk folder or alternatively give us a ring.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties at any time during this year, please come and see me, so that we can discuss a confidential arrangement. Please don't leave paying this to the last minute or until the Auckland Catholic Diocese contacts you. My door is always open.

Many thanks.

Deborah Rudolph  
Office Manager





MARCH

20th	1:30-2:30	He Kākano Programme Session 3
21st		EPro 8 Competition at WIS
21st	5:45pm	Board of Trustee's Meeting in Staffroom
24th	10am	Parihaka Whanau Mass
25th	11am	Chrism Mass
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
29th	8:45am	Start of Term 2



## Girls Super Smash Cricket

A group of year 5 and 6 girls enjoyed a morning of cricket down at Cobham Oval last Friday. We played against other schools and a good time was had by all. Thank you to the fabulous parents who provided transport and supervision. Here's a few of our girls enjoying their time together.

## TIME TO DITCH THE TRAINING WHEELS!

FREE SESSION FOR ANYONE WANTING TO TEACH THEIR TAMARIKI TO RIDE A BIKE

WHERE: BIKE PARK, DAVE CULHAM DRIVE

WHEN: 3:30-5PM 5TH APRIL

WHAT: TIPS, TRICKS, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR TAMARIKI BUILD THIS VALUABLE LIFE SKILL

WHY: BUILDS CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDANCE, SKILL FOR LIFE



SPORT NORTHLAND  
EVENTS

**BDO**

## PARIHAKA Trail Run

A little reminder that Sport Northland have their BDO Parihaka trail run coming up on April 7<sup>th</sup>

There are three distances to take part in 5km, 12km or 21km. They would like to offer a 20% discount to all school across Te Tai Tokerau. Discount code SCHOOL2024

We would love to see more tamariki and whānau take part this year.



## HOUSE OF SCIENCE

House of Science is a charitable trust that provides science teaching resources to primary and intermediate schools. Your child may have spoken to you about the big, blue science boxes! Each science kit focuses on a specific

topic and provides everything a teacher needs to teach that subject in an engaging and hands-on way.

Currently in the Whangarei and Kaipara regions we have 40 schools using these amazing resources to enable our Tamariki to gain valuable, life-long skills and knowledge. Nationwide there are now over 170,000 students using these kits!

We would love to share with more schools and to increase the number of kits currently available to our region, but we need BUSINESS SUPPORT to do this. If you, or someone you know, has a business that would be interested in sponsoring one or two science kits please contact Janine at

[Janine.burns@houseofscience.nz](mailto:Janine.burns@houseofscience.nz) or check out the website [www.houseofscience.nz](http://www.houseofscience.nz) for further information. We would love to hear from you!

## EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

(Below are just a few of the prizes)



The PTFA will be selling tickets for the Easter raffle, before school and after school at pick up time, at the Te Manawa Space (our new under cover area called The Heart of the school). You can buy your tickets here from

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of March.**

The Tickets are \$2 and if children are coming without their parents they must come with the slip, which the class teacher will hand out today or tomorrow, and money in an envelope or snap lock bag. The Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 pm. **Children without parents/ caregiver signature and phone number will not be able to purchase a ticket.**