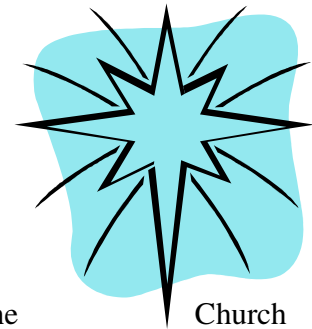


3rd December 2009



Newsletter: No 37

Quality + Support + Values



Church

Dear Parents
Kia ora koutou. Greetings

Shared Prayer

Room 2 will lead us in Shared Prayer tomorrow. All welcome to join us in the at 2.40pm.

This Shared Prayer marks Advent, the season leading to Christmas and includes the blessing of class and family wreaths. We have included some ideas about how to make an Advent Wreath. We would encourage as many families as possible to make an Advent Wreath and bring it along to be blessed at Shared Prayer. These can then be used at home throughout Advent.

The Advent Wreath can be made and used in a number of ways. An ordinary Christmas wreath, evergreen branches twisted in a circle or green ferns and leaves wound around a coat hanger wire can be used for a base. You can also buy bases from florists, The Warehouse and Spotlight. Each base needs four candles - three purple and one pink. A purple ribbon on the wreaths reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation.

Can Appeal
WACKY HAIR DAY
Tomorrow
Friday 4th December

- *Our annual Christmas collection of cans and non-perishable food will go to Age Concern this year.*
- *Children can wear Wacky Hair and mufti clothes in return for a food item donation on this day.*

Sympathy

Our prayers and thoughts go to Teenaka Kennedy and her family on the passing of Teenaka's Poppa, Roy Kennedy, this week. May He Rest In Peace.

St Francis Xavier Day

Today is St Francis Xavier Day. We have celebrated with Family Group games this morning, SFX ice blocks and with a Mass, led by Fr David this afternoon.

Reports

Written reports will be issued on Thursday 10th December. These reports will have your child's class for 2010 and comments on their achievement. There is also an indication as to whether your child is at the expected achievement level, or below, or above for each curriculum area.

Bradford Manor Visit

Our Year 4 pupils visited Bradford Manor on Thursday to sing some Christmas Carols as part of their Christmas celebrations. Thank you parents for helping with transport.

Reading Achievement

At the beginning of this year we listed the children who had not made the expected progress in reading. These were the children whose reading gave us the most concern.

From May to December these children have made wonderful progress with most junior children progressing 10 levels (e.g. from level 7 to level 17, or level 5 to level 16) and the older children progressing a reading age year in 6 months.

We will continue to provide extra support for some of these children in 2010.

Book Bus – Rooms 3 and 5

Children in Rooms 3 and 5 need to remember their library cards for the Book Bus visit to our school on Monday next week, 7th December.

Sports Draws

- **Touch** – Today Thursday 26th November

SF Xperts vs. St Joes on field 10 at 4.30pm

SF Xtremes vs. Mornington on field 11 at 3.30pm

SFX Ultimates vs George St on field 11 at 4.00pm

- **T Ball** – Saturday 5th December

SFX Giants (Bruce Carey) vs. Musselburgh Diamond 3 9.00am

SFX Strikers (King/Kubala) vs. BYE

SFX Youngs vs Columba Diamond 9 10.00am

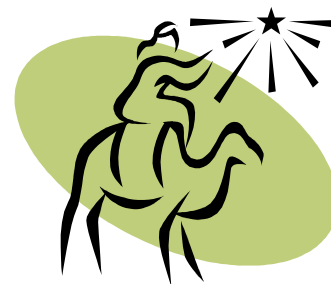
SFX Minis vs. Opoho Diamond 12 10.00am

SFX Midgets (Kirkness) vs. Grants Braes Diamond 15 10.00am

- **Flipperball** - Sunday 6th December

The draw and information sheet has been sent home to all children this week.

SFX vs. George Street Blue at 1.55pm – Learners Pool



PTA LUNCH

Wednesday 9th December

Hot Dog on a stick - \$2.00

Juicie or Moosie - \$1.00

Orders in to the office by 9a.m. Wednesday

Board of Trustee 2010 Elections

Next year the school will be holding elections for a new Board of Trustees. The election date has been set for Friday 7th May. Please give some thought to putting your name forward to stand as a Trustee for our school. Our current Board would be very happy to tell you what is involved in being a Trustee. As more election information comes to hand, it will be published in the newsletter.

Need Child Care over the Holidays?

We are going to be in Dunedin over the whole summer holidays. We are more than happy to look after two children (preferably boys) from 4th January – 2nd February 2010. No cost involved except for the odd things such as entry to Moana Pool, etc. Please contact Ann Smales (Nathaniel's Mum in Room 2) on 0276463353 or 453-5838 or at annmarks22@hotmail.com

Cardboard Box Cars



Our Family Groups made box cars recently. Each group produced a colourful cardboard box car that was judged on colour, innovative design and general appearance. It was a fun activity that all groups participated in enthusiastically.

St Francis Xavier Ladies Night Out

Next Wednesday 9th December 7.00pm at Alto in Mornington, a Ladies Night has been organised for any St Francis Xavier ladies (parents, caregivers, grannys, staff) to come along and have a meal and drinks. A \$10 secret Santa will take place so please bring along a wrapped gift up to \$10 value to be given out by Santa during the evening. Please confirm with either Jacqui Schuk-Dohig or Katie Galt if attending.

Summer Reading Programme

Parents and teachers have found that when children read regularly over the summer break, they make good progress on their return to the classroom.

From Friday 11th December children can pick up a fun-filled, colourful reading booklet from the Dunedin Public Library and start a reading challenge. How many books can you read over the summer?

Cleaner Wanted

If anyone uses or knows of a reliable house cleaner who maybe looking for a few more hours in the Mornington area, please let Lorraine know at the office. Thank you.

Year 5 and 6 Camp

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a busy camp at Camp Iona last week. The wonderful weather enabled all planned activities to go ahead. Thanks to all who helped with the success of this camp.



Calendar of Events

Friday 4th December

- Advent Shared Prayer led by Room 2

Monday 7th December

- Book Bus at School

Wednesday 9th December

- Southern Sinfonia perform at school

Thursday 10th December

- Year 6 Fun Rafting day

Friday 11th December

- Shared Prayer led by Room 5

Monday 14th December

- Beach Education Day for Rooms 3 and 5

- Art Gallery Visit for Rooms 1, 2 and 3

Tuesday 15th December

- Beach Education for Rooms 3 and 5

Wednesday 16th December

- Whole School visit Kavanagh College Pantomime and picnic lunch at Mornington Park

Thursday 17th December

- 11.15am Farewell Assembly. School closes for the year following this assembly

Wednesday 3rd February

- 2010 school year begins

Notices

- Christmas in the Octagon – Friday 4th December from 7-9pm. Entertainment and stalls and the lighting of the Christmas Tree.
- Dunedin Police Station Open Day - Saturday 5th December from 10am – 1.00pm. Gold coin entry for tour. \$2.00 for BBQ, \$1.00 kids drinks. Photo with Police Dog. See the poster on the office notice board.
- Holiday Programmes – There are a number of brochures for holiday programmes in the blue folder on the office notice board. There are sports programmes, art and crafts, Chipmunks, science, etc.

Thought for the Week

“In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins – not through strength but by perseverance.” *H. Jackson Brown*

Have a happy week
Craig Ward

Year 6 Reflections

I have had lots of fun over the last six years. One of my favourite things I've done is school camp. My favourite thing at camp was riflery because we got to shoot at targets. I also liked archery because it was a challenge. I have made a lot of friends here. I have enjoyed all of the trips I've been on such as the museum, Monarch and the beach.

Isaac

I have had a lot of fun at St Francis Xavier School. Some of my highlights have been school camp. My favourite parts of camp were canoeing, night-line and riflery. Nightline was fun because it was dark and there were heaps of obstacles. The mud fight at the pond was fun. The school musical was fun. I will really miss all the teachers and my year 5 friends. *Sophie*

I'm going to miss a lot of things about this school – the teachers, my classroom, all my Room 5 friends but most of all I'm going to miss my friends who are going to different schools next year. The last 2 years have been the best. My highlights were the school musical, DARE and camp. I really enjoyed having a lead part in the musical. DARE was awesome. I loved going to laser force, Moana Pool and to the Police station. Camp was very exciting. I loved riflery and night line. My time at SFX was THE BOMB!!! *Josie*

When I first started at St Francis Xavier, I was in Room 2. Since then I've always been the youngest in my year but I have always enjoyed everything we have done here. My favourite thing about this school would have to be the awesome teachers. They are always ready to help and are always there when you need them. There have been tons of funny moments, including the day Georgia forgot her birthday. There have also been scary moments including Mrs K dancing on the table! The school musical was definitely a highlight last year. Being a Family Group leader was a responsibility that I enjoyed. I have made tons of friends here. I am going to miss everybody here but most of all I will miss all the great teachers. Thank you everyone for an awesome experience. *Eleanore.*

My time at St Francis Xavier School. I came here in 2007 and I started in Room 3 with a lovely teacher, Miss Kitto. I made lots of friends. We did lots of cool things like art, sports and school trips. The trip to the Albatross Colony was fun and we got to see the albatross birds. It was really fun in Room 3. Then I moved on to Room 5 with another great teacher, Mrs Kearsley. We had done a lot of cool things in Room 5. We have just had camp and that was great because we went swimming in the river, did river crossings, archery and lots of other activities. On Wednesday night at camp we did nightline which was fun but real scary. St Francis Xavier is a great school. *Millie*

My time at St Francis Xavier School has been really fun. I have made lots of friends and they are all nice to me. My first day at school was really scary because I knew nobody apart from George and Maddy. But as you spend more time at school you get to know them all and feel more confident. I loved camp, especially when all the boys did the Grundy run – it was a great time. I like the school trips like on the Monarch and to the Art Gallery. The Monarch was a new experience for me. I have really enjoyed Family Groups, but sometimes being a leader is hard work but I enjoyed the challenge. *Kaleb*

My time at St Francis Xavier has been fun and exciting. I came here in 2007 and I have made many friends and achieved many goals such as becoming a Family Group leader, staying away from home for a week when we went to camp and making loads of friends. Camp was definitely a highlight. I loved nightline, especially when we were waiting to do it because I wanted to know what would happen. Camping out was really fun too. I could go on forever but there wouldn't be enough room in the newsletter. *Briana*

When I first started here at St Francis Xavier School I was so scared and nervous of the big kids, but now I am one of those big kids and I'm going to have to experience that all over again next year when I leave. Since I've been here I've learnt so much stuff plus been on all the cool and exciting trips. Like the Brighton Beach day. There is just one more cool thing and that is all the people here who support you all the time. All the activities I have done I have learned a lot from. At camp we learned how to cross a river safely and how to check if a slug gun is loaded. I can't forget the school musicals that were so much fun too. *George*

I have had many years at this school. I have had heaps of fun on all the school trips. I have enjoyed being a Family group leader this year. I have made many friends at this school. I enjoyed playing basketball, flippaball and t ball. My first day at school was very scary because I didn't know anyone. I will remember all of the musicals. I hope everyone has fun at this school just like I did. *Cam*

My time at St Francis Xavier School has been really enjoyable. There are many things that I've enjoyed like training for the cross country, athletics, and all the trips like going to the beach and playing beach flags, and going to the museum and making cars. One of the most enjoyable trips was the DARE day at laser force and at the Police gym. I missed the pool because I was at the Otago Cross Country. I enjoyed doing shooting, archery, river crossing, yachting, kayaking, nightline and orienteering at camp. I've made lots of friends here like George, Ellery, Kaleb, Dec, Saba and Jordon and all of the dogs Mrs Knowles has had. I have also enjoyed it when Dec and I have played pranks on Miss Waaka. Last of all I have enjoyed being a Family Group leader and getting to know the little kids. *Tom*
(more next week)