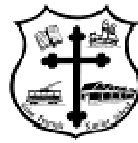




8 December 2011



Issue No. 39



Quality + Support + Values



Welcome

We welcome Alyssa Raw and her family to our school. Alyssa began in Room 1 on Monday. Happy school days Alyssa.

Thank You

Thank you all for your wonderful help and support throughout this year.

Families assist in many ways including help with transport, PTA lunches, class trips, camp, swimming, sports teams, fundraising, beach education and on our PTA and Board of Trustees Committee. Thank you all.

School re-commences on Thursday 2 February 2012.

Shared Prayer

Room 5 will lead our Shared Prayer, tomorrow Friday 9 December. All parents and caregivers are invited to join us in the Church at 2.40pm.

School Family Mass

Thank you for joining our celebration of Mass last Sunday. It is great to gather as a School Community on such occasions.

End of Year Assembly

We have our final School Assembly to farewell our Year 6 pupils at 11.15am next Thursday 15 December. Friends and families are invited to join us in the Church where we will gather to sing Christmas Carols and farewell pupils. School finishes for the year at the end of this Assembly.



Points to Remember

- ☺ Shared Prayer tomorrow led by Room 5.
- ☺ End of Year Assembly Thursday 15 December at 11.15am.
- ☺ School starts back on Thursday 2 February 2012.

Reports

Written reports on children's progress and achievement were issued today. Look out for this report in your child's bag. Please discuss the report with your child's teacher if you have any concerns.





Library Books

Please return all school library books by Monday next week. Wendy is busy accounting for all books children have out and getting the library sorted for the end of the year.

Class Organisation for 2012

Room 1	New Entrants
Room 2	Year 1 and 2
Room 3	Year 2 and 3
Room 4	Year 4
Room 5	Year 5 and 6

Wanted...

Kavanagh College is looking for Home Stay Families for 2012. There is a generous home stay payment paid. If you are interested please contact: Sue O'Connell, 488 0301 or email sueross_oconnell@xtra.co.nz.

Lost....

Lost after camp a blue and black sleeping bag. Fully named. If you have seen it please return to Lucinda. Thank you.

Sports Notices

T-Ball Saturday 3 December

SFX Colts v St Marys Angels	9.00am	Bathgate 5
SFX Midgets v Musselburgh Cubs	10.00am	Bathgate 14

Touch Rugby Thursday 8 December

SFX Smalls v St Joes Red	3.45pm	Field 5B
SFX Speedsters v Musselburgh Sting	4.15pm	Field 74

Check draw link: www.otagotouch.co.nz (modules, junior, oval, draws)

Flippa Ball Sunday 11 December

St Francis v MH Piranhas	5.15—5.40pm	Learners Pool
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PTA Lunch

No PTA lunch next week as last week of the year.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING - ONLY 17 DAYS.....





School Events for Next Week



Monday 12 December

Sports Activator working with each class on tennis skills.

Tuesday 13 December

Classes are visiting Kavanagh College to watch their Christmas Pantomime.

Then having a picnic lunch at 1.00pm at Mornington Park. The buses will deliver the children there after the Pantomime. Parents are very welcome to join us for lunch at the park. We will walk back to school at 2.30pm. If wet we will return to school at 1.00pm.

Wednesday 14 December

Dunedin Sinfonia will entertain the children for an hour in the morning.

Thursday 15 December

Farewell Assembly at 11.15am

Board of Trustee News

At the Board meeting on Tuesday night the Committee:

- ◆ Was pleased to accept the PTA funding for playground development.
- ◆ Acknowledge the wonderful fundraising and social work of the PTA.
- ◆ Thanked Pauline for her work on the Board this term.
- ◆ Considered ideas for our 2012 Annual Plan.
- ◆ Discussed leaks and odours in Room 1 and 2. These will be checked out further on Sunday at the Working Bee.
- ◆ Confirmed plans for the re-decoration of the corridor in January 2012.

Thank you to the PTA for funding a playground slide and new rings!

SFX Working Bee

Thank you for your help a fortnight ago. We have made a great start to staining the play equipment. The next working bee is scheduled for Sunday 11 December at 1.00pm.



Could any parents who would be able to help out with our working bee please leave your name with Rochelle at the office or contact Niko Young on niko@pwta.co.nz.



Beach Education

Thank you to all who helped with our Beach Education days. It was wonderful to get such awesome support.



Christmas Discovery

Tomorrow, 9 December, will be our last Discovery for the year. Visitors, especially Grandparents, are very welcome to come along and join in the festivities. Time is 9.15am to 10.40am.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH NEWS Kia ora St Francis Xavier School families,

It was lovely to see you all at Mass on Sunday—when we celebrated together not only as a Parish, but as a Family and a School. Thank you to the teachers and children who took part in the organization of the Mass. It is lovely to see you all socialising at the shared morning tea, which brings good community fellowship. The atmosphere was lovely and it warmed my heart to see the parents, parishioners, teachers and children enjoying the delicious morsels brought along.

As you are all now aware our Patron Saint, St Francis Xavier, holds a special place in my heart too, due to the fact that he worked in my Home State of Goa, and his incorruptible body still lies there. He is considered the Farther of Faith by many Indians. I hope we learn from his life and have that passion in our own lives to do good, as his examples show us how to be truly Christian.

This week the following St Francis Xavier families are helping with the Mass:

Altar Service: James Young and Bridget Young

Offertory: Trompetter Family

Liturgy for Children will be on the Gospel from John 1: 6 - 8 and 19 - 28, the children will be guided by Julia Sullivan.

God Bless you all, Rev Fr. Cipriano Fernandes, Mobile 021 211 4032



Christmas Cracker Kids Triathlon

Date: 11 December 2011
Time: 11.30am
Where: Mosgiel Pool

Entry forms on Notice-board at the office.



Lost Property

Unclaimed lost property is available to view at the office. Parents are welcome to take items that are of use. Any remaining items will be sent to St Vincent de Paul.



Intensive Holiday Blocks

Mon 16th – Fri 20th January 2012 Mon 23rd – Fri 27th January 2012

Term 1 commences **30 Jan 2012**

For Booking & Enquiries contact **SUE MACLAURIN**
Phone 477-1730
Email swimfx@clear.net.nz

Sue & her team of instructors have enjoyed taking the school swimming this term. The children have really benefitted from the intensive swimming blocks. If you would like to continue the progress your child

has made, Sue is offering **January Holiday Blocks**. She also offers lessons at Mornington Pool after school on Tues/Wed/Thurs and Saturdays during Terms 1 & 4.

SWIM FX is endorsed as a Quality Swim School by Swimming NZ. It has an excellent reputation for getting results. Sue, an experienced swim teacher & coach, is also a trained Primary teacher, so she knows how to encourage the best learning from every child.

PTA News

Christmas Raffle

Thank you for your support with this raffle. Please return all money and cards to the office by Friday 9 December at the latest. The raffle is drawn on Monday 12 December. Thank you.



Calendars

There are still a few calendars that need to be paid for before we can give them out. Please give your money to Rochelle at the office or to Andrea and you can get your calendars and diaries. Thank you.



Year 6 Reflections on Their Time at St Francis Xavier School

I have really enjoyed my six years at St Francis with all the friends I've made and all the musicals I have been in. The first day I came my Mum took me into Room 1 and they all looked at me. I felt nervous but it wasn't long before I had made lots of friends. One of my favourite things at St Francis Xavier was going to Camp Iona.

Isaac Scott

St Francis Xavier has been fun ever since day 1. Young Vinnies was cool because you get to help people while having fun and playing games. My top five things were rafting, camp, DARE, trips and Family Groups. I am going to miss St Francis Xavier because of the fun opportunities it has. Thank you Miss Kitto, Mrs Bennett, Miss Galt, Miss Kennedy and Mrs Kearsley for being awesome teachers over the years.

Gene Scott

When I went to camp I was so excited and I really enjoyed it. My favourite part was doing the night line because it was dark and we had to do it with a blind fold on so we wouldn't see where we were going. I really enjoyed it and I hope I get to do it again.

The other thing I liked doing at school was doing the Choral Festival because we got to meet different schools and meet different people. I liked being at St Francis Xavier School.

Ruvarashe Manonose

St Francis Xavier School has been so great. The teachers, sports, friends, school trips, learning new things and taking part in musicals has all been so cool. Going down the rapids in rafting was heaps of fun and camp was awesome. My favourite part was night line. Doing DARE in year 5 was great too. Being a Family Group Leader was amazing. Everything was great. I will miss everyone heaps including the teachers.

Anna Roberts

On my first day of school I was so scared of all the new faces. I am going to miss being a Family Group Leader and learning new things. I loved camp and all the fun activities we did. I loved going to the musicals. I will miss waking up and putting on my St Francis Xavier uniform.

Sarah McLaughlan

I still remember seeing the school for the first time. Everyone was really nice and welcoming. They introduced me to everyone, showed me around and helped me with my work. The teachers are excellent. I still remember Mrs Kearsley singing Bon Jovi - I didn't stop laughing for a week (even if she did leave muddy footprints all over my work!). My most proudest moment was when I became a Family Group Leader. I ended up having the best family group out of everyone!

Camp was brilliant. I enjoyed being away from home and the river was excellent. The rapids were fun and I loved jumping off the big pointy rock. I jumped off the raft during rafting too. I love swimming and being wet. I loved all the trips I have done, whether it be to the museum, the art gallery, the beach or just going and picking up litter in the park.

Sports were fun too. I played T-Ball, Netball and Touch Rugby. All of them were fun. I also loved the Musical "Halleluiah" and I was a Shepherd.

Overall, my time at St Francis Xavier School was brilliant. I wish I could do it again.

Iona Stewart

On my first day of school I was very overwhelmed by all of the people around me, but after a couple of days I was fine. The trips were awesome, like DARE and the Year 6 rafting day. Becoming a Family Group Leader was a big leadership challenge, but I think I did really well controlling my group. I will really miss all of my friends that will be going to another school and some that stay here. I will also miss all of the smiley faces that I see every morning and of course I will miss all of the teachers, Mr Ward and Mrs Stanton.

Lucinda Taimalie



St Francis Xavier School has been an awesome experience for me because it isn't your regular Catholic School. It has got great, nice, friendly kids and Crazy 'P' (Mrs Kearsley). Time has flown since I have been here - it has gone from Buzz Light-year in Room 1 to Miss Waaka chasing me for chocolates in Room 3, then to Bon Jovi in Room 5. I am excited to go to Kavanagh College next year but will always remember this school.

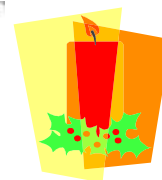
Will Christophers

When I first came to school I thought I would be lost. I got to meet Mrs Bennett then I made friends. I knew I could count on the big kids. Now that I am a Family Group Leader it feels good that little kids can look up to me. I've had fun going through all the classes and meeting all the teachers. I'm going to miss this school and everything I've done here like sports, rafting, camp, musicals and becoming a Family Group Leader. Thank you to the teachers, Mr Ward, Mrs Stanton, Mrs Moir and the PTA.

Andrew Cromb

I remember my very first day at St Francis Xavier School. It was pretty scary. I made friends really fast though. The Monarch boat ride was so fun. The water splashed me lots though. I always liked moving into new classrooms. Room 3 was my favourite because I finally got to use a desk. Every time we went to the beach I would swim even if it was pouring with rain. Becoming a Family Group Leader was heaps of fun. You got to do so much more.

Ella Mercer-Black



**Wishing all families a very Happy, Safe and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.
Craig and the School Team**