

St Francis Xavier School Newsletter
Thursday, 8 February 2018 – Term 1 Week 2
“*Strength and Gentleness – Tu Māia, Tu Aroha*”

Our Mission

To provide a Catholic environment where children will be encouraged to develop their spiritual, academic, physical and social potential



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Dear Parents/Caregivers

Hello, Kia Ora, Talofa lava, Namaste, Mabuhay, Ciao, Kia Orana, Ahalan, Konnichiwa, Ni hao, Selam, Xin chao, Bonjour, Bula, Dzień/dobry, Nee how, Shalom, Dia duit, Mauri, Halo, Mālō ē lelei, Hola, Shlama Elakho

Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone as we return to school for 2018. We are all looking forward to an exciting year of learning ahead.

A special welcome to those who started new at St Francis Xavier.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Elizabeth Cranney and Mrs Sharon O’Meagher to our teaching staff.

We are also pleased to welcome the following children and their families to our school: Ishan, Indira, Sophia and Peighton have joined Tawa Class and Nabweaa who joined Rimu Class this week.

Last Thursday Ishan, Indira, Sophia and Peighton were formally welcomed to our school during our school liturgy.

With so many new people in our school please take the time to stop and introduce yourself to others when you see them.



Pancake Making Tuesday 13 February

Shrove Tuesday is a traditional day for pancake making and racing. It is the day before Lent begins. We will be making pancakes in the hall and the races will be at 2.20pm. If you are able to help with pancake making or have an electric frypan that we could use please contact your child’s teacher. Join us for the races from 2.20pm!

Ash Wednesday Wednesday 14 February

Next Wednesday, marks the first day of Lent which is the period of 6 ½ weeks leading up to Easter (40 days not counting Sundays). On Wednesday the whole school will be attending 11am Mass in the school hall. During Mass each person will be blessed with an ash cross upon our foreheads. The ash is a symbol of repentance from the Old Testament’s ‘sackcloth and ashes’. During this Lenten season, we prepare ourselves to become better Christians by praying, fasting (giving up something that distracts us from our relationship with God or taking up something we find challenging) and almsgiving (genuine acts of charity and kindness). Please join us for our Ash Wednesday school Mass if you can.



Meet the Teacher 5-6.30pm Thursday 15 February

To give everyone the opportunity to meet their child’s teacher and other families in the school we will have a fish and chip evening on Thursday 15 February. Families are asked to come along and bring their tea with them (it does not need to be fish and chips).

Teachers will be in their classrooms from 5-5.30pm. You are invited to go into your children’s classrooms and meet their teachers. At 5.50pm all teachers will be leaving their classrooms and joining everyone outside.



Important Dates

Term 1 2018

February

- 9 P. & F. Friday lunches
Sausages \$1.50
Ice blocks \$1.50
Assembly 2pm
- 12 BOT meeting
- 13 Shrove Tuesday
Pancake races on court 2.20pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday
Mass in hall 11am
- 15 Meet the teacher fish and chip evening 5-7pm

March

- 26 Learning conferences
- 27 Learning conferences
- 29 Holy Thursday
Easter break begins

April

- 4 Back to school
- 13 **Term 1 ends**

Term 2

- 30 **Term 2 begins**

May

June

- 4 Queen’s Birthday

July

- 6 **Term 2 ends**
- 23 **Term 3 begins**

August

September

- 28 **Term 3 ends**

October

- 15 **Term 4 begins**
- 22 **Labour Day**

November

December

- 17 **Term 4 ends**

Please remember that this is a meet the teacher evening, a chance to introduce yourself to your child's new teacher and say hello. This is not a time to have an interview about your child. If you have any major concerns please arrange an appointment to meet with the teacher at a different time.

School Assembly This week 2pm in the school hall.

Staff and classes for 2018

This year once again we are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff in our school.

Teaching Staff

Joan Woods Principal
Elizabeth Cranney Deputy Principal team leader
Tawa Class Year 1/2
Cayne Wright Team leader Year 4-6
Kauri Class Year 5/6
Marie Andrewartha DRS Rimu Class Year 2/3
Mary Hunt Kowhai Class New Entrants
Sharon O'Meagher Nikau Class Year 2/3
Bev Vernon Pohutukawa Class Year 4
Linda Fernandez Totara Class Year 5/6
Chelsea Blyde Ngaio Class Year 5/6
Faencha Nicholls Reading Recovery ORS CRT

Support Staff

Audra Mallon Teacher aide ESOL, ORS
Mary Johnstone Librarian/ teacher aide
Sue White Teacher aide ESOL ORS
Malou Olegario Teacher aide ORS
Christine King Office Manager

During the holidays we received the resignation of Mrs Metua Parr. Mrs Parr has taken up a full time teaching position at St Pius X School in Titahi Bay.

Learning Programmes

Our school motto is *Strength and Gentleness, tu Māia tu Aroha*. Through our learning programmes we are looking at building strength and gentleness in our learners.

This term all teachers are using the Kia Kaha programme. This is a police programme looking at behaviour and setting expectations to build safe, happy classrooms. We are looking forward to Constable Andi coming into school to deliver some of the lessons. Through this our children learn about having the strength to stand up to and for others.

This year as a staff we have also been learning about wellbeing and positive education. We will be exploring how we can develop skills to implement children's mindset practices across the school. Through growth mindset we aim to further develop classrooms where trying new things, giving and receiving feedback and learning from our mistakes is expected and welcomed. Rather than saying *I can't so something* children will be encouraged to say *I can't do this yet*.

If you are interested in growth mindset and what this means you can have a look at the following very short presentation on growth mindset <http://youtu.be/VwDUhDDOM9M>

Road Patrol Helpers

A huge thank you to the many parents who have offered to help with road patrol. This means that teachers are able to be with their classes before and after school and that our children are safe as they use the school crossing.

We are still short of adult helpers. If you are able to help on Tuesday or Friday morning or on any other days please let your child's teacher or Mrs King at the school office know.

School Carpark Keep Our Children Safe

To help keep our children safe please do not use the school car park from 8.30 – 9.15am and from 2.30 – 3.30pm. During these times it is dangerous having people trying to get into the car park and the same time people are trying to get out.

School Lunches

Children can order their lunch on Fridays. Orders are taken in our school hall from 8.30am. Children can order a sausage \$1.50 and an ice block (during Term 1) \$1.50. We also have Pizza Fridays, the dates for ordering these will be in the Newsletter. Our first Pizza Friday for the year will be on **Friday 23 February**.

Ka kite

Joan Woods

News from Parents and Friends

2018.... It's Fair time and we are fundraising for a new playground

This year we are fundraising for a new playground and we will need the help of the entire school community if we are to be successful. It is essential that we establish a *Fair Committee* shortly and we still require a *Fair Co-Ordinator* and a *variety of volunteers* to work on set functions such as marketing and advertising, gathering of sponsorship monies and prizes, booking of stalls and entertainment and many, many more roles. If you think you could bring some skills or time to this huge fundraising project please email me at pandf@sfxtawa.school.nz as soon as possible.

It is a very real possibility that if we do not have a good group of dedicated volunteers the Fair may not be feasible so if you, like many others, want a new playground for our school please take the opportunity to get involved.

Treasurer

This year we are seeking a volunteer for the role of *Treasurer* on the Parents and Friends committee. If you have experience or specific skills and wish to be part of the committee please email me at pandf@sfxtawa.school.nz as soon as possible.

Simon Mallon
Chair

From the Community

Eileen Brown offers weekly guitar lessons during school times. If your child is interested in learning starting Term 1 2018, please contact Eileen on 232 1921, mobile 027 339 6943 or email eileenbrown11@gmail.com
Students should be at least 6 years old to start learning instruments. All styles taught including Rock & Pop, Blues, Traditional, Classical, Notation and Theory. Lessons are fun and enjoyable.