

OPENING OF MOTHER XAVIER FLOOD EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Planning is under way to redevelop St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East so it can accommodate five hundred pupils for the year 2022. On Wednesday, December 2, a \$2.4 million junior school, the Mother Xavier Flood Early Learning Centre officially opened for prep and grade 1 students. A master plan has been developed for a new senior years centre, which will replace portable buildings currently at the school.



Principal Paul Bissinella said the new early learning centre would meet the demand for new enrolments. He said 372 pupils would attend the school in 2016 – 22 more than 2015 – and jump to 504 pupils in seven years. “We are now enrolling children so it caters for that new demand. Some of the old buildings needed to be upgraded,” Mr Bissinella said. “The aim of this new learning centre is to ensure that the school continues to provide a quality education that ensures that our children are given the best opportunities to fulfil their potential.” The new building includes seven classrooms with state-of-the-art ICT facilities and a general purpose area.

Mr Bissinella said pupils travelled from across Ballarat and the district. “We have a lot of open spaces out here. We have a strong environment education program and a small farm,” he said.



Ballarat Bishop Paul Bird officially opened the new building, named after the founding principal Mother Xavier Flood. The Catholic Education Office Ballarat and community contributions funded the centre.

*Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier
Text by Erin Williams and photos by Lachlan Bence*

Top Photo: Bishop Paul Bird officially opens the Mother Xavier Flood Early Learning Centre at St Francis Xavier Primary School.
Bottom Photo: St Francis Xavier Primary School Principal Paul Bissinella speaks at the opening of the Mother Xavier Flood Early Learning Centre.