Cultural Literacy

Bienvenue à l’école St François Xavier et bonne année scolaire à tous les enfants.

The Cultural Literacy Teacher, Mademoiselle Helen Meerleveld takes the children from Years 3-6 for one 40 minute lesson every week. The children will learn about New Caledonian and French culture as well as develop some skills for learning the French language.

Why would you encourage your children to learn another language?
This is one important reason.
“Language skills and cultural sensitivity will be the currency of this new world order.”
— General Peter Cosgrove, 30 May 2002.

The aims of learning languages
• Communicate in the target language. This means using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating, and exchanging meaning.
• Understand language, culture, and learning and their relationship, and thereby develop an intercultural capability in communication. This is an integral part of developing global citizenship and is a lifelong endeavour.
• Understand oneself as a communicator. This provides learners with an understanding of their own language(s) and culture(s) in relation to an additional language and culture.
**Why French?**

In 2004 St Francis Xavier began a sister school relationship with Sacré-Cœur, Noumea (New Caledonia). This has been a most enjoyable relationship, with correspondence between Yr 5 students in both schools. The Yr 5 students from Sacré-Cœur visit us annually and spend time at school, sharing the cultural experience.

New Caledonian students spend time engaging with children from a variety of year levels.

French is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. With French, you can be understood in 55 countries across 5 continents by over 200 million people. French provides the base for more than 30% of modern English vocabulary.

*Never stop dreaming.*