There was great excitement today as the whole school set off to see the dress rehearsal of **JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** produced by Thomas Carr College. Tickets are still available for any families wanting to attend at the Wyndham Culture Centre at 7.30pm on August 23, 24 & 25.

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** is extended to the Coloma family. Mr Ernesto Coloma, grandfather of Aidan & Maeve, passed away suddenly during the week. We pray for the family as they gather in the Philippines for his funeral. May he rest in peace.

**FIRST COMMUNION** Congratulations to: Gina, Zoe, Madison, Avin, Kade, Yexalen, Ella, Justine, Ian, Christian, Cid and Charles. Last Saturday’s celebration was one of reverence and joy. The children were prepared and presented beautifully by both their families and the staff.

**OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER**

A Living Fundraiser. Orders for our fundraiser have arrived. If you have ordered a pack to sell, these will be sent home today. Please sell what you can. Any unsold plants and money raised must be returned to the school by **Thursday 6th of September**.

**WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO:** Next Wednesday 29th August. Students need to be in full school uniform. Please note: black leather shoes, no jewellery or nail polish, yellow or blue hair ties to be worn if required.

**STAGE 2 of BUILDING:**

Fencing and builders’ sheds have been erected! Stage two has commenced!!!

Thank you for the cooperation shown during these early stages. Please note the following access information:

- Gate in Fairview Pde will be open all day except during playing times. Parents are requested not to drive and park in drop off/pick up zones except between 8.30 to 8.50 am and 3.20 to 3.45 pm.
- The Thomas Carr College Pedestrian access gate is still in operation. Thomas Carr students can enter the school via the front office and walk through the learning spaces to the playground and across to the gate. Just a reminder that if learning programs are in progress, silence needs to be maintained as they walk through the spaces.

- Parents of prep students: Access to prep area will now be through Yr 3 to 6 home rooms or through the front door of the school at 8.40—8.50 and 3.20—3.30.

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI FESTA!!**

We will be celebrating the Feast of St Francis on **Tuesday, October 9**. It will be a day where we will celebrate our Franciscan identity, as well as our multicultural character. We will pray, play, dance, create, eat and thank God for our vibrant community. Next week a flyer will be sent home with details of the day, and there will be a reply slip to fill in about ways in which you can participate on the day. We are looking forward to gathering together for another occasion of celebration and joy. Stay tuned!!
**Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.**

**Year 1 Religious Education**
Year 1 Chrissy have created this prayer together. It reflects our community values and spirit.

_Dear God,_

_Thank you for our Home Group and our learning space and thank you for our loving community. Thank you for our teachers. Help us to be welcoming, respectful, encouraging and to be good listeners. Help us to be polite and kind. May we sing out our joy to all the earth! Amen._

**PARENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING:** It is great to see so many parents volunteering in the learning spaces in a variety of ways. If you are also interested in getting involved, all you need to do is attended two sessions of training. The sessions will take place as listed below.

**Session 1:** Wednesday 5th Sept.—9:15am

**Session 2:** Wednesday 19th Sept.—9:15am

*These sessions are the last ones to be offered for 2012. There will be more sessions held in 2013.* If you are a trained parent volunteer and you haven’t been in the spaces and would like to be, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange a time that suits all.

**SCHOOL FUNDING:**
The Australian government is currently reviewing funding for all schools and it is likely that the government will propose new funding arrangements.

These new arrangements could have significant consequences for the funding received by our school and it is vital that our school community is aware of the facts about school funding. I will be seeking your support to defend the right of our school to receive the government funding it needs to continue to offer a quality education, while keeping our fees as low as possible.

There has already been a lot of misinformation about school funding in the media. In particular, claims have been made that Catholic and other non-government schools receive more funding than State schools. These claims are simply wrong. Students in Catholic schools receive only three quarters of the government funding given to students in government schools.

Over the coming months, I will provide you with more detailed information about funding in our school newsletter. I encourage you to take an active interest in this information and be ready to participate in this funding debate. More information about Catholic school funding can also be found at: [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)

**INDUSTRIAL ACTION NEWS**
The 5th of September has been identified as a day of industrial action for teachers at government schools. There is a possibility that some Catholic schools may be affected by this industrial action. At this point, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria has lodged an application with Fair Work Australia (FWA) to obtain an order to stop and prevent industrial action by the IEU in Victorian Catholic schools. We will keep you informed of the situation at St Francis.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Whole school photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Volunteer training 9.15am</td>
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<td>PIP 2.30 &amp; 7.30</td>
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<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>Fundraising money due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 8,9,15,16</td>
<td>Confirmation community presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Volunteer training 9.15am</td>
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<td>Mass for Sponsor &amp; Candidate @ 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Oct 9</td>
<td>St Francis Feast Day</td>
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Jan Keogh
Principal