The MASCARENHAS family flew out from Melbourne today for their new adventure in America. Raj & Romina have been actively involved in supporting the establishment of our school and in helping to build a community of welcome and positivity. Sasha has been one of our beautiful Preps. We wish the whole family all the best in their new community. At these times of farewell we realise what an impact individuals make to a community through their willingness to be involved. Thanks for being a wonderful example to us Raj & Romina. May you go in the peace & joy of Christ.

Congratulations to the Caruana family as you celebrate the birth of your new son, who is a baby brother for Isaac in Prep Merle and Sienna in Yr1 Chrissy.

Confirmation – Presentation Masses
We pray for our Confirmation candidates who have begun their preparation for Confirmation. Over the next two weekends they will be presented to our parish community to highlight the importance of this next step in their Christian initiation into the Church.

Preps in Pyjamas: Prep children and their parents will be at school at 6.30 tonight. This is a great opportunity for faith sharing at a simple level with the children. We look forward to a session of prayer and celebration.

Living Fundraiser returns:
Thanks for your participation in our Living Fundraiser. Please note that, if you have sold all your plants, money must be returned TOMORROW. It is important that you return any unsold plants as well. Any unsold plants must be returned to the company, or else we will be charged for them. Next week we will inform you about how much money we have raised. If you chose not to participate in the selling of the plants but are able to make a donation this would be appreciated tomorrow as well.

Parents in Partnership
Thank you to our 11 parents who attended the PIP meetings yesterday. We appreciate your time and commitment to our school and know that you will network with other parents about what takes place at our PIP and bring a few others along next time!
We discussed the development of a Homework policy and gained some insights into what homework could look like at St Francis. We will be asking for further feedback through the newsletter.
The Grounds group discussed the maintenance of our playground areas. We will be seeking volunteers who may be able to spend 15-30 minutes once every few weeks to help with raking, sweeping, & removal of small debris.

The Fundraising/Social group planned our next fundraiser, which will take the form of a Gift Pack which will contain a Foundation Year tea towel (with the faces of each student and staff member printed on it) and a Foundation Year CD (with a photo story of our amazing first year at St Francis).

We also discussed the details of our Feast Day and how parents can be involved in supporting what will be an amazing day.

Our next PIP meeting will be on Wednesday 10th October. Please put this date in your diary as we need your help.
STAGE 2 of BUILDING:
The weather has been kind enough for work to continue each day. Some of the concrete has been poured. The site changes daily. We just have to close our eyes as the wind blows across the compound!

Notes for Absence
Parents are reminded that there is a legal obligation to inform the school the reason for absence. This must be done by note.

ST.FRANCIS FEAST DAY FESTA –
Tuesday, October 9th.
If you have not returned the reply slip about how you can support our Feast Day, please do so as soon as possible! We really would love you to be here to celebrate and to be involved!!

2013 Staffing: Next year we plan to have 4 more home groups operating in the school. This will accommodate our expected growth from 180 to 260 students. We are currently in the process of staff selection. Please keep us in your prayers as we discern the most appropriate candidates to join our school community.

Dress Up /Play Box – Let’s Play!!
Play is a significant way that children learn about themselves and the world around them. It’s one way that children’s brains are wired to learn. We would love to give children the opportunity to explore dramatic play by setting up a dramatic play area that students can access during playtime breaks. If you are able to donate any items for this purpose, please drop them into Chrissy or Lucy. Items you could donate could be: handbags, shirts, hats, shoes, old phones, men’s suits, scarves, colourful material. This will also be a great way to explore our cultural diversity. Please make sure that items are clean and in good condition. This is going to be fun!!

SCHOOL FEE PAYMENTS:
All school fee payments should be finalised by the last week of this term, unless you have made other arrangements with Margaret at the office. Just a reminder to contact the office if you need to negotiate a later time. Otherwise, we are expecting all fee payments to be made. Our budget is very tight and we are relying on outstanding school fees to enable us to meet all financial obligations.

STEERING COMMITTEE REQUIRED:
We are blessed to live in an area that is growing so rapidly as we have so many people joining our community. I am proud to announce that in 2015 we will be opening our third parish primary School. We are seeking families living east of Skeleton Waterholes Creek and between Leakes Road and the Federation Trail, who are willing to be part of the process for a Steering Committee for the new school. If you can help please contact Jan Keogh, Principal of St Francis Primary School on 9731 6004 or Fr. Jude on 9748 6800. Thank you, and together we can continue to grow and shape our vibrant community.

Fr. Jude Pirotta mssp

ST.JAMES PARISH FAIR:
As part of the parish of St. James all families are encouraged to support our annual fair. Please see attached for our calls for help.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Sept 6: Fundraising money due
Sept 8,9,15,16: Confirmation community presentation
Sept 19: Volunteer training 9.15am
          Mass for Confirmation Sponsor & Candidate @ 7.30pm
Sept 21: Last day of term 3 with 2.30pm dismissal
Oct 8: First day of term 4
Oct 9: St Francis Feast Day
Oct 20: St James Parish Fair
Jan Keogh
Principal

St. Francis of Assisi