Term ends next Friday, 21st September. Children will be dismissed at 2.30pm. It’s amazing how quickly the year is passing—So much is happening with a spirit of positivity and enthusiasm for community building. Many thanks to staff and families for working together in such a cooperative, supportive and skillful way.

We began the term with our Official Opening & Blessing and as we end the term we are well and truly into our second stage building program.

The staff have worked with consultant Colleen Monaghan to develop a robust approach to the teaching of mathematics. Children across the learning spaces are involved in mathematics tasks that have them problem solving and engaging in mathematical conversations with peers and teachers.

Parents who have attended the monthly PIP meetings are to be congratulated. You are a great sounding board for staff. Our first fundraiser has been really successful, catering & organizing for major events has been excellent and the grounds are being well cared for.

Children in Yr 3-6 had a wonderful opportunity to be involved in a musical production with Thomas Carr College. Feedback from all involved has been highly positive. Children celebrated First Communion; preps had another session in pyjamas; and the whole school has been developing greater awareness of our cultural diversity through dance, Italian and our Inquiry units. Staff are delighted with the way students are engaging in their learning—our data indicates that most students have made significant progress. We are deeply grateful to the parents who are volunteering in our spaces—to have extra adults supporting children’s learning makes a difference to learning outcomes.

Feedback from visiting teachers is often about the positive learning culture of the school - we are happy with what we have achieved to date. We look forward to another term of hard work, exciting learning and positive partnerships!

Enrolments for 2013 are almost at capacity and four staff have been employed to join the staff team next year. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Stella Lentini and Ms Danielle Cuthbert have accepted full time teaching positions at the school. We also welcome graduate, Ms Nicole Micallef and an experienced teacher, Ms Tegan Lawless onto the staff of St Francis of Assisi. I am confident that the talents, skills and enthusiasm of these four professionals will enhance the effectiveness of our current high quality team.

Term 4 commences on Monday 8th October. A term 4 calendar has been sent home today—please note the events included in the calendar.

NB We have included 3 School Closure days to enable staff to document the practices we have introduced this year; set directions & plan for 2013; prepare end of year reports for students. We will notify you of Camp Australia availability. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to families but strongly believe it will benefit student learning overall. Please contact Jan early next term or come to the next PIP meeting if you wish to discuss this above average number of closure days.
**Thomas Carr College principal Dr Andrew Watson** is keen to meet with parents and answer any questions you may have regarding secondary school. He will visit us on **Wednesday 19 September from 2.30pm to 4.00pm**. Parents of Yr 4, 5 & 6 students are especially encouraged to introduce yourselves to Andrew. He would be able to answer any questions about enrolment and transition to Secondary College. Andrew will be in our shared learning space next to the Yr 3-6 homerooms.

**PREPS IN PYJAMAS:** It was delightful to work with the Prep children and their parents last week. Through sharing scripture stories, singing and meditation we were able to pray and to share our wonderings about God. Congratulations to the staff and parents who were such positive role models to the children through this evening activity.

**STAGE 2 of BUILDING:**
We expect the slab to be poured next week. This will result in challenges to our traffic management. Please be extra alert during the morning drop off and follow the directions of builders and/or staff to facilitate the safe movement of students and trucks.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Unfortunately an iPad has gone missing from the school. We have asked for student help in recovering this without any result. Please be vigilant and notify school staff if you know anything about this lost item.

**Dress Up /Play Box – Let’s Play!!**
Chrissy & Lucy are seeking donations of items suitable for dress ups: handbags, shirts, hats, shoes, old phones, men’s suits, scarves, colourful material. Please make sure that items are clean and in good condition.

**STEERING COMMITTEE REQUIRED:**
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 due to open in 2015. If you can help please contact Jan Keogh 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 FETE:**
As part of the parish of St. James all families are encouraged to support our annual fete. Tickets for the Community Fete Raffle have been sent out today. Tickets are $1 each and are due to be returned to school by Thursday 18 October. Prizes are listed on the flyer.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
- **Sept 13:** Surveys to be returned by families who received them
- **Sept 15,16:** Confirmation community presentation
- **Sept 19:** Volunteer training 9.15am Mass for Confirmation Sponsor & Candidate @ 7.30pm School Fees due
- **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

I will be away next week—I will take a break so that I can be available during the holidays for the building project. Arthur will take on the leadership of the school for this last week of term.

I wish you all a good week and a safe and happy holiday.

Jan Keogh
Principal