ADVENT: In the second week of Advent, Luke’s Gospel, speaks of John the Baptist. He – an equally historical figure – was chosen to announce the coming of Jesus: the Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour King. “Prepare a way for the Lord,” he calls out and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to. What is all this saying to us?

Each year as the Advent season comes round and we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we need once more to hear the challenging call of John the Baptist to baptism and forgiveness. We need to reaffirm our commitment to the Christian community, to the Body of Christ, through which we go to God and through which our God comes to us. We need to open ourselves to Jesus, to an ever deeper change of heart, to a deeper listening to what Jesus is asking of us, “Lord, what do you want me to do, to be?”

We pray:
O Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, come and save your people. Strengthen those who are poor and may we be makers of peace. Amen.

BUILDING PROGRAM: Melbcon are doing an amazing job of keeping ahead of the building program schedule. We are delighted to see the new parts of our building take shape.

On Friday 14th December the staff will be moving out of the staffroom until the beginning of next year, to allow the builders to complete their work in that area. We will be using the Interactive Centre until the end of the year as our staffroom. Could anyone who is able to give us an hour next Friday to help us move please contact the office and we will make arrangements around your availability. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

SHOWCASE OF LEARNING: TODAY
6th December until 6.30pm.
Hopefully you have been able to come into our learning spaces to see and/or hear about the highlights of this term’s learning.
This showcase has given the students opportunity to clarify and articulate their learning. Your presence will contribute significantly to the quality of their learning. If you have not been able to attend, your child would be keen to talk with you about it.

END of YEAR CELEBRATION: Wednesday
19th December
1.00pm  Christmas Presentation
2.00pm  End of Year Mass/Yr 6 Graduation
3.00pm  Assembly
4.00pm  Family Picnic

If you have not been able to attend, your child would be keen to talk with you about it.

Replies are due by Monday.
We are looking forward to the whole community gathering for this special occasion: the end of our first year together and the wonderful feast of Christmas.

TRANSITION DAY: What excitement we experienced on Tuesday as we welcomed new staff and children to St Francis. All children Prep to Yr 5 spent time with their 2013 home group teachers. We are well on our way to readying ourselves for a new year of learning and growing together.

UNIFORM SHOP:
Will be available on Tuesday 29 January 2013 from 11am – 2pm.

VISION
A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace justice respect and excellence.
END OF YEAR CLEAN UP: Over the next two weeks we need to clean many parts of our school. Furniture, glass, shelving needs to be cleaned in readiness for the new year. Amongst your own busyness, if you could give an hour or so of your time to help staff and students with this work please come in, check the jobs list and mark off any job you complete.

COMMEMORATIVE DVDS & TEA TOWELS have arrived. Your orders will be sent home with the children tomorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Nanasca family. Carlos in Yr 3 and Princess in Yr 1 shared the exciting news that their family became Australian citizens recently.

MISSING SHOES: Earlier this week, Judith in Prep Andrea lost her school shoes. If by any chance you have found a pair of school shoes could you please advise the office.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Xavier College in Kew is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2014. The closing date for applications is 8 February 2013. For registration and information see Xavier’s website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Odgers at Xavier on 9854 5307.

ST JAMES PARISH NEWS:
ST VINCENT DE PAUL are putting together Christmas hampers for the needy families in our community. Your donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and new toys can be left at St James church from this weekend or you can leave them at the school. We hope to create the hampers on Tuesday 18 December, and so would appreciate the donations by Sunday 16 December. We are decorating our Christmas tree with a decoration for each donation. Hopefully we can have a tree laden with colour by the end of next week.

AN AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT: This event being planned by the St James Youth Group for Sunday 9th December has been postponed until next year.

ST JAMES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
1st Rite Wed 19 Dec 5.00pm-7.00pm
2nd Rite Thu 20 Dec 7.30pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Fri 21 Dec 7.00pm BBQ followed by Carols by Candlelight at 8.00pm in the Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Mon 24 Dec
6.00pm Carols in the St James Community Hall
6.30pm Vigil Mass (Family Mass) in the Community Hall
9.00pm Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
11.30pm Carols in the Church
12.00 Midnight Mass in the Church

CHRISTMAS DAY - Tue 25 Dec
7.30am Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
9.00am Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)
10.30am Mass (some carols pre-liturgy)

NEW YEAR
Mon 31 Dec New Years Eve
6.00pm Mass (last for the year)
Tue 01 Jan New Years Day
10.30am Mass (first for the year)

OTHER NOTICES BEING SENT HOME TODAY
Wyncity Bowling & Entertainment flyer

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Dec 19: End of Year Mass, Yr 6 Graduation & whole school celebration 1.00pm onwards.
Dec 20: Last day of year 1!
12.30 dismissal.
Feb 4: School resumes!

Jan Keogh
Principal