ADVENT: This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent known as “Gaudete Sunday” from Latin meaning “Rejoice!” The readings for this Sunday of Advent are full of expressions of joy and jubilation. The third candle on the Advent wreath is pink in colour.

“Rejoice in the Lord always,” says the Entrance Antiphon. In the Second Reading, Paul invites the Christians of Philippi: “I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness…” This theme connects so well with our school motto, ‘Sing out your joy to all the earth!’

Whoever we are — parents, teachers, employers, self-employed — we are God’s instruments. Our aim is, like John the Baptist, to lead people to Jesus that they may know him personally as Saviour, Lord, Brother and Friend.

ADVENT ACTION: As part of our RE, the Yr 3-6s have written an Advent prayer and attached the prayer to a candle. These will be available at St James parish mass at 6pm.

COME TO OUR END of YEAR CELEBRATION: Wednesday 19th December

1.00pm  Christmas Presentation
2.00pm  End of Year Mass/Yr 6 Graduation
3.00pm  Assembly
3.30pm  Dismissal
4.00pm  Family Picnic

Please note:
1. If you are not able to join us at 3.30pm children must be picked up as usual or be enrolled in the Camp Australia program. Teachers are not on duty after 3.40pm.
2. Those who are able to join us for the picnic please bring your own drink and snacks. A sausage in bread is available (no cost) but anything else you need to bring with you.

VISION
A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace justice respect and excellence.

Crazy Hair Day: A request has been made by some of the students that we have a fun activity to mark the end of the year and to farewell those families who are leaving St Francis. On Monday children, staff & parents are invited to come to school with “crazy hair”. A gold coin donation will be used to support the mission immersion experience of a group of young parishioners. Lead by Fr Jude & Fr Mario, a group of young adults are travelling to the Paulist missions in the Philippines during January. Please support this fundraising idea of the students if you can.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the families who are leaving us next week.

Hatch Family—Meg, Prep Merle
Padilla Family—Ashlee, Prep Andrea
Peyat Family—Eiley , 1 Chrissy
Porter Family—Ethan, 1/2 Tarryn
Camungol Family—Jericho, 5/6 Susan
Elsworth Family - Jarrod 5/6 Susan

Each family has been supportive of the school community in various ways during 2012. We thank each of you very much for your work, encouragement and presence with us in our foundation year. We wish you every best wish and blessing in the future.

Jan Keogh
Principal

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Sing out your joy to all the earth
BUILDING PROGRAM: Wow! Not only are the walls up but the roof is there, the floor to the mezzanine level is almost complete and the stairs have appeared. We continue to be on schedule for the project to be completed at the end of February. On Friday the staff room will be relocated to the wet area / interactive centre. Builders can then demolish the wall and prepare for the fit-out in this area. We aim to move back at the end of January so that all the learning spaces are available for the increased number of children commencing at the school on 4th February.

Thankyou so much to the families who were able to attend our Showcase of Learning last week. Children really benefitted from having to present their learning to others; and hopefully it provided many parents with another insight into your children’s education. Together we make the difference.

Congratulations to the children and staff for the enthusiasm they have brought to learning and teaching throughout the year. With the assessments we have completed recently, we were proud to note the progress that so many of the children have made. End of year reports will be sent home on Monday. Please speak with your child’s home group teacher if you have any concerns after receiving the report. Hopefully each report will be a reflection of what you already know about your child’s learning this semester.

At the beginning of next year, staff will be designing a framework of key learning that children should develop while at St Francis. This will reflect the Australian curriculum guidelines, but needs to be reflective of our particular community as well. Yesterday children had the opportunity to name the kind of things they would like to learn about next year. A survey is available now on the school website, inviting parents to add to the things children have identified. This survey should be completed on-line as soon as possible but no later than 16th January. Once again, we are hoping many of you will be able to provide your feedback. Staff will be working with an education consultant, Ms Deb Vietri on 31st January to develop the overview.

THOMAS CARR COLLEGE—GATE
The access gate through to Thomas Carr College will be available in the morning and afternoon until Wednesday 19 December inclusive.

The access gate will be available in 2013 from the 4 February.

END OF YEAR CLEAN UP:
Only one week to go. Many hands will make light work of the cleaning 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.

ST JAMES PARISH NEWS:
ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Your donations for Christmas hampers can be left at St James church this weekend or you can leave them at the school tomorrow Friday. Many thanks to those who have been able to contribute something. Together we work for social inclusion.

THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTIONS: A reminder to all families that your pledged contributions are now due. If you have not already finalised your payments for this year please do so—at the weekend or directly with the parish: 9748 6800.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Please accept the card that has been sent to your family today from Fr Jude. As well as the good wishes, please note the Christmas timetable for the parish as we celebrate Christmas and New Year.

Jan Keogh
Principal