WELCOME to the new school year. There as a positive buzz in the learning spaces yesterday as the community gathered after the holidays. We were delighted with the Prep children as they engaged with their teachers—no major tears (except from a few parents!). Several new children Yr 1-6 were welcomed to St Francis—going home with smiles and stories of the friends they had made. It was wonderful to welcome back all children and their families. We look forward to a year filled with blessings, community building and learning.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT As we begin the year there are several opportunities for parents/carers to meet with staff and each other. We hope you are able to join us at one or more of the following activities:

- **Assembly with our local member**, Ms Joanne Ryan followed by morning tea in the staffroom: **Tomorrow, Wednesday 4th** at 9.00am Joanne is presenting the school with new flags. Join us 9.00-9.40.
- **Year Level Morning Coffee with Teachers**: 9.00-9.30 in the staffroom to meet with the teachers and other parents. An opportunity to chat and become familiar with a few of the year level expectations and procedures:
  - Monday 9th Feb: Yr 1
  - Tuesday 10th Feb: Yr 2
  - Wednesday 11th Feb: Yr 3/4
  - Thursday 19th Feb: Yr 4-6
- **Beginning of Year Mass**: 9.15 Friday 13th February. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us as we give thanks for another year of opportunities and ask for God’s blessings on us as God’s people.

PLEASE PRAY for Tarryn who has needed to take this term away from school. We continue to pray for good health for Tarryn.

VISION

A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace justice respect and excelence.

2015 at St Francis is to be a year of joy, learning and community building. Staff spent last week revisiting our school priorities, procedures and policies. We worked with Deb Vietri, our Learning & Teaching consultant; and we updated our first aid training.

Three priority areas have been identified: Maths, Social-Emotional Learning and Reading. Staff professional learning and conversations with parents will focus on these areas. While all curriculum areas continue to be important and exciting learning will occur; the identified priority areas will be the focus for ongoing improvement in practice and student outcomes.

The BYOD (Bring your Own Device) program has been initiated in Yr 3-6. Through this program and a budget allocated to resourcing ICT, we will provide our students and staff with access to the most appropriate tools for learning.

Two specialist programs will be provided this year. Leanne and Alayne (with another teacher to be employed) will work with the students once a fortnight focusing on PE and Art. Home Group teachers will also implement PE sessions. Opportunities for children to participate in district sports will continue to be provided (and extended) this year.

BUILDING PROGRAM: Please be careful when moving around the property over the coming weeks. We have a five week program to construct extra shelters in the drop off/pick up zone and in the Sensory Garden area. At times, builders vehicles may be in our normal movement areas. Follow staff/builders directions at all times, be alert and patient when required.

WELCOME Marita Hassed-Dunne who will be replacing Tarryn this term. Marita will be with us for semester 1 and we hope she really enjoys her time with the St Francis school community.
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

STAFFING 2015:
Prep Team: Danielle, Lucas, Nadine with Mirjana
Yr 1 Team: Chrissy, Mel, Merle with Gemma
Yr 2 Team: Amy, Taryn, Tegan with Tanya
Yr 3/4 Team: Laura, Matt, Stella with Janice
Yr 4-6 Team: Chris, Jackie, Nicole with Dilani
Prep-2 Lead Teacher: Andrea
Prep-2 Literacy Support: Glenda
Yr 3-6 Literacy/Numeracy Support: Susan & Marita
Art P-6: Leanne
PE P-6: Alayne
Office Staff: Margaret and Martheese
DP/Student WellBeing: Arthur
Learning & Teaching Leader: Emily
RE/ Community partnerships: Lucy
Principal: Jan

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: It is most important for the safety of all that the established procedures for traffic management are followed by all parents/carers. Please find attached the excerpt from the Parent Handbook (available on the school website) as well as a letter from Dr Andrew Watson, Principal of Thomas Carr College. Consider how you pick up/drop off and then check how the attached information applies to you.

I especially draw your attention to the focus we will have this year regarding the use of the school crossing—Anyone who needs to cross Fairview Pde must use the school crossing whenever the flags are displayed.

Children who need to access/move from Manna Gum Drive must do so via Fairview Pde—No child is to cross the car park without an adult.

YR 5 PARENTS: It is time to enrol at Catholic Secondary Colleges. Hopefully you are all considering Thomas Carr College as your preferred option. Contact the College Office for information and enrolment forms.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (PIP): Our first PIP meeting for the for the year is next Tuesday, February 10th at 7.30pm. We would love you to come along to help us begin our year and to consider how to promote and build this partnership.

ASH WEDNESDAY: As we prepare for the season of Lent we invite families to bring any palms from last year’s Palm Sunday mass. These will be burnt and become the ashes that we will use at our Ash Wednesday mass on February 18th.

SCHOOL APP: St Francis has its own school app. You can download it from the app store on your mobile device (phone, ipad, tablet). Search for St Francis of Assisi, Tarneit. You can see the school calendar and receive regular updates through SMS messages. Please approach any staff member if you need help installing this application.

SCHOOL and CURRICULUM FEES are due to be paid shortly. Invoices will be sent home next week.

THANKYOU to our small band of parent helpers who came to our Working Bee last Saturday, especially those who are new to our community. We got a lot of jobs done and the school is looking very smart and ready for our students. We need to have a larger group for our working bees so the jobs can be carried out efficiently and no one has to be here all morning. When our next working bee is announced please see if you can be with us even for an hour. The students love to see their parents helping out their school.