We remember our Year 4 students who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time this Saturday. This is a significant celebration for the whole family and parish community. May this occasion keep them close to Jesus who wants us all to love one another as he loved others.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WORKSHOPS next week on May 3rd OR May 4th. Parents need to book in online. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the Event code: spzpg. Parents and children are expected to attend this workshop.

We pray for Lauchlan (Yr 1) whose great grandmother, Melba, passed away this week and for Aleena (Yr 6) whose grandmother also passed away in India last week. Please keep Janice (co-educator) in your prayers as her father Ernie has taken ill.

NAPLAN: This year’s NAPLAN Assessments for Year 3 and 5 students will be completed on 10th–12th May. Home Group teachers have been working with the children of these year levels to ensure they are ready and feeling comfortable about completing assessment in a set time. It is really important that children are not feeling anxious around NAPLAN. If you have questions around your child completing these assessments we strongly encourage you to contact your child’s Home Group teacher by calling the office or sending an email.

BOOK CLUB: Thank you to all the families who have supported our Book Club fundraiser this term. We have raised almost $400 for the school to spend on new books. This will go a long way towards building up our Library books for the children to borrow. Delivery of books is expected in two weeks time.

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE: It is very exciting that 120 students have returned their consent forms to take up the Challenge for 2016. If your child would like to take part too, please return the Parental Consent form to school tomorrow. If you need another copy of the form they are available on the Premiers’ Reading Challenge page of our school website.

THOMAS CARR COLLEGE: Due to construction work starting next week at the College, the path from the gate between Thomas Carr & St Francis will be altered. The gate will still be in use. However, the Thomas Carr College gate which is located in Manna Gum Drive will be closed.
FRIDAY, 6th MAY 2016

Mother’s Day Stall & Afternoon Tea. Children will have the opportunity to buy a gift for their mum or special person at the Mother’s day stall on Friday—Gifts range from $1.00—$5.00. Mums or a special person are also invited to come for afternoon tea at 2.00pm. Following this mums can spend the rest of the afternoon in the spaces with their children where they will complete an activity together. Please see the attached flyer which has all the details. Please return the reply slip for the afternoon tea by Tuesday, May 3.

WINTER UNIFORM should now be worn by all students. Please ensure children have all required items for both winter school and sports uniform.

VISIT on May 5th by Catholic Education Melbourne Executive Director Mr Steven Elder, Vicar General Mons Greg Bennett, Director of Planning and Infrastructure for CEM, and a group of senior archdiocesan representatives from various boards such as the Archbishop’s Finance Council and Planning, Building & Finance Committee and the Catholic Development Fund. The intent of the visit is to show those not directly involved in schools an example of the great building projects being done by schools and to demonstrate how important it is for the educational outcomes of the students. The group of twelve will be here from 2.00-3.15pm – walking through the spaces. Please note they will leave the grounds at approximately 3.15 so access to the car park area will be disrupted until their departure. Access will be available from 3.20pm.

STAFFING NEWS: Tomorrow we welcome Mrs Elizabeth Abuoi. Elizabeth will work with us 2 days each week (Monday & Friday) to support our work in engaging effectively with our Sudanese families, as well as a co-educator. Elizabeth already works at St James school. On Monday 9th May, we will be welcoming Tegan’s replacement. Mr Ben Orams is an Early Childhood trained teacher who has undertaken several days of CRT work at St Francis in 2015. He will work with Tegan in her final week with the Yr 2 students in Chiara LC to enable a smooth and positive changeover of home-group teacher. Tegan will begin her maternity leave soon—with her last day being Friday 13th May. Susan is due to finish at the end of May but may leave sooner! Amy is expecting her baby any day now. We wish all our expectant mothers (and fathers) all the best.

We are also seeking a coeducator to start with us as soon as possible. If you are interested or know someone who could be interested and you/they hold the necessary qualifications please check over the weekend or early next week the website where Catholic schools advertise positions vacant: http://web.cec.catholic.edu.au/CEOPositionsVacant

PARISH RAFFLE TICKETS sold and/or unsold need to be returned by Friday 6th May. Many thanks for your support of this parish fundraiser.

UPCOMING DATES

30th April: First Eucharist for Year 4 students
2nd May: Channel 10 reporting the weather
3rd & 4th May: Confirmation Workshop for No 11 St Francis of Assisi

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

Happy Mother’s Day!