Fr Jude and the Pirotta family would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to Ms Jan Keogh and the School Community of St Francis of Assisi Primary School for their prayerful support and expressions of sympathy over the last ten months of their mother Ann’s illness and at her death. It has truly been a source of strength for us. May you all be blessed in the Risen Lord.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Reconciliation Ceremony will be held:
When:  Wednesday, June 13.
Time:    7.00pm
Where:  St James the Apostle Church

Payment of $40 Sacrament Levy is due by May 28th.

Preps in Pyjamas—Session 1

When:  Thursday, May 31
Time: 7.30pm
Where: St Francis of Assisi School.

Please read the Preps in PJ’s invitation that has been given to the Prep children today and complete the reply slip.

Sacrament of First Eucharist: Year 4s.
A note with full details about First Eucharist commitments and date for the celebration will be given out next week.

ADULT FAITH MEETINGS: Last night, Fr Elio Capra facilitated an engaging evening for parents of students preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Those who attended were provided with an experience to enable them to further support their children in their faith development.

Date for Diary
Official Opening & Blessing of the school: Thursday 19th July 4.00pm.

Curriculum Levies & School Fees
There are a large number of families who have as yet made no payments. This is proving very difficult for school budgeting and payment of all incoming invoices. Payments need to be made immediately or an appointment made with Jan to discuss payment options. You can contact the office between 8.30am-4.00pm to arrange an appointment time.

Naplan Testing
Congratulations to the students in Year 3 & 5 on completing the Naplan testing. All students approached the testing with a positive attitude and tried their best. Thank you to all students for your consideration towards these students during this time.

Earn and Learn
St Francis of Assisi is participating in the Earn and Learn program being conducted by Woolworths. It requires each family, when shopping at Woolworths, to collect stamps and put them on a sheet which is to be returned to SFA when completed. The sheet is being sent home with today’s newsletter.
Parents in Partnership (PIP) – Garden Maintenance: If you are available to help out with the Gardening of our school, please send your contact details to: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au and mark it attention to Lucy – Parents in Partnership.

The next parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th May at 2.30 and 7.30. We had a very good attendance last month but need as many parents as possible to attend the May meeting. Please let Margaret know which session you will be coming to: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au or 9731 6004 or call by the office in person.

Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

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School Website
There is a new link on our school website, under the School Community section. This link is called ‘Parents in Partnership’. In this section you will find updates about the work being completed by our working parties: Social/Fundraising, Garden/Maintenance, Learning Partners and School Policies. ‘Discussion Group’ link in this section
If you have any other ideas for the school website please email Lucy at info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

Student use of Technology
Student user agreements are ready & over the next week teachers will be informing children about these agreements & their appropriate use of technology in the learning spaces. The user agreements will be sent home with next week’s newsletter to be signed by parents & students.

CDF Banking
Student Banking is available at the school. Application forms are available from the School Office. Please Complete the form and return it to the office with the money you would like to deposit. Banking day is every Friday.

Upcoming Excursions/Incursions
Year 1 & 2 students will be participating in an incursion on Monday the 21st of May. They will be involved in two workshops exploring worm farming and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Preps will be going on an excursion to CERES on Wednesday 23rd of May. Please make sure you return permission notes asap.

Grassy Heads
On Tuesday, the Preps made Grassy Heads. They are living things. They will need water and sunlight. We can’t wait to watch them grow.

Year 1/2 Excursion
What a fabulous day we had at Ecolinc in Bacchus Marsh on Tuesday! As a school community the Year 1 and 2 children had the opportunity to explore different elements of sustainability. Children chose the areas in which they worked. With Chris and his group, the children explored living in the extremes, and were able to investigate how wetland plants and animals survive extreme conditions. Cherie and Glenda looked at sustainable art with their group. They explored the wetland trails to create sustainable artworks using natural resources from the environment for their creations. With Chrissy and Emily, the group explored the world of plants. Being a plant detective, they explored the indigenous plant garden and vegetable patch, digging up potatoes & planting broad beans. Children will be working on a presentation, taking the role of teachers, when they come together to share their findings with our learning community. A wonderful day was had by all and we give special thanks to the parent helpers for the day. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Bailey Camille: “I had a fun day at Ecolinc”.
Vanessa Asiedu: “I am so excited Chrissy and am having the best day ever”.
Jai Galea: “My nunnu grows vegies in his garden too”.

St Francis of Assisi
Traffic Management
On excursion days the drop off/ pick up areas are required by buses for safe student pick up and drop off. Please note these days from newsletters and adjust your usual practice when necessary. The most affected time will be the afternoon. Parents are requested not to come into the drive through area until after the buses have returned. This will generally be by 3.20pm.

Mrs Tarryn McCrae
Mrs Tarryn McCrae is currently unable to be at work for health reasons. Tarryn is participating in an in-hospital program which will run at least until the end of this term. She sends her best wishes to the community and is keeping close contact with staff to track student experiences and learning. Children will have the opportunity to communicate with Tarryn through the Yr 1/2 staff.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Heidi Chapman-Foehn who will commence as Tarryn’s replacement until the end of term. Heidi has just returned from three years teaching at an International School in Switzerland. Prior to that Heidi had been teaching at St John’s Primary school in Footscray and Emmaus Primary school in Sydenham. She comes to us as an experienced teacher keen to be part of our new school community. Heidi will commence with us on Monday.

Open Morning—Mount St Joseph’s Girls’ College
“You are warmly invited to come along to our Open Morning on Thursday 31st May 2012 at 9am and see our school in action; speak with the Principal and discover more about our 21st century learning programs in a school that specializes in the education of young women. Please register your intention to attend with Ms Jenny Hendricks, our College Registrar on 8398 2000.”

Thomas Carr Day
We are very grateful for the ongoing support our school community receives from the Thomas Carr College community. As they celebrate their feast day tomorrow, we pray that they may be blessed as they continue to strive to be a light that shines for all.

What’s on in JUNE : Parent Seminars

Positive Parenting—Understanding Mental Health
Presenter: Terese Sheedy
Ages; Primary and Secondary
Date: Tuesday June 5
Time: 7pm-9pm
Location: Christ the Priest—Caroline Springs

How to help your child succeed at school
Presenter: Andrew Fuller
Ages: Primary & Secondary
Date: Thursday June 14
Time: 7pm-9pm
Location: St Mary’s Williamstown

Helping children & Adolescents Make & Keep Friends
Presenter: Murray Evely
Ages: Primary & Secondary
Date: Thursday June 21
Time: 7pm—9pm
Location: St Mary’s—Altona

Registration/Further Information
Please contact Catholic Education Office, Mrs Shirley O’Sullivan on 9464 5225 or Shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au
Seminar Cost: $10 (to be paid in advance).

Jan Keogh
Principal