Today is the feast of Mary Help of Christians, the patroness of Australia. We pray that, like Mary the Mother of God, we may proclaim the greatness of God with our lives.

On the weekend we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost—the day on which we remember the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and with our Church.

This is certainly a time to give thanks for the many blessings of God. Let’s take time each day to count those blessings and to place any of our worries in the loving hands of our God.

It is in this way that we can truly Sing out our joy to all the earth

Celebration of First Reconciliation
Wednesday, June 13.
7.00pm
St James the Apostle Church

Payment of $40 Sacrament Levy is due on Monday, May 28th.

Preps in Pyjamas— Session 1
Next Thursday, May 31 at 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi School.

All Prep children are expected to be present with at least one parent—all of us in our dressing gowns! If you haven’t yet replied please do so tomorrow.

Sacrament of First Eucharist:
Information about First Eucharist Dates and parent workshops will be sent out tomorrow, Friday May 25th.

Important upcoming date:
First Eucharist Workshop for parents only, on Wednesday, June 6th at 7.30pm at St James the Apostle Church.

Parents in Partnership (PIP) –
The next parent meeting will be held next Tuesday 29th May at 2.30 and 7.30. No one from our parent community has informed us if they are going to attend. Please let Margaret know which session you will be coming to.

You can Email: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au or Call us on 9731 6004 or call by the office and let us know in person. We need to continue the good work that was commenced last month. I encourage as many parents as possible to attend.

Student Technology Agreements
Please find the Student Technology Usage Agreements for all students with this newsletter. These agreements are developed to keep your child safe when they are using contemporary learning tools at school. Please sit with your child and read through the agreement together. The agreement needs to be signed by you and your child and returned to school as soon as possible. Please be aware that the agreement is simplified for year prep, one and two

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

Jan Keogh
Principal
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students and is different from the agreement for students in Yr 3-6. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school.

**Victorian Primary School Nursing Program**

A health assessment is offered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all Prep children and any other child whom a parent or teacher refers.

The school Nurse will be visiting our school to see the Preps on Tuesday 24 July 2012. A School Entrant Health Questionnaire has been sent home to all Prep Parents today. This questionnaire is to be completed and returned to school by Wednesday 30 May.

Other parents are invited to speak with your child’s home group teacher if you have any concerns that you feel the school nurse may be able to assist with.

**Closure Day: Friday 8th June**

Just a reminder that there will be no school on this day.

Staff will be planning and finalising student reports.

Camp Australia may operate a program if you require this but you must book with the program coordinator at the school in the coming week. Jackie is here from 3.00—6.00pm for bookings. We will need at least 18 children to be able to offer the program. We will confirm next week if we have enough interest to offer this program.

**Keeping Warm**

Just a reminder to all families about having appropriate uniform for these colder days. On Mondays, the students need to have their PE jacket because we are outside and they need to keep warm.

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**2012 Family Quilt**

Calling the families and friends of St Francis of Assisi PS.

**It’s time to get creative!!**

We have a BIG project in store and we need to work together as the wonderful community that is St Francis of Assisi.

Our project is the creation of a foundation-family quilt and we are asking all families to help contribute. This quilt will be a feature of the Opening and Blessing of our school. We want to have all our foundation families and staff represented on this quilt.

As a family, we are asking you to design a panel to contribute to the quilt. This panel will be a design of your family name and this needs to fit within the border on the template. The lettering needs to be bold, as letters will be cut out from felt fabric.

This family name design will be superimposed on fabric and used in the construction of the quilt. We have until end of term to have this completed so we need to get started now.

We aim to have a day for cutting out and assembling the pieces on **Wednesday the 6th of June**.

Attached to this week’s newsletter is a template for you and a sample of the family name has been provided to guide you. Remember it is one template per family. Could you please also fill in the reply note on the reverse side of the template, to identify how you can help in the construction of the quilt.

Please return your family name and reply slip about how you can help by Monday, May 28th.
Buongiorno tutti!

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Italian to the students of St. Francis. They are so eager to learn & their young brains absorb so much information that I’m continuously amazed when they approach me & repeat a phrase, word or song that we learnt weeks earlier. Since the school’s term 2 focus is based on sustainability, I tried to integrate the Italian language & culture where possible so that the learning is somewhat related to what they are doing in their home groups.

The Prep students are learning about animals, with a focus on those native to Italy. They will spend some time researching in small groups to discover what these are. The main story we are using is the Italian version of The Little Red Hen. They have also been learning how to reply when asked what their names are.

The 1/2’s have been learning about food typically found in Italy. Today we watched a clip on ‘Making sauce from scratch’. They viewed what a lot of Italians do every March to prepare for a year’s worth of sauce stocked in the pantry/garage. The story we’re using is Mangia, Mangia where the main character is a big fan of nutella. They have also been learning how to respond when asked what their name is. Over the next few weeks, the 1/2’s are going to be cooking & eating minestrone which is one of the food items from the story. If you do not want your child to eat minestrone due to allergies or other reasons, please let the home group teacher know ASAP.

The focus for the 5/6’s has been on the sustainability of all things Italian. After much dialogue, they were given the opportunity to further investigate an area of interest through a learning quest or a personal inquiry booklet. The students have brought in resources from family trips to the library & various other items from home. They have been telling me about the interesting facts they have discovered. Maybe you can share some of your knowledge with them, too! I will also be working with small groups each week on further developing the language.

Until the next time,

Arrivederci…

Stella Lentini
Italian Teacher

Parent Teacher Interviews:  Tuesday 26th June and Wednesday 27th June. Parents are requested to make an appointment with your child/ren’s home group teacher to discuss learning progress. You will be provided with a written report on Monday 25th June to inform the discussions. Please return the appointment preference slip as soon as possible and we will arrange an interview time.

Excursions/Incursions

Years 3– 6 will be attending Ecolink in Bacchus Marsh on Tuesday, June 5th. They will be focusing on Reuse, Recycle, Reduce.

Earn and Learn

We are participating in the Earn and Learn program being conducted by Woolworths. If you shop at Woolworths please collect the stamps and put them on a sheet which is to be returned to the school when completed.

Jan Keogh
Principal