Thursday 18th July 2013
No.19

Welcome to term 3. Children have settled beautifully into their learning routines. Many thanks to the staff who have created inviting and stimulating environments for learning to occur. On Monday staff worked with our consultant Ms Deb Vietri to draft a P-6 continuum of the learner dispositions we seek to develop here at St Francis. We then considered how we could add further quality to the inquiry/discovery learning which is an important part of our curriculum. During the term we will refine the work we started and make it available to the community. Term Overviews for each level have been sent home today. This summary of expected student learning hopefully provides information to allow parents and teachers to work together to support children’s progress this term.

Building Works: During the holidays the path from the asphalt courts to the building was upgraded and drainage works were continued. We had blinds installed in the Stage 2 building as well as on the high windows in Stage 1. You may also have noticed the coloured struts that have been added to the exterior walls of the mezzanine. Many thanks to those families who supported the working bee on Saturday. The school and grounds are sparkling and so tidy!!! What a difference it makes when we come together to make St Francis a place of pride and welcome. See the attached flier for the next opportunity to be involved in our grounds development.

St James Feast day is 25th July. The parish community is celebrating this event with a dinner dance this Saturday night. Our children have the opportunity to celebrate our parish feast on Thursday. The outline of our Feast Day celebrations is outlined below. Parents you are more than welcome to attend any of the activities throughout the day and celebrate with us!!!

9.30: Years 4—6 attend St James Feast Day mass at St James Church. Children will engage in activities with St James children and return to school by 12.45pm. (Children will leave by 8.50am).

11.30—1.00pm: Children from Yrs P-3 will be involved in cross-age activities. 1.00pm: Subway lunch. 2.45pm: Whole school liturgy.

EMA—Second Instalment: The EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) is provided to assist low income families with the payment of school fees. Applications for second instalment closes on 2 August 2013. If you have completed an application form at the beginning of the year and still hold a current Commonwealth Pensioner Card, Health Care Card or Health Benefits Card on or during 15 July 2013, you are not required to complete another form, but you are required to present your card to the school office for confirmation. If you were not eligible at the beginning of the year but are eligible for the second instalment, please come to the school office to collect an application form. Unfortunately late applications cannot be processed.
Parent Seminar
Monday 5th August: This seminar is organised by Catholic Education Office Melbourne and we are proud to be hosting it here at St Francis. It is a great opportunity to hear a highly respected speaker. See the attached flier for details of topic / registration.

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

PIP meetings were held this week. The upcoming working bee will support the preparation of the grounds for spring planting. The playground works in front of the bike rack will be commissioned in the coming fortnight for an immediate start.

An excursion with interested parents and representative students is being organised for 1st August to confirm the plans for the sensory garden. If you are interested in being involved in this excursion please email: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au during next week. We hope to have work in the sensory garden area undertaken towards the end of term.

Many thanks to the PIP Social group who have organised our Subway lunch. This will be another successful fundraiser for us. Our PIP Fundraising group have done a terrific job in organising the Pie Drive. We made just over $1000.00 for this fundraiser. Thank you for supporting us once again. All funds are being used to continue to resource our school.

REMINDER that pie orders are being delivered this Friday, July 19th.

Our next PIP meeting is on August 20. We encourage you to make every effort to attend and be involved. There’s lots of exciting work ahead with our playground works and sensory garden development. We can only continue to do great things with more hands on deck!

Sacraments Update Our Year 4 children will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist next month. We pray for them as they prepare for this celebration.

Parents please ensure that you return:
- Expression of Interest for Photographs form.
- Reply slip to inform us of the number of immediate family members who will be sitting with your child at First Eucharist.

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge
www.education.vic.gov.au/prc
This year children have an opportunity to be involved in ‘The Challenge’. The aim of the Challenge is to promote a love of reading. It is not a competition, but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Challenge ends on 12th September. Please refer to the letter sent home with every child for more information about this.

If your child would like to participate, please return consent forms by Wednesday 24th July.

Dates to Remember:
July 19: First Eucharist reflection day
July 23: Yr 1 excursion
July 25: St James feast day & Subway Lunch
Aug 2: EMA applications close
Aug 5, 7.00pm: Parent Seminar
Aug 8: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop feast day
Aug 11: St Clare feast day
Aug 15: Feast of the Assumption
Aug 17: Celebration of First Eucharist
Aug 20: PIP meetings
Aug 29, 6.30pm: Family Maths night