Thursday 9th February, 2017

No.1

Sing out your joy to all the earth

VISION

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

ANOTHER YEAR OF LEARNING & COMMUNITY BUILDING @ SFA

Welcome to the 2017 school year! Congratulations to the students, staff & wider community on a highly positive start to the year.

There is a calm, orderly environment in all learning spaces with a strong spirit of cooperation & positivity amongst staff and students.

We have 465 students working in 6 learning communities this year. The Preps and other new students Yr 1-4 have settled into the school routines so well! Returning children across the school have been modelling our school culture of WELCOME, ENCOURAGE, LISTEN & RESPECT very well.

This year we are introducing Japanese as the Language Other Than English (LOTE). Frank will teach students Prep-6 both Japanese and Performance. Our other 2 specialist areas are Art & PE.

We continue with our priorities to improve learning outcomes in Maths and English while ensuring that students experience highly positive wellbeing. Staff have been allocated to their respective roles to achieve best possible progress for all.

MEET YOUR 2017 STAFF:

Margaret & Marthe

Assisi LC: Dilani, Felicia, Angela & Mel

Chiara LC: Taryn, Danielle, Nadine, Ben

Francesco LC: Taryn, Em, Leanne, Mirjana

MacKillop LC: Anila, Lucas, Jackie, Grace

Damiano LC: Tanya, Stella, Lana, Laura

Marian LC: Janice, Dean, Brenton, Helen, Amy, Lisa, Kryatin

Leadership Team: Lucy, Emily, Andrea, ICT/Maths: Susan

Junior School Leader: Danielle

Support Teachers: Cherie, Glenda, Marta, Tegan

Community Liason: Elizabeth

Specialists: Chrissy, Matt,
During the coming term several new initiatives/projects will be introduced/commenced:

- New pick up routines for added safety and improved traffic flow
- A Monday ‘after school club’ sponsored by the Edmund Rice Group
- Stage 4 of our school building program.

In partnership with you, our school community, this year holds great opportunity for learning, loving and growing into our vision: SFA—a vibrant Catholic learning community of peace, justice, respect and excellence. May this our 6th year as a school be truly blessed!

We pray for Joe, Uncle of Angelo (Yr 6), Sienna (Yr 5), Sebastian (Yr 1); for Victor, grandfather of Jai (Yr 6) and Dhakota (Yr 3); Frances grandmother of Felicia (Yr 1 teacher) and Clemente Bradford, great grandfather of A’ Lisandro (Yr 5), Mikayla (Yr 3) & Alexis (P) who all passed away recently. May they rest in peace and may these families be comforted by our prayers at this time.

NEWSLETTER: The school newsletter will be sent home each fortnight during the year. You can expect it on a Thursday.

SFA SCHOOL APP has been updated with important school dates for this year. You can download the school app by:
1. Going to the App store on your mobile device (smartphone, Ipad or tablet)
2. Search for St Francis of Assisi, Tarneit.
3. Click on the Icon for St Francis of Assisi, Tarneit.
4. Click INSTALL.
5. You will be asked to enter your password (iTunes or Google Play) to be able to download the school app.
6. Once it is downloaded, click OPEN.
7. Make it one of your favourite apps!!

The icon for the school app looks like this:

SCHOOL FEES and LEVIES: Accounts will be sent home next week. Due to software package issues, payment for levies and fees will not be receipted until Tuesday 14 February. Due to this matter the levies due date for payment has been extended to Friday 17 February.

Tuition Fee Payment First instalment of $500 is due on 17 March. This payment can be made via Direct Debit, Credit Card or Cash. Please arrange for payments to be made at the school office by this date or contact me to arrange an appointment to discuss your payments.

HEALTH CARE CARD HOLDERS CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF): This fund is to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sports and excursions/incursions held through school. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The annual CSEF amount per eligible student is $125.

If you are eligible, please contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form. This form will need to be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you
Margaret—Office Administrator
ALL parents and friends are welcome to the following masses as we gather together to give thanks and ask for God’s blessings on us as we enter this new year.

**Beginning of Year Mass**
9.30am - Friday 17th February
Damiano Centre
followed by morning tea & Burning of Palms
*We ask families to bring palm branches from last year’s Palm Sunday mass for this ritual.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING:** If you are looking to volunteer in the learning spaces and you haven’t completed the training, we would like to invite you to join one of the following one hour sessions:
Monday 13th February at 2:10pm
Thursday 16th February at 9:15am
Friday 24th February at 9:15am

All volunteers will need a current Working With Children Check (WWC). Please see Emily Conroy, Andrea Wilberger or Danielle Sabitino

**TERM OVERVIEWS** are being sent home with every child today - to share with families the great learning that is planned for this term as well as important messages that relate to your child’s learning.

**TERM 1 SCHOOL CALENDAR** is also attached to this newsletter. This has the important whole school events.

**Working Bee**
When – Saturday 18th of February
Time - 8:30 am – 11:00 am

What to bring: Weeding tools or Just bring yourselves!
Many hands will make light work!! Please come and help to tidy & develop our garden spaces.

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**Drop Off & Pick Up Routines**

**Arrival** at school 8.30-8.50

Before 8.30—children need to have adult supervision or be booked into OSHC Program. This week up to 60 children were on site before this time. This is an unacceptable safety risk.

Doors are open from 8.40—Students should enter through their home group external door or the double doors (not via front office).

After 8.50—an adult needs to sign the student in at the front office. This tracking of late arrivals is to ensure that no good routines are established and the same children are not regularly arriving late for their learning.

**Dismissal** is at 3.20pm

Prep children are to be collected from their learning space.

Other children should have a meeting space arranged with whoever is picking them up. We now have a range of places in our playground which would make a good meeting point.

Children waiting to be picked up by car are to assemble quietly in the designated undercover area, ready to move into cars safely and quickly. No child is to cross the school car park without an adult.

Children who are walking or riding home are to leave school promptly at 3.20pm to ensure they are travelling at a time where trusted adults are able to support them if they need help. Helmets must be worn if students are riding.

The crossing is to be used by all those who need to cross Fairview Pde.

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**YR 5 & 6 PARENTS!**

It is time for enrolling Yr 5 & Yr 6 students in secondary college.

Thomas Carr College Enrolments for Year 7, 2018 are being taken now and close at the end of February 2017. Please contact the Registrar Mrs Kylie Stonehouse on 8734 2444 if you have any questions. An enrolment pack can be obtained from the Administration Office at the College, 35 Thomas Carr Drive, Tarneit.

College tours are conducted regularly during the year for Yr 5 parents to see learning in action. Enrolments for 2019 are now open. See the college website:

www.thomascarr.vic.edu.au

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**Refugee Education Support Project (RESP) Update:**

Last year, SFA became part of a project to support children from refugee families. As a result of consultation with our partner organisations: Foundation House, Centre for Multicultural Youth and Edmund Rice Foundation, we will be offering an After School Club. 23 students have been invited to take part in this. It will be held every Monday afternoon and will begin on Monday, 27th February from 3.20 – 5.00pm. More information about this project will be presented at the AGM meeting.

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**AGM**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 21st February**

**7.00-8.30pm**

**Pace Plaza**

All parents & friends of St Francis are invited to our first community meeting for 2017.

- Report on 2016 achievements
- Directions for improvement 2017

*Come along to get a sense of our priorities for this year and to grow our community partnership.*

*Your voice is important!*