PARENT ENGAGEMENT It has been wonderful to see so many parents attending either the PIP meeting on Tuesday night (18 parents) and/or the morning coffee with the Yr 1, 2 & 3/4 teams (approx. 90 parents). The importance of building community is extremely high and this response has been most positive. All parents are encouraged to participate in any opportunities they possibly can across the term to be fully informed of learning, teaching and community building programs/events.

BEGINNING of YEAR MASS is tomorrow 9.15 Friday 13th February. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us as we give thanks for another year of opportunities and ask for God’s blessings on us as God’s people.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS: As we prepare for the season of Lent we invite families to bring any palms from last year’s Palm Sunday mass. These will be burnt and become the ashes that we will use at our Ash Wednesday mass on February 18th at 9.15am.

Yr 4-6 MORNING COFFEE is available on Thursday 19th Feb 9.00-9.30.

Assembly with our local member, Ms Joanne Ryan was a highlight of last week. We were presented with a ceremonial flag that was flown at Parliament House Canberra.

PLEASE PRAY for Tarryn who has needed to take this term away from school. We continue to pray for good health for Tarryn.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the school: Tuesday 24th February. At this meeting we provide a report of the achievements of 2014 and the directions for 2015. We also officially launch PIP for the year.

All parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. A flyer will be sent home tomorrow and we ask you to return the reply slip to indicate your attendance.

BUILDING PROGRAM: Please be careful when moving around the property over the coming weeks. We have a five week program to construct extra shelters in the drop off/pick up zone and in the Sensory Garden area. At times, builders vehicles may be in our normal movement areas. Follow staff/builders directions at all times, be alert and patient when required.

WELCOME Emily Vignes. Em has been teaching in NSW and is currently awaiting registration to teach in Victoria. She will work alongside Alayne (PE) and Leanne (Art) on level teachers planning days. Em has a dance background and will provide students with dance/performing arts opportunities.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: Staff noticed a number of concerning issues as children were leaving the school during the past week. The protocols for Traffic Management have been updated—Please find a copy with this newsletter. All parents/carers must follow these procedures to ensure the safety of all students and each other.

YR 5 PARENTS: It is time to enrol at Catholic Secondary Colleges. Hopefully you are all considering Thomas Carr College as your preferred option. Contact the College Office for information and enrolment forms. Alternatively, staff from the College will be available for questions and enrolment information here at St Francis on Monday 16th Feb at 3.00pm.

SCHOOL and CURRICULUM FEES: Accounts have now been sent home. Payment by the due dates is important. Contact Margaret if you would like to set up a payment plan.
PARISH-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS
At the beginning of every year we provide the opportunity for parents to meet their child’s home group teacher. This year we have invited parents to come for morning tea and this will be followed with an information session for each year level. These information sessions will be held on **Monday, 2nd March**.

**TIME:**
- 6.30pm Yr 1 and Yr 2 parents
- 7.45pm Year 3 – 6 parents

The information sessions will inform parents about Learning and Teaching at your child’s year level. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss your child with staff. Parents who wish to speak further with teachers about their child will have another opportunity to do so on **Thursday, 5th March from 4.00pm – 7.30pm**.

Online bookings will be made available after Monday’s information session. The follow up parent-teacher conversations are **optional**.

Please note that **Amy Henderson** (Yr 2 Home Group teacher) will be available for appointments on **Wednesday, 4th March from 3.35 – 5.00pm**.

Parents will be given further information about making these appointments at the information sessions on Monday, 2nd March.

**PREP** parents will have the opportunity to attend an information session and BBQ on **Monday 16th March at 6.30pm**.

**BOOKCLUB:** We have introduced Bookclub at SFA. Order forms are being sent home with the newsletter today. Please note that orders with payment need to be returned no later than **Thursday, 19th February**. Payments can be made online or you can return completed orders and **exact** money in an envelope with the child’s name and home group.

**St Clare’s** has opened and they have had a very successful week. We look forward to continuing our support and partnership with them as we educate the children in our parish schools.

**PARISH NEWS:** A message from Fr Jude— ‘On behalf of St James Parish, I would like to thank all of the school families who support Parish and School through the Thanksgiving Program. Your generosity is what allows our community to continue to thrive and grow. Earlier this year we had a few families ring us saying that they had not received their Thanksgiving Envelopes or that they had not yet registered with the Parish. If you are facing a similar situation, please contact the Parish on 9748 6800, Mon-Fri, 9:00am-2:30pm or by email at parish@stjamesapostlehcn.com.au so that we can update our records.

Thank you and go gently,
Fr Jude Pirotta mssp Parish Priest
St James the Apostle Parish

**Mr Martin Enright** has announced that he will be retiring from Principalship at the end of term 2. Martin has lead the St James school community for 20 years. What a wonderful legacy he will be leaving. We look forward to joining with the parish community in the coming months to formally acknowledge and thank him for his leadership.

**STAFF LEAVE:** This is a reasonably busy year in a range of ways. Several staff will have leave. These include: Jan—taking enrichment & long service leave June-July; Lucy—taking long service leave end of term 2/early term 3. Jan & Lucy will be studying in Assisi and attending an international conference (ICOT) in Bilbao. Tegan will be taking leave for term 2 (personal). Nicole will be on two and a half weeks leave early term 2 (wedding). Amy will have a few days leave at the end of term 2 (wedding). Arrangements are in place to ensure learning continues at these times. We hope staff on leave, for any of the reasons above, have enriching experiences which in turn will add value to our school community in the long term.