**EMA—Second Instalment:** The EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) is provided to assist low income families with the payment of school fees. Applications for second instalments close on 2 August. If you have completed an application form at the beginning of the year and still held a current Commonwealth Pensioner Card, Health Care Card or Health Benefits Card on 15 July, 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.

**Happy Feast Day everyone!!!**
We have had a wonderful day of celebration as we marked our parish feast. We remember that St James was a faithful disciple and friend of Jesus who courageously lived the gospel message and proclaimed it to others. We pray that we may be inspired by his example to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We pray that together with all parishioners of St James “we come as we are, to live out the Gospel message as a faith-filled, welcoming and caring community”.

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

**Parent Seminar - A workshop to support parents to build confidence in their children as learners.**
Monday 5th August: 7.00-9.00pm.
*The secrets of happy, creative, confident and competent kids.*
Andrew Fuller is a clinical psychologist who works with many schools and communities to support the well-being of families.
Register to attend this valuable workshop.
Contact Doug Sandiford (Catholic Education Office) on 92670258 or email dsandiford@cemelb.catholic.edu.au or contact the school office.
Cost $10.00

**Healthy Foods**
are essential for children’s well-being. You are encouraged to ensure that lunch boxes contain healthy choices.
“Sometimes food” should be reserved for snacks at home. Over this term staff will be highlighting the healthy foods that they observe children eating.
In accordance with our ‘no nut’ policy, nuts and nutella should not be sent to school under any circumstance.

**ACMA CYBERSMART WORKSHOP:**
*Helping our children stay safe online.*
Thursday, 8th August 7.00-8.00pm.
Multi-purpose hall
St James the Apostle Primary School
330 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing.
Email Michael Polh: mpohl@sjhcn.catholic.edu.au
by 1st August
**Grounds Development:** We’d love one more parent to come on the all day excursion on 1st August to visit several sensory gardens to inform our final planning for our own grounds development. If you are interested please email: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au by Monday.

**Working Bee:** 10th August. We’re preparing our grounds for spring planting. Reply slips should be returned by next Friday. Please consider your availability for an hour or two on this day.

**First Eucharist Reflection Day:** The Year 4s had a wonderful reflection day last week. It helped to deepen the children’s understanding about their relationship with Jesus. We continue to pray for our children as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time. If you have indicated that you would like to have professional photos for First Eucharist, money needs to be paid by Monday 12th August. A letter regarding this will be sent home with the children this Friday.

**Professional Learning:** On Monday, the leadership team took the opportunity to attend a seminar led by internationally renowned Andy Hargreaves. He addressed the themes from his latest book “The Power of Professional Capital”. We were encouraged in many of our practices around the professional culture we are building at St Francis. Key factors we will continue to develop include: collaborative inquiry, collective responsibility and focus on improvement.

**Traffic management:**
- Parents using the car park at the end of the day must be on site by 3.30pm. For safety reasons there is not entry 3.30-3.40pm.
- Children should be wearing seat belts before cars leave the school grounds.
- Left turn only into Fairview Pde when exiting the school 3.30-3.40pm.
- The school crossing should be used when children are crossing Fairview Pde.
- Children riding to and from school need to be wearing helmets.

**Parish fundraising event:** The young people of our parish have organised an afternoon of entertainment to support cancer research. See the attached flyer for your invitation to participate.

**Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge:** We’ve had an excellent response to our Premier’s reading challenge. Well done on getting your replies in! Happy reading everyone!

**Request for Discovery Learning:**
The home groups from Prep-2 would love for families to donate empty boxes for students to use during box construction. Students are also exploring Asian perspectives and would love if families have any traditional dress they would like to donate. Thank you to those families who have already donated items.

**Dates to Remember:**
- Jul 29: Yr 2 Incursion—Craft Power
- Aug 2: EMA applications close
- Aug 5: 7.00pm: Parent Seminar
- Aug 8: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast day
- Aug 10: Working Bee
- Aug 11: St Clare Feast day
- Aug 15: Feast of the Assumption
- Aug 17: Celebration of First Eucharist
- Aug 19-23: Book Week
- Aug 20: PIP meetings
- Aug 26-30: Numeracy Week
- Aug 28: Fathers’ Day stall
- Aug 29: 6.30pm: Family Maths night

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