FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS  
MACKILLOP: FRIDAY, AUGUST 8.

‘Find happiness in making others happy’

We will be celebrating this Feast Day with a school mass here at St. Francis.

Date: Friday 8th August  
Time: 9.30am  
Everyone is welcome!

ST CLARE’S FEAST DAY - AUGUST 11
We are celebrating a liturgy on Monday the 11th at 9.15am. This is an opportunity to formally welcome Mr Andrew Leighton as well as celebrate the Feast Day of our new school community. Parents, especially those living in Truganina are invited to the liturgy followed by morning tea with Andrew and Jan.

A CASUAL CLOTHES DAY: TOMORROW
Bring a gold coin and wear your favourite casual clothes. We are fundraising for our fete committee who work very hard to organise the parish annual fete. The money raised through the fete will be used to support the many ministries operating, including a donation to each of the schools.

CONGRATULATIONS to Saron (Yr 3) and Amanuel (Yr 1) Woldegoiris. They have a new baby brother named Steve who was born last Thursday!

We pray for Matthew Cutajar and all those who are sick. May they experience God’s healing and peace. We are very pleased to hear that Tarryn will be returning to school on Tuesday next week.

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE: I would like to congratulate all the children who have completed the Premiers’ Reading Challenge already. The names of the children who have successfully completed the challenge are displayed on the window of the Interactive Room to celebrate their efforts. There are only 7 WEEKS left for the students who are completing the challenge so don’t give up! Make sure you enter the books you’ve finished reading online so you don’t miss out on successfully completing the Challenge. All books need to be entered online and verified by Emily before the 12th September 2014.

BOOK WEEK 2014
This term home groups are focusing on the Book Week theme ‘Connect to Reading’. There are lots of exciting things planned for this as well as tying in with Literacy and Numeracy week activities too. Over the next couple of weeks the students will participate in learning experiences linked to the books that have been shortlisted for various awards. Families are invited to the culmination of these activities:

Art Exhibition launched on Tuesday 19th August
Gold coin donation
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEY
Our annual School Improvement Survey is ready for all families to tell us our strengths and our challenges. All families will receive a hard copy of the Parent Opinion Survey today and it is also able to be completed online. We ask all families to participate in this survey—the information is very important to us. All the information regarding the survey is on the letter that is in the envelope.

SPRING INTO SPRING: Following the success of our first walk to school day in Term 2, we are planning a Spring into Spring walk to school day on Friday, August 29. As well as walking from the park in Sundial Boulevard, there will be a departure point north of the school for those families in that area.

PARENT CONVERSATION with the Principal/Leaders: Come and join us for morning on Thursday, August 7 at 9.00am. This is an opportunity to chat about any aspect of school life. There is no agenda but a desire to build strong partnerships around the directions of our school.

PUNCTUALITY: Thank you to those parents who have been following the new procedure for signing in if children are late for any reason. We are noticing a downturn in the number of late arrivals. This will make a positive difference to learning.

PREPS 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL: It’s hard to believe that we are coming up to 100 Days of School already! The 100th day will be on the 6th August. To celebrate this momentous occasion we will be making 100 delicious chocolate cupcakes, creating our own party hats and playing party games. Look out for party photos in next week’s newsletter.

EMA—Second Instalment: (Education Maintenance Allowance) Low income families please note that it is time for us to make application for the financial support to which you are entitled for educational costs. Contact the office staff if you have any questions about the following:

Applications for second instalment close 1 August. If you 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 14 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 second instalment, please come to the school office to complete an application form. Unfortunately late applications cannot be processed.

DATES TO REMEMBER
1st Aug: Casual day
6th Aug: 100 days of Prep
7th Aug: Parent conversation with the Principal
8th Aug: Feast day of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - Community Mass at SFA.
11th Aug: St Clare’s Feast day - Liturgy & morning tea with Andrew Leighton
13th Aug: Preps in Pyjamas
15th Aug: Feast of the Assumption
18th Aug: Book Week begins
19th Aug: Book Week Art Exhibition
25th Aug: Literacy & Numeracy Week
29th Aug: Spring into Spring - Walk to school.

THEY’RE CALLING ON YOU
We need your help! If you have any mobile phones that are no longer being used, please bring them in. There is a box in the foyer, as well as one in each of the spaces. By bringing in your phones, you are helping to save the gorillas and their habitats. Staff members from The Melbourne Zoo will personally come out and pick up the phones if we collect enough of them! You may have seen in the local paper that there are two brothers who have already collected 50 phones and their goal is 1000 phones. We’re hoping to collect at least one phone from every family. We think it can be done. We already have 23 phones. Will you help?