Many thanks everyone for the warm welcome I have received on my return from leave. My time away was most rewarding with a good balance of work and relaxation. I had the opportunity to immerse myself in Franciscan Spirituality while in Assisi for almost three weeks. Under the leadership of four Franciscans, I along with 28 other pilgrims gained a deep insight into the places St Francis and St Clare lived and died and also into their teachings and dispositions. While in Rome, I was able to participate in the Angelus and the weekly audience with Pope Francis. It is amazing to see the number of pilgrims/tourists who gather in St Peter’s Square for these occasions. The Papal Blessing will soon be presented to our community. When I moved on to Spain, Lucy and I attended a five day education conference focussed on the Thinking curriculum. It was very affirming to interact with educators from across the world and to realise we are exposing our children to the key skills required for modern learners. We will continue our work to ensure the thinking curriculum is a strong component of the children’s educational experience.

I thank the staff particularly Arthur, Emily, Susan and Andrea for their efficient leadership of the school during my absence. I look forward to this next stage of my leadership here at St Francis: re-energised, renewed and ready for continuing to realise our vision here as a Catholic school of peace, justice, respect and excellence.

PLEASE PRAY for Leanne’s father, Albert Jennings who died early this week after a long illness.

SCHOOL REVIEW: We welcome Ms Christine Wakeling to our school next Tuesday and Thursday. Christine is an independent Education Consultant and is involved in the Catholic School Review process as a Reviewer. Over the last few weeks she has been reflecting on the Self-Reflection Report which staff have documented and analysing a range of school data (from past surveys and student assessments). On Tuesday Christine will gain a more in-depth understanding of our school’s practices by meeting with a representative group of parents, students, Fr Jude and staff. Then on Thursday, she will meet with the leadership team and a parent and staff representative to discern our future improvement directions. This external advice will add value to the work our school is currently undertaking. Christine will then provide a written report as well as reporting back to staff and PIP parents on 25th August.

Insight SRC Survey: 60 families have returned their completed surveys and a further 9 families have completed the survey online. This is a positive response from our community but I strongly encourage other families to take part by completing the online survey over the coming week. Your input in regard to your experience of our school will enable us to keep a focus on continued improvement. This annual survey is completed by all staff, Yr 3-6 students and as many families as possible. We use the information to ensure we are focussing on things that matter most in the enhancement of student learning and community experience.

YOU ARE INVITED
WOMEN of FAITH CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, August 7 at 9.30am
at St Francis of Assisi.
Families are welcome to attend this
Celebration of the Eucharist.
We will remember our significant saints— St Mary Mackillop, St Clare, Our Lady.
VOLUNTEER TRAINING: Parents or grandparents who would like to volunteer in our learning spaces are invited to attend our training session on Thursday August 13th at 9-10am in the staffroom.

PLP Meetings next week:

Social Committee: This will be rescheduled due to our Review commitments.

Fundraising and Project Teams: Tuesday August 4th at 7:30pm

Grounds and Maintenance: Wednesday August 5th at 7.00 pm

We look forward to your participation.

ST CLARE'S PS is celebrating its official opening and blessing next Friday 7th August at 11.30am. The leadership team will represent the St Francis community at this significant occasion (Many of you may remember our own opening 3 years ago!). We wish them all the best as they take this step in their formation of their identity as a Catholic school community within the parish of St James.

On Tuesday 11th August, the feast day of St Clare a group of our students and staff will attend mass at St Clare’s school.

Donating 5c Coins: The Environmental Group are raising money for an endangered species, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot. We are encouraging our school community to donate 5 cents (the same size as a newborn baby bandicoot) to support Zoos Victoria Eastern Barred Bandicoot Program to help save them from extinction. It’s important for us to think about the future of all life, plants, humans and animals to make sure that we all have a place to live now and for a long time to come. Please help by donating 5 cent coins, the more we raise the better! A member of the environmental group will be coming around to collect money every morning. Many thanks to all those who have made donations so far.

PREPS 100 DAYS AT SCHOOL

August the 4th marks the Preps’ 100th day at school. Since the very first day of school way back in February, the preps have been counting their ‘Days at school’ learning to count by 1s and by 10s in the process. They will spend the day celebrating this milestone with lots of activities around the number 100. We wish them a wonderful celebration!

DENTAL VAN: The Dental Van was at our school on Monday and Tuesday, but unfortunately the dentist could not see all children who had returned their notes. As there was a huge response from families, we have had to book 4 extra days. The Dental Van will be back on 23, 25, 26 and 27 of November to visit the children who have returned the Dental Van notes and did not see the dentist on Monday and Tuesday.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY: On Tuesday 25th August school photos will be taken. All children will be included in the whole school photo and home group photos. Families will have an opportunity to order individual and family group photos. All children need to be in full winter uniform inclusive of school jumper on this day (no sports uniforms or runners). Photo envelopes will be sent out today. Online ordering can be placed with Arthur Reed Photos or return the completed envelope with correct money to school by Friday 21 August.

SUCH ENTHUSIASM!

This week, many of the children enjoyed working in the garden. We received a donation of 40 plants that are Indigenous to our area from the Newport Nursery. On Tuesday, we planted these to continue building up our Indigenous Sensory Garden. With most of it mulched, the plants are ready for the coming warmer months as they continue to grow vigorously. Its great to see the growing interest in what is happening in the garden and the excitement building to see what is coming next.

I am on the look out for donations of no longer needed gumboots and crocs of all sizes and colours. If you have any, please see Chrissy.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the Routley family for your donations of a potting bench, plants and propagation equipment. Your generosity is really appreciated.

Thanks also to Lenke and Nikolina for helping in securing the wire on the orchard/chicken enclosure last Thursday. If anyone is available to work in the garden during the week and especially on a Tuesday, I would really appreciate the help, especially while the ground is soft.

Chrissy

TERM 3 DATES:

Aug 4: 100 Days of Prep
Aug 7: Women of Faith Liturgy at SFA
Aug 8: Feast of Mary Mackillop
Aug 11: Feast of St Clare of Assisi
Aug 15: Feast of the Assumption
Aug 22: SFA First Eucharist
Aug 25: School Photo Day
Aug 29: SFA First Eucharist
Sep 2: District Athletics Sports Day
Sep 3: Father’s Day Stall
Sep 4: Father’s Day Mass at TCC
Sep 9: Year 5 TCC Experience
Sep 11: Hoop Time for Year 5/6 students & Year 6 Maths Challenge Day
Sep 12 & 13: Reconciliation Presentation Masses
Sep 16: School Disco
Sep 17: End of Term for Students
Sep 19 & 20: Reconciliation Presentation Masses
Oct 6: Term 4 begins for students