We will soon get into our rhythm of newsletters and notices coming home regularly on a Thursday. At this stage just a few important notices needed early in the week!

Tonight we have our first Annual General Meeting. All parents are encouraged to come along if at all possible: 7.30pm.

Industrial Stop Work Action scheduled for Thursday 14th Feb will not affect St Francis school community. Although staff here believe that lack of progress in negotiations with the Government is unacceptable, no staff will be taking stop work action. There will be school as normal on Thursday.

Traffic Management
Thank you so much for your efforts in making movement around the school as safe as possible at drop off & pick up time. There are still a few issues to be addressed:
- Turning into the school on Fairview Pde is by left turn only
- Turning out of Fairview Pde driveway use a left turn only (and go around the block if you need to travel north). Traffic is being held up by drivers needing to wait a long time to do a right turn.
- Use the school crossing with children even if it means going out of your way. Traffic is coming from a range of directions and it is important that they are shown the correct safety procedures: use the crossing.
- If parking off site park legally— along the curb, keeping clear of driveways and corners (some people are parking on the the corners—making it dangerous for other cars to pass or turn)
- Please walk / ride to school whenever possible to reduce the road traffic
- By 3.35pm a number of cars have cleared the area—consider arriving those few minutes later and you may find it less chaotic.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation— please speak with any of us if you have concerns.

Time of Arrival
The best time to arrive in the morning is between 8.40 – 8.45am. This allows children time to greet staff & friends and for them to prepare for the day. Children should not arrive earlier than 8.30: this is when supervision begins in the school grounds.
Please be mindful that Out of School Hours Care operates in the shared learning space before & after school. No entry to the school should occur prior to 8.40am other than students who are moving to or from Thomas Carr College.
Arrival after 8.50am needs to be recorded in the Late Arrival book. This is located in the school foyer.

Time of Arrival
At pick up time it is necessary to ask parents and other carers to wait outside the school building until
**Make me a channel of your peace;**

**Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.**

3.30pm. During week one you would have noticed how crowded the spaces were and some children were being caught in the crowd. Prep and other parents coming through the front entrance door are asked to wait until the music stops at 3.30pm before entering the learning spaces. Only Thomas Carr students who are not picking up younger siblings are permitted to walk through the shared learning space and the foyer from 3.20pm. Please allow them space to move out of the building prior to 3.30pm.

Parents and carers entering from the external home group doors please wait until children have exited before coming into the spaces.

Yr 2 parents may come through the main entrance and then out to the Adventure Playground at 3.30pm where you could meet your child. This will keep the wet area & Yr 1 space free for Yr 1 parents.

If you change your pick up arrangements with your child please inform home group teachers so that they too are aware of what the child is to do at 3.30pm.

A sincere thanks for your cooperation with this movement management. We’ll have several waiting spaces both indoors and outdoors when stage 2 building is completed.

**Yr 7 Enrolments at Catholic Colleges** close on Friday 1st March. All Yr 6 parents need to be considering now what College their child will attend next year. See Susan or Jan if you have any queries. If your child will be attending a Government Secondary College those enrolments happen mid-year.

**Curriculum Levy:** This levy is now due and should be paid by **Friday 15th February**.

**EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance):** Applications for term 1 payment are due at school office by **Thursday 28th February**.

**Stage 2 Building Program**
At the last site meeting the builder informed us that the schedule of works has been adjusted. The new completion date is the end of March—this means it will be the beginning of term 2 before we will be able to move into our beautiful new spaces. This is very disappointing—but for the long term benefits we know the wait will be worthwhile. We will be able to free up a bit of space for learning when staff move into the enlarged staffroom. We will do this next week hopefully. The space won’t be completed but will be usable.

**Ash Wednesday & Lent**
The season of Lent begins tomorrow. Children enjoyed beautiful pancakes today. Many thanks to the many parents who came in with utensils and were chefs for the day! Yesterday Yr 1-6 students participated in a simple ritual of the burning of last year’s palm branches to create this year’s ash for tomorrow’s Eucharist.

We will be having a **9.15am mass** at St Francis. You are invited to attend along with any parishioners who may like to join us.

**School Hats**
Reminder: Some children are coming to the playing spaces without their school hats. Most children leave their hat at school overnight to ensure it is here each day. I encourage this practice so that no child is missing their important playing and sports time because they are without a hat.

**Other Notices**
Camp Australia information
Adult Faith workshops: Yr 1, 2 & 5 parents