Sing out your joy to all the earth

VISION
A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace justice respect and excellence.

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ASH WEDNESDAY MASS: Next week 10th February @ 11.30am. Other mass times are available in the parish to enable all parishioners to mark the beginning of the Lenten period. Families may like to plan for pancake eating on Tuesday eating (Shrove Tuesday)—the traditional way to begin this period of fasting and prayer.

We pray for all those who are ill especially Gemma’s grandmother, Margaret’s brother/Lucas’ uncle, Roger Olenik (father of Josh Yr 3 & Alannah Yr 4) and Arn Raj (mother of Eddie Yr 5 and grandmother of Zo’Arn Yr 3).
We keep in mind Marita’s brother –in-law Frank who passed away earlier this week. May he rest in peace.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF): This fund is to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sports and excursions/incursions held through school. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The annual CSEF amount per eligible student is $125. If you are eligible, please contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form. This form will need to be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

OUR LEARNING SPACES have now been named! After community consultation last term names have been allocated to the various learning and meeting spaces across the school.

Please see the attached map for the details. It will take us a while to learn all the spaces names—so keep the map handy over the coming months.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS
9.15am - Friday 5th February
followed by morning tea & Burning of Palms
Damiano Centre (Yr 5/6)
We ask families to bring palm branches from last year’s Palm Sunday mass for this ritual if you have any.
ALL parents and friends are welcome as we gather together to give thanks and ask for God’s blessings on us as we enter this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:
There has been a very unsettled start to the school year at many schools across Victoria, Australia and globally. Although we have not been directly affected, it has ensured that as a staff we have revisited our plans for dealing with any situation where we may need to evacuate or lockdown our school. Tomorrow we will test our SMS system to alert parents of any emergency that may occur at St Francis. Please note, this is a precaution only. If any family does not receive an SMS from the school tomorrow (before 11.00am) please notify the school office of your current mobile phone number.
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

Drop Off & Pick Up Routines
Arrival at school 8.30-8.50
Before 8.30—children need to have adult supervision or be booked into OSHC Program. After 8.50—an adult needs to sign the student in at the front office.
Doors are open from 8.40— Students should enter through their home group external door or the double doors (not via front office).
Dismissal is at 3.20pm
Prep children are to be collected from their learning space. Other children should have a meeting space arranged with whoever is picking them up. We now have a range of places in our playground which would make a good meeting point.
Children waiting to be picked up by car are to assemble quietly in the designated undercover area, ready to move into cars safely and quickly.
No child is to cross the school car park without an adult.
Children who are walking or riding home are to leave school promptly at 3.20pm to ensure they are travelling at a time where trusted adults are able to support them if they need help.
Helmets must be worn if students are riding.
The crossing is to be used by all those who need to cross Fairview Pde.

YEAR 5/6 Parent Information session is being held on Thursday, 11th February @ 7.00pm.
Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting with their Yr 5/6 child.
Year Level expectations/opportunities and camp information will be shared at this meeting.
Let’s start the year with shared understandings!

REPORTING TO PARENTS: At the end of term 1 parent-teacher conversations will be held to discuss assessments of term 1 and set learning priorities for each child in Prep—Yr 4. Because of Camp and Interschool sport the Yr 5/6 conversations will be held early term 2. In the meantime, level teachers will communicate via newsletter and blogs. Parents are encouraged to keep informed of news from their child’s learning community. You are welcome to approach any teacher or leader if you have any questions or concerns. We are happy to discuss these with you and will set up appointments when required.

PIP AGM
Tuesday 16th February @ 7.00pm
At this meeting we report on the achievements of 2015 and the priorities for 2016. All parents are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend this annual meeting.

SACRAMENTS 2016: Dates and information about the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation will be given out with next week’s newsletter.