WELCOME to TERM 4: Children returned to school looking rested and ready for this last term. This is an important part of the year as children consolidate their learning and work hard to reach their highest possible standard especially in English and Maths. Please read the Term Overview which has been sent home with this newsletter. We encourage all parents to work in partnership with the staff to ensure that together we support the children as learners.

We begin the term celebrating our feast day.

Our Franciscan spirit of ‘singing out our joy’ and ‘giving praise to God’ will be strengthened as we come together as community tomorrow.

The day will begin with a Communion Service followed by morning tea for any parents/visitors and then an athletics/PE showcase. A subway lunch will be enjoyed by those who chose to place orders. Please see the attached flier for more details.

It is very exciting that we will be able to start using our oval area now— We launch its use at our feast day celebrations. I’m sure that the children will enjoy this extra space on which to play and run.

Great work was carried out in the sensory garden area at our last working bee. The Young Paulists and a group of wonderful parents (along with their children) worked hard for several hours. We now have a dry creek bed and the beginnings of our walking track. Take a moment to check out this area. Over the term more work will be done to complete the landscaping.

We pray for Dr Andrew Watson (principal of Thomas Carr College) and his family. His mother, Maureen, passed away on Tuesday. May she rest in peace.

SCHOOL PHOTOS: Individual, home, group, family group & whole school photos will be taken next Tuesday morning. Children should be in their summer uniform. If they are wearing the summer dress or grey shorts they should also be wearing black school shoes. Long hair needs to be tied back with either blue or yellow ties/ribbons. No jewellery should be worn. We understand that in this transition period we will have variation in the summer uniform being worn—what is important is that each child is wearing their uniform proudly.

SUN SMART: A reminder that children need to wear hats while they are outside during term 4. Hats are available through the uniform shop or from the school office.

LADIES MOVIE NIGHT—The PIP Fundraising Committee have organised a Ladies event on Monday 13th October at the Sun Theatre Yarraville. All mothers and their female friends and family members are invited to join us to see the 7pm screening of the movie 'Wish I was here'. If you would like to join us return the reply slip with the money by tomorrow. You can access the flyer via the school website.

PARENT SURVEY developed by the PIP Project Group is now available. We are seeking feedback about the curriculum being offered at St Francis. Please follow the link to complete the short survey by Friday 17th October: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HGFP36
SACRAMENTAL NEWS: Yr 3 parents shall receive a letter confirming the time their child will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on 29th October. We keep the Year 3 children in our prayers as they continue to prepare for this sacrament of peace.

YR 6 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT at Thomas Carr College is tonight. What an exciting time for our Yr 6 students—preparing for their transition to Secondary College. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this evening. It will provide information that will help you support your child to successfully make the move from Yr 6 to Yr 7.

YR 5 PARENTS: It is time to be making decisions about Secondary education for your child. Hopefully you will make the choice of Thomas Carr College for Yr 7. Applications for enrolment at Catholic Colleges need to be made in March next year. Please check the College web sites for information about the enrolment process.

ST JAMES PARISH FETE Saturday 18th October

Fete day is almost here, coming up on Saturday 18th October 10am-4pm. If anyone is interested in helping out on the day or assisting with the cake stall, please fill in the notes and return them to school as soon as possible. Your help would really be appreciated.

Wrist bands for the fete will be going on sale in the school foyer from Monday 13th October. The wrist band includes unlimited rides, sausage, donut and drink and are a great bargain costing only $27.

St James Community Fete Raffle

Raffle ticket books with 10 tickets were sent home before the holidays. Please return the tickets with the money to school by Thursday 16th October. The raffle will be drawn at the Parish Fete.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: On Monday the staff from both St Francis, St James & Andrew Leighton from St Clare’s spent the day with Mrs Denise Arnel (consultant) and Fr Jude reflecting on the call of staff to be witness to the joy of the Gospel. We explored both the life of Pope Francis and Joseph de Piro (founder of the Paulist Missionaries); as well as considering the essential components of a Catholic school. This was an important opportunity to renew our commitment to the ministry of Catholic teaching and service; as well as ensuring that as a parish we have a unified understanding of our vision and mission.

VICTORIAN WELSH CHOIR CONCERT: Sunday 2nd November 2.00-4.00pm St James Community Hall Tickets: $20 Adults & $10 Children Contact: Gayle Murphy 9749 7713 murphy.oski@bigpond.com

LOST PROPERTY: There are many items in the lost property box (all without names). It is important that items that are likely to be taken off, have names written on them. If your child has lost an item of clothing, please come and check the lost property box, which is located in the office.

DATES TO REMEMBER
10th Oct: Feast Day celebrations
13th Oct: Ladies night out
14th Oct: School photo day
18th Oct: Parish Fete
20th Oct: Prep Orientation
21st Oct: PIP meeting
22nd Oct: Parent Conversation with leaders
29th Oct: First Reconciliation celebration