FIRST WEEK OF LENT
“We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future.” Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi 35

REFLECTION GOSPEL LUKE 4:1-13
In this Sunday’s Gospel we learn that early in his public life, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. In the stillness and quiet of the desert, it is easier to become aware of the presence of God, as God’s words in Psalm 42 suggest, ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ When we take time out – away from the distraction of phones and TV – we can experience something of ‘desert’ stillness. When we start to listen, we come to know the heart of Jesus and his longing to bring every person to the fullness of life.

Parent Teacher Interviews
The school was buzzing yesterday afternoon & last night as parents and teachers met. Our second session is tomorrow. Because the forecast is for late showers could I ask that any family who is able to pick children up at 2.45pm do so. You will need to come into the office if you are doing the early pick up. If you can’t arrange an early pick up that is fine—we will be having a whole school assembly in the Yr 2 spaces again and dismiss the remaining students to the Adventure Playground at 3.30pm or escort children to the pick up zone as usual.

Annual General Meeting
It was wonderful to have 45 families represented at this meeting. The report that was delivered is now available on the school website. We are very proud of the achievements of our first year of operation and look forward to working as a welcoming, caring community to further develop this school. I encourage all parents/carers to seek opportunity to be involved. The engagement of each of you adds quality to the education we provide and the community we are becoming.

Attendance
One of the concerns raised in the Annual Report was the low attendance rate we recorded last year. It was 84% when we would be expecting a mid-90% attendance. The overall attendance rate was impacted by the number of families taking children out of school for travel/holidays. Parents should be aware that a non-attendance of more than 10 days across a year has impact on student learning levels. If this is repeated across years it has a significant impact. Please consider carefully before organising holidays during term time and make every attempt to have children at school regularly unless they are unwell. Congratulations to those children who did not miss any school days last year.

PIP (Parents in Partnership)
Thank you to the parents who have signed up for our PIP meetings. We welcome any other parents who wish to join us. Email Lucy at lvassallo@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au to...
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

Traffic Management
Again, please note the following:
- 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.
- Do not park across driveways or close to corners (both are illegal)

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.

EASTER RAFFLE AT SFA
Our first school based fundraiser of the year. We are asking families to donate an Easter egg for the Easter raffle. The Easter eggs can be placed in the box situated in the school foyer.

Raffle tickets will be sent home week beginning Monday, March 4th. Raffle books will contain 10 raffle tickets. Each ticket will cost $1.00 each.

Funds raised from this raffle will go towards continuing to resource our learning spaces.

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

Stage 2 Building Program
Staff moved into the enlarged staff room on Tuesday. Although not finished, it is usable—with lots of space!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION WORKSHOPS 2013
Parents of Year 1, 2 and 5 are expected to attend one of the workshops that have been advertised. It is important that we have your replies indicating your attendance by tomorrow, Friday February 22nd. The letters and reply slips for attendance are available via a link on our school website.

One of the responsibilities that you committed to as parents at the enrolment of your child/ren to our school was that you would:
‘Support the school in the Catholic education of my/our child/children and involve myself/ourselves as much as possible’.

Our desire is to work with you in the faith formation of your child. We need your commitment to the faith education of your child/ren to be demonstrated through your attendance at the adult faith experiences that we provide.

PARENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING
This is a shout out to all parents who would like be a volunteer by supporting their child’s learning at school. In order to volunteer in our spaces we require parents to complete 2 one hour sessions. This term the sessions will be held on:
Session 1: Wednesday 13th March, 9:15am
Session 2: Wednesday 20th March, 9:15am
Looking forward to seeing some new faces in our spaces. Email: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au or contact Emily if you plan to attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER
Feb 26: Adult Faith Workshop 7.30pm
Mar 5: Prep Information evening 2014
Mar 11: Labour Day Holiday