Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent begins

Lent
We began the season of Lent yesterday with prayer, celebration of Eucharist and the distribution of ashes. This marks the beginning of six weeks of prayer, fasting and good works as we, the Church, try to more closely follow the way of Jesus Christ. May each of us find our journey to the three sacred days of Good Friday—Easter to be one of peace and renewal.

Congratulations to Yr 3-6 students who travelled to St James and represented our school so well.

Many thanks to the parent helpers who made pancake cooking possible on Tuesday—the school smelt great and it was good to have a taste of how the school will feel when we have our parent helper program in full swing.

PROJECT COMPASSION—Caritas Australia. ‘If you want peace, work for Justice’.

Yesterday your child would have brought home a Project Compassion box. The purpose of Project Compassion is to provide one way in which we can try and make a difference to poorer communities around the world. Your donations can be collected throughout the Season of Lent and given to St James Parish or St Francis of Assisi School, where we can offer the donations to Caritas Australia on your behalf.

Year 1 Family Mass
Just a reminder that next Wednesday 29th February at 7.30pm Parents/Guardians are expected to be present for our Year 1 Family Mass and Supper. This will be held at St James Church.

It is a great occasion to share our faith and have the opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal level.

Please make sure you return the note by Friday 24th February, to let us know of your attendance at the Mass and Supper afterwards.

Year 2 ‘Keep the Flame Alive’
We have the opportunity for our Year 2 Parents/Guardians to take part in a workshop session, ‘Keeping the Flame Alive’. This session is for parents/guardians only (children do not attend these sessions) and will focus on supporting families in understanding the importance of sacramental preparation.

The Workshop sessions will be offered at 2 different times.

Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi Primary School.
OR
Thursday 22nd March at 9am at St James the Apostle Primary School.

A note will be sent home shortly with further information.

Jan Keogh
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TCC applications for Yr 7 2013
Applications are now open. Enrolment Information Packs are available from the College Administration during office hours.
Applications close on Friday 2nd March 2012.
For further enquiries please contact the Registrar on 8734 2409 or 8734 2444.

School Fees & Curriculum Levies
Thank you for your patience while our accounting system has been set up.

School Fee & Curriculum Levy Statement will be sent home within the next two weeks.

Curriculum Levy of $210 per child will be payable on 9 March 2012. School Fees of $1,090 per family can be paid in three instalments, with the first Instalment of $425 due on 23 March.
Fee Payments can be made by cash, cheque, direct debit (form will be available from office), credit card, via filling in the credit card slip at the bottom of your fee statement or Credit/debit card facility available from the office.

Parents in Partnership
Many parents have been asking when we will be starting parent helper programs and meetings for parent involvement. This is great! Please note the following:

Parent Helper training sessions to enable parents or other carers to be involved in helping in the learning spaces will be held on:
Monday 5th & 19th @ 2.30—3.30 OR Thursday 8th & Friday 23rd March @ 9.15—10.15am. Please choose the 2 dates that suit you best. We'll ask you to sign up for these prior to 5th March.
Parent Meetings will be held once a month (except during holidays) to address issues related to student learning, school policies, grounds & maintenance, social activities, fund raising and marketing. An initial meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th March. This first meeting will be held at two times: 2.30—3.30 and 7.30—8.30pm. From here we'll decide if a day time session is viable (as well as the evening). We'll also establish working groups and discuss a proposed format for future meetings.
Catholic Education Week: 12th-16th March
We have good reason to celebrate Catholic Education this year as we begin our journey as a Catholic school community. Please note 3 dates:
Wednesday 14th March: Information evening for Prep 2013 at St James @ 7.30pm. This evening is for all families wanting to enrol in Catholic school within the parish (including St Francis).
Thursday 15th March: Mass for students across the Archdiocese of Melbourne at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Our Yr 6 students and some Yr 5 students will be invited to attend (a limit of 10 students from each school is imposed because 2,000 students attend this event and fill the cathedral to capacity).
Friday 16th March: Open day at St Francis. Prospective families are invited to visit the school between 9.15am—1.15pm. This will be followed by an open afternoon and shared afternoon tea for our current families. You will be welcome to come into the learning spaces to see what the children are doing from 2.30—3.30pm. Hopefully we can then have a picnic style afternoon tea in our playground until 4.30pm.

Parent Teacher Meetings
Today 23rd Feb 3.00—8.30pm. Hopefully you find these meetings to be a useful way to establish a positive partnership with your child’s home group teacher.
Leaders will also be available from 3.45 if you wish to catch up with any of us while you are here.

School crossing
You may have noticed yesterday that we now have a school crossing in Fairview Pde, between Ribbon Gum Dve & Rainbow Way. **For safety, any pedestrians needing to cross the road in Fairview Pde must now use this supervised crossing and the pedestrian gate closest to the school entrance.**

Traffic Management
Most people are finding the parking and drive through arrangements working well. Please ensure that anyone dropping off or picking up your children is aware of the procedures and cooperates with us to ensure the safety of all children.

These are the important reminders:
* Do **not turn right** into the school from Fairview Pde. Left turns only into school grounds from this street.
* Do **not travel more than 15 kph** when turning into or moving within the school grounds.
* Wait in the drop off / pick up area until the cars in front have moved. **Do not form a second line.**
* If you are parking in the Manna Gum Dve car park please do **not arrive after 3.30**. Two way traffic through this drive way is dangerous.

Time of Arrival at School
Just a reminder that supervision does not begin at the school until **8.30**. No child should be in the school grounds before this time unless they are participating in the OSHC program. Any child arriving **after 9.00am** needs to come to the front office to be signed in in the late arrival book.

Parish Fundraiser
Thank you for any support you can give through the buying / selling of the raffle tickets. Please send money & any sold / unsold tickets to your child’s home room teacher when you are ready.

School Photos
**Friday March 9**: Hopefully every child will be in attendance on this day. Information about the packages available for purchase will be sent home the week prior to the photographer’s visit. Prices range from **$22—$42**. A brochure is displayed in the foyer showing the range of packages available. Families will also be able to order a family photo.

Children should wear their full school uniform on this day—this should not be a problem as children have been looking wonderful in their uniforms!

Prep 2013
An information meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th March @ 7.30pm followed by an open morning on Friday 16th March. More information next week.

Building Program
Works have continued on the synthetic grass areas this week. The back playground is almost ready for the laying of the synthetic surface. We’ll soon be able to use the Adventure Playground in small groups—while we’re waiting for the grassed surfaces to be ready.

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Jan Keogh
Principal