LENT is a time for reflection. We are encouraged to spend time in personal prayer as well as to take the opportunity to pray together as part of the family. Follow this link http://goo.gl/6dCPiO which invites us to pray for the many needs of our world. We hope that you can support project compassion and help those who need our support at this time. Take a look at the project compassion website: http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion to read about where your money can make a difference

GLENDA on LEAVE from Tuesday until early next term. Keep Glenda in your prayers that she has a quick recovery from surgery.

YR 6 PARENTS: Enrolments at Catholic Secondary Colleges for 2016 close tomorrow Friday 27th February.

YR 6 LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION: On Wednesday 4th March there is a Year 6 leadership mass and picnic for all Year 6 students and their families. This is being held at St James Church. Please return the reply slip by tomorrow 27th February.

YR 5/6 CAMP: Information session for parents TONIGHT: Thursday 26th February @ 6.30pm. We strongly encourage parents to attend if possible.

PREP 2016 ENROLMENTS: The Parish information meeting for families with their eldest child due to start school next year will be held on Tuesday 10th March at St James Church. This will be followed by an open day and information meeting at St Francis school on Wednesday 18th March. Please let any family friends know about these dates. For families already enrolled at St Francis, enrolment forms can be collected from the school office from Thursday 19th March. Interviews will be held April-June.

PARENT-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS:
Monday, 2nd March
TIME: 6.30pm Yr1 and Yr2 parents
7.45pm Yr 3 – 6 parents

PURPOSE: To engage parents in the learning that is important for their children this year. Through attendance at these meetings parents will: 1) Identify with the staff team working with their children in 2015, inclusive of specialists/support staff; 2) Know the key priorities for student learning in this level; 3) Be more familiar with the way differentiated learning works in this level and how specific needs can be addressed; 4) Know their role with home learning and be made aware of any tools they should be using; 5) Have opportunity to have their questions addressed.

Families with children in both Yr 1 and 2 are asked to choose which session to attend on this occasion.

Parents who wish to speak further with teachers about their child will have another opportunity to do so at a 10 minute conversation on Thursday 5th March: 4.00pm–7.30pm. Online bookings will be made available after Monday’s information session. These follow up parent-teacher conversations are optional.

Please note that Amy Henderson (Yr 2 Home Group teacher) will be available for appointments on Wednesday, 4th March from 3.35 – 5.00pm.

PREP parents are invited to attend an information session and BBQ on Monday 16th March at 6.30pm. Children are welcome for this gathering.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:
Parents are reminded that when turning out of the gate after drop off or picking up, only left hand turns are permitted. This has been a traffic instruction from the Wyndham City Council and it relates to safety issues and smoother traffic conditions for all road users.
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

SWIMMING: On Monday, 15 students represented St Francis at the Truganina district swimming carnival. We were competing in the swimming carnival against 5 other schools. The students demonstrated enthusiasm and supported each other in all events. Congratulations to Aidan Coloma who did exceptionally well and will be representing our school at the Division Swimming Carnival on Thursday March 12th.

AGM: It was wonderful to see 35 of our parent community in attendance at our Annual General Meeting. We had the opportunity to share the achievements of 2014 and to identify our priorities for this year. Two parents, Claudina Garcia and Jude Gonsalves, strongly encouraged all families to take the opportunity to engage with the school community.

PIP MEETING: 10th March @ 2.00pm and 7.30pm. All parents are welcome at these meetings. We are really looking for more people to work with us. Come along if you can.

VOLUNTEER FORM: Attached to this week’s newsletter is a form we ask all parents to complete and return to school (or fill in the online version available through our website which can be found on the school community section).

VOLUNTEER TRAINING: We invite all members of our school community who would like to volunteer in our learning spaces to join us for our Volunteer Training sessions. These session are for volunteers who have not completed the training previously at SFA. All volunteers will need to have a current ‘Working With Children Card’ and complete the training before working with children in the learning spaces.

If you are interested please join us for one of the following sessions:
- Thursday 5th March at 9:10am
- Monday 16th March at 2pm
Please see Emily or Andrea if you have any questions.

BOOKCLUB: Thank you to all the families that supported this term's Book Club order. The school was able to raise $700 from this order that will be used to purchase new books for students to have access to at school. We will be sending out Book Club magazines once a term so make sure you keep an eye out for these. Orders placed this term will arrive in the very near future.

BYOD IPAD WORKSHOP: Susan will be running workshops for parents at school, focusing on setting up your accounts to have family sharing and to answer general questions about the iPads. Please come along with your devices and any questions.

Dates: Wed 4th March 6am-7am
Wed 4th March 9am-10am

HOSTING NETWORKS: Next week we will be hosting two meetings of teachers from across the Western Zone. On Tuesday the ICT Leaders will meet here at St Francis to work together and to observe our learning spaces in action. On Friday, the Discovery Learning Cluster will meet. This group of Prep & Yr 1 teachers and Learning & Teaching Leaders continue their work together—exploring best practice for the early years. Again, learning in the Prep-Yr 1 areas will be observed. These opportunities are important experiences for the visitors and also for us here at St Francis as we demonstrate our best learning practices and behaviours.

PARISH NEWS:
Mission 15 Mass: This Sunday 1st March at 10.30am. At this mass a group of young parishioners and some staff from our primary schools (including Taryn) will be reflecting on their experience of their mission in the Philippines.

The Combined Catholic Parish RAFFLE 2015: All sold ticket stubs and unsold tickets need to be back to school by Friday 16th March.

PRAYER & REFLECTION at ST JAMES PARISH: The Way of the Cross - During Lent, time to reflect on the Stations of the Cross will be every Friday at 7.30pm in the Church.

Lenten Faith Sharing Groups - These will facilitated by Peter O’Toole over all Tuesdays of Lent starting 7.30pm in the Presbytery.