LENT WEEK 3: Thanks to those families who have already returned their Project Compassion boxes. Read the story below to see how your donations can help others.

Karen, a sole mother-of-six living in remote Central NSW, had few places to buy food and prices were high. Karen had neither the skills nor the money she needed to provide a nutritious diet for her family. However, two years ago things changed when she enrolled in the Centacare program. Through a series of budgeting and nutrition workshops, Karen has gained the tools she needs to take control of her money, and provide her family with regular meals and healthy ‘food for life’.

PREPS begin full time school next week. The majority of Preps have now settled in very well and are ready for their five days of school. We look forward to seeing you at school on Wednesdays from now on.

PREP parents are invited to attend a BBQ and information session on Monday 16th March. Please note that it begins at 6.00pm. (Apologies for the time difference to the last newsletters). Children are welcome at this gathering. See the attached invitation and return the reply slip by March 12.

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.

NO SCHOOL MONDAY: Monday 9th March is the Labour Day public holiday. The school is closed on this day.

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. No experience required! A great group of people who make time to support the school at these monthly meetings will welcome all new comers.

GROUND & MAINTENANCE MEETING: Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm. This meeting is aimed at planning our approach to working bees and development projects for 2015. We encourage all dads who are handy with tools and interested in the development of our grounds to attend. We will plan when and how our working bees/meetings will be organised for the year. We need you there to indicate the days/times that would work best for you to be involved in building our community and providing the best facilities for our children.

PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS: These are being held tonight for those parents who have made appointments. This was an optional meeting with teachers in addition to the level meetings which were held on Monday evening. It was good to see about a third of our parent community come on Monday night. These parents will certainly benefit from the information sharing that was done by the teachers. All parents are encouraged to access the class blogs that are being developed. Access is via the school website—learning and teaching—learning space blogs. You will also find a wealth of other information about our school and learning resources on the website.

YR 6 LEADERSHIP: Next Thursday, March 12th, the Yr 6 students and two teachers will be attending a student leadership conference where they will develop their skills in leading others and reflect on the impact they can have on SFA during their Year 6. This is the second time we have attended this conference—staff and students are looking forward to the day with excitement.
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. There is a no-right-turn sign facing the school exit gate.

VOLUNTEER FORM: If you have not completed your volunteer form that was sent home last week, please do so by tomorrow. Your support is needed in many areas of the life of the school!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING: This morning we held our first training session for volunteers at SFA. If you are interested in being involved in supporting us in the learning spaces please join us for the next session - Monday 16th March at 2pm. See Emily or Andrea if you have any questions.

FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE: Next Thursday & Friday 4 staff—Jan, Lucy, Chrissy & Matt will be attending a 2 day conference on ‘Clare of Assisi: Example for the World’. We are attending as members of the Franciscan network of schools in Australia. The Keynote Speaker is Joanne Schatzlein, OSF. Joanne is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, whose Motherhouse is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

PARISH NEWS:
The Combined Catholic Parish RAFFLE 2015: The Parish thanks all the families that have already sold raffle tickets. This money makes a big difference to the Parish & how the Parish can support its schools. All sold ticket stubs and unsold tickets need to be back to school by Friday 16th March.
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.

COMMUNITY OUTING: THE PATCH Primary School has their two-acre garden open to the public on the weekend of March 14 /15. Chrissy, Tarryn & Lucy are attending on Saturday, March 14. It would be great to have a group of families who are interested in developing our school grounds to come along and get some great ideas! Please let Lucy know if you are interested & see the attached flier for further details.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE:
‘Hi everyone, for those who don’t know me my name is Zeyna Gould and I am the Camp Australia, Outside of School Hours Care Co-Ordinator.

Over the last few weeks at OSCH we have been working on settling in, welcoming new children to the service and getting to know one another. It has been great to see the kids, who have attended OHSC previously, really helping our new students settle in and get involved in the service. We have also developed expectations and guidelines, which the kids have developed themselves and it was great to get their ideas and input. The kids in OSCH have also enjoyed doing lots of cooking this term making chocolate balls, weetbix slice and banana bread. In all of our activities we are guided by the kid’s interest and it great to see the ideas they have. If you would like to see any of the activities our Reflection Journal is displayed on the OSHC desk. Feel free to have a look through.

Over the next term or two we are hoping to introduce lots of new activities into the service, so watch this space for updates. We will also be seeking parent and community input and invite any parents who have a skill they can share, to spend the afternoon with us and run an activity. This can be anything from arts and craft, to cooking, to active games and sport or perhaps even a demonstration. If you have some time and would like to volunteer to run an activity please come and see me. Feel free to come down to the space before or after school (in the 3/4 space) should you have any questions about OSHC. Alternatively feel free to email or call me at stfrancistarneit@oshccampaustralia.com.au or 0431 252 748.’