CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 10-17 March:

Entrusted with something precious

The importance of this week is to mark the value of Catholic Education, where we celebrate our Catholic identity. The theme this year is ‘Entrusted with something precious’. Our children are precious to us and critical to our role is to ensure that each child at St Francis experiences opportunities to be the best they can be and that they indeed feel precious.

During Catholic Education week, some of our Year 6 students will be attending the Catholic Education Week Mass for Schools which will be held at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne. Over 2,000 young people gather at this mass annually (and a concert in the park afterwards) as a visible sign of our mission to provide quality Catholic education to our young.

At the local level, we would like mark this week by inviting parents to an afternoon tea with school leaders followed by a short whole school assembly (dependent on weather).

Friday, March 15th 2.30pm – 3.30pm in the playground.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

REFLECTION

Jesus told this parable, 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to his vinedresser, "For three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down." Jesus' parable explains God's compassion and patience. Like the tree given care, time and another chance to bear fruit, God gives his people time, and more opportunities to grow. We need to review our lives and let God's Word nourish and change us.

Traffic Management

Thank you to all those who have followed our direction to turn left into Fairview Pde when leaving the drop off/pick up zone. We have noted a vast improvement in the traffic flow during this last week.

When leaving the Manna Gum Dve car park between 3.30—3.45pm please go straight down Manna Gum (without turning into Fairview Pde). This will further assist in providing a safe environment at this peak traffic time.

Stage 2 Building Program

Cabinets, benches & tiles have gone into our new spaces. There are paths around the building. Still much work to be done but progress is good!

EASTER RAFFLE AT SFA

Thank you so much for your contributions towards our Easter hampers. We now ask that you sell as many tickets as possible to make this raffle a great fundraising success. $1 per ticket. More books are available if you can sell them. Raffle tickets being sent home today. Return sold tickets and money in an sealed envelope with your child’s name and Home Group by Friday, March 22nd.

NO SCHOOL MONDAY 11th March:

This is a public holiday. Hopefully you all enjoy the Labour Day holiday.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the Manalili family. Faulin & Eivan’s grandfather died in the Philippines recently. We keep them in our prayers as the family returns to the Philippines for several weeks. May Edna’s father rest in peace.

VISION

A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace justice respect and excellence.

Jan Keogh Principal

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45 Fairview Parade
SACRAMENT LETTERS:
With today’s newsletter, parents with children in Yr 3, Yr 4 and Yr 6 will receive an information letter the celebration of the Sacraments. Please see or email Lucy if you have any questions regarding the sacraments.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION WORKSHOP for Years 1, 2 & 5.
We still have a number of families who have not informed us of their attendance to the one of the Adult Faith Formation workshops. Direct contact will be made with parents of children in these year levels if we have not received your response over the coming week. Please return your reply slip as soon as possible. The letters and reply slips for attendance are available via a link on our school website.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP: Next meeting Tuesday, March 19th. Let us know if you will be attending this meeting. Reply slips are due by Friday, March 15th or email Lucy at lvassallo@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au.

PARENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING:
We look forward to working with any parents who are interested in being involved as a parent volunteer this year who have not yet completed the training.
Session 1: Wednesday 13th March, 9:15am
Session 2: Wednesday 20th March, 9:15am
Email: info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au or contact Emily if you haven’t already done so.

LOST & FOUND
There are a number of items in our Lost & Found Box. If your child has lost any uniform or other items please check at the office. Just a reminder that it is very helpful when children’s belongings are labelled. Also if you have lost a car key, please contact the office.

SABBATICAL LEAVE: Fr. Mario has been a great supporter of St. Francis during his time in the parish. He is leaving for the Philippines for an indefinite period on Mon 25th March, and will be commissioned on the weekend of 16/17 March at all Masses. There will be a light morning tea in the Community Hall after the 10.30am Mass. All families are invited. If coming to the 10.30am Mass please bring a plate.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL:
On Thursday the 28th of February, Monique Fegan competed in the District swimming sports at Werribee Outdoor Pool. Although she was our only competitor Monique won the 50 metre butterfly, 50 metre breaststroke, 50 metre freestyle and second in 50 metre backstroke. For her efforts Monique was awarded the Champion of the Meet. Congratulations from all of the SFA community Monique.

HOCKEY VICTORIA CLINICS Yr 2-4
On 1st March Hockey Victoria visited Yr 2-6, allowing children to practise a few hockey skills using hockey equipment. Students then got to play a game of ‘hocketopus’ and a short hockey match. It was a fantastic experience for all involved.
“Hockey was fun and it is a great outdoor sport” Kynan (Year 4)
“We learnt lots of moves and how to play hockey. It was fun and awesome because we got to get hockey cards to join a hockey club”- Johan (Year 3)
“The hockey clinic was fun because we got to have sticks to hit the ball and I really liked playing the hockey games”- Kayden (Year 2)

OTHER NOTICES:
Timetable of Easter services for the St James Parish
Sacrament letters regarding Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation

DATES TO REMEMBER
Mar 11: Labour Day Holiday—NO SCHOOL
Mar 12: Parent Volunteer Training 9.00am
Reconciliation Workshop for Yr 3 parents at 7.30pm at St James.
Mar 13: Parent Volunteer Training 9.15am
Mar 14: Mass for schools at St Patrick’s Cathedral
Mar 15: Catholic Education Week activity @ 2.30pm
Mar 19: PIP @ 2.00pm & 7.30pm
Mar 22: Raffle tickets due today.
Mar 26: Holy Week Liturgy & Easter raffle
Mar 27: End of Term 1 at 3.30pm