LENT: Our third week of Lent and we have raised just over $100.00 for Project Compassion. Once you have filled up your project compassion box, send it to school and we can keep a tally of how much we have raised.

Go to the following link to see where your money can help others in need.
http://goo.gl/CNkVLT

We pray for Marita's mother Marie who died last night after a short illness, May she rest in God’s peace. We also keep in our prayers Marita and her family, all those who are ill especially Joan, Paul, Roger Olenik, Am Raj, Lesley and Anna.

Volunteer Training Workshops
We would like to invite all parents, grandparents or significant others that would like to volunteer in our learning spaces to join one of the offered training workshops. You only need to attend one training workshop but if the offered dates do not suit please see Emily or Andrea.

Dates for Volunteer Training Workshops
• Friday, 26th February 2:15 – 3:15pm
• Thursday 3rd March 2:15 – 3:15pm
• Tuesday 8th March 9am – 10am

Parents and volunteers that have already completed the training do not have to attend again but we will be looking for support across all year levels very soon.

Learning Conversations
This term we will be holding Learning Conversations for students in Prep to Yr 4 in week 8 with further times for families of students in Yr 3/4 in week 9. Please see flyer attached for details on how to make a booking. Parents of students in Yr 5/6 will have times available to them early in Term 2. The purpose of these learning conversations is for families to develop relationships with their child’s home group teacher, share information that is important for the staff to know about your child, teachers to discuss how your child has settled into the new year and sharing any areas of growth and learning goals for this semester.

It is important for all families to make an appointment with their child’s home group teacher.

2017 PREP ENROLMENTS!
Parish Information Evening
7.00pm Wednesday 16th March
St James Church
For families not yet enrolled at one of our parish schools, this meeting is designed to provide parents with general information about our three Parish Primary Schools, the process of enrolling & the zoning requirements.

Families with children already enrolled at St Francis do not need to attend this meeting and can collect enrolment forms from the office from 15th April.
Chook Roster
Weekends and Holidays
We need your help! If you are available to go on our Chook Roster, we would value any time you give to let out and lock up the chickens over the weekends and during school holidays. Please contact Chrissy or the office.

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

Garden Helpers Needed!
Our grounds are looking great but they could look even better with a bit of extra help. If you have an hour to spare during the week, come early to pick up the kids or are keen to take part in our program, please contact Chrissy or the office to let us know. We especially need help watering, weeding, pruning, tidying etc. There will be a list of jobs on the blackboard at the orchard so you can come and go as you please.

Thank you to all the families who have supported Book Club this term by placing an order. These should arrive in the next 2 weeks.

Skoolbo: Last year we introduced Skoolbo to our community. Students continue to have access to this program online at school and home. This program is designed to improve your child’s literacy and numeracy skills through games that help them practice these skills. Please see flyer for further information.

NO DOGS are to be brought onto the school property. This has become a safety issue. Apologies to anyone who has used drop-off or pick-up as a walk time for their dog.

There is a NO PARKING sign in Fairview Pde just outside our pedestrian gate. Please take note of the signs around the school and ensure that clearways are being left for pedestrian safety.

PARISH NEWS: This year the Parish will be running its own Raffle. We are looking for support from people who would like to donate the 3rd, 4th and 5th Prizes. What we are looking for are vouchers to the value of $800 Bunnings, $500 Coles/Myer and $100 petrol vouchers. If you know of any people in business who can support us in this endeavour, please contact Fr Jude at the Parish Office on 9748 6800.
Thankyou for Saturday! We had about a dozen families arrive to help spread the softfall around our new equipment. The children are delighted with the additions to the playground. Many are waiting for their turn on the Galactic Ball.

And look at what is blooming in our garden! A stunning sunflower.

SCHOOL HATS: A reminder that every child is to wear a school hat when they are outdoors during term 1. Some children are not having the opportunity to play because they do not have a hat. Hats are available from the office.

Year 6 GRIP Leadership Excursion at Melbourne Convention Centre—Wednesday 17th February

GRIP Leadership was a really great experience for the Year 6’s. There were many schools there. We learnt all about how to become good leaders. GRIP stands for Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity and People.

Our introduction activity was about what makes an awesome leader. We learnt that our contribution counts in every single way. We learnt how to grow as a leader by these simple steps: ‘Having Core Values’, ‘Combining With Others’, ‘Contributing to what is around you’ and ‘Constant input’ to continue learning. It is not enough to just know what leadership is but we need to act as leaders.

After this we had our first Loud Noises segment. We did this with Andy and Carl who were two really funny guys. We did the ‘Hummer’ and amazingly Clark was chosen to go up on stage and play the game. He had to hum into the microphone whilst another boy guessed what song he was humming.

We had a session called “Bye Bye to Bullying”. We had to ‘spot bullying out’, then ‘speak it out’ to confront a bully, then ‘stamp it out’ to stop bullying. We learnt about all the people we can influence. We can influence younger students in our year, our teachers and the wider community. We also learnt about ‘traffic light leadership’. Red means things you have to stop in your school. Amber (yellow) means things we can slow down, or change focus on. Green means things to go forward with.

This day was very informative and we learned a lot about leadership.

By Clark Rubite, Aleena Antony and Ann Manamel