Parents in Partnership: come to our initial meetings 2012

**We have opportunities for parent involvement this week.**
If you are willing to be a volunteer within our learning spaces please come to the Parent Helper (Volunteer) Training program. You can choose your time: either **Monday 5th @ 2.30pm** or **Thursday 8th @ 9.15am**.

If you would like to be involved in supporting the work of the school by attending a monthly meeting focused on areas you would be interested in, please come to one of the meetings on **Wednesday 7th @ 2.30pm or 7.30pm**. Many parents were involved in our formation meetings last year. This year, we will again establish several working parties/committees.

The more parents we have involved in the life of the school, the stronger our community will be. Please come to one of our meetings this week if at all possible.

**Lent**
We are coming up to our second Sunday in Lent. We hear the Gospel story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. The story urges us to take stock and listen to what Jesus is saying to us amidst the hectic pace of our lives. Prayer time offers that space to just be. When we pray, we “connect” with God; we become aware of God's presence within us. One spiritual writer comments that we can think of our own heart as God's “family room within us”. What a beautiful image of a place where we can just relax with God!

A good time for heart prayer is often the “quiet time” before your child goes to sleep. You might want to read the Scripture first, so that you can tell the Jesus story in your own words. Then, look at the Scripture comment and the prayer starters, close your eyes, invite God into your heart, and be at home - you, your child and God- for a few minutes! This week the Year 1 Families made time for prayer by coming together for Mass and supper. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to worship together as a faith community and begin getting to know each other more personally.

**Enrolments**
**Thomas Carr College applications for Yr 7 2013 close tomorrow 2nd March 2012.**
For further enquiries please contact the Registrar on 8734 2409 or 8734 2444.

**Prep 2013 applications** open on Thursday 15th March. Please collect an application form from the school office. Interviews will be scheduled for term 2. Offers of places will be made at the end of term 2.
Catholic Education Week
The Mass of St Patrick for Schools and Concert will be held on Thursday 15th March. A group of ten students from our Yr 5/6 Home Group will be representing our school on this occasion. A permission note with further details will be sent in the coming week.

Open Day will be Friday 16th March. The morning is for families with Prep children for 2013. From 2.30—4.30pm current families are invited to be in the learning spaces and to have a picnic afternoon tea. Hopefully many of you will be able to join us for at least part of this activity.

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.
Please chose the time that suits you best.

School Photos
You should receive an information brochure regarding the school photo day on March 9 with this newsletter. There are two envelopes for the day; one for individual and class photos and one for family portraits. If you require a family portrait it must be ordered before the photo day so it can be taken. All information regarding packages of photos can be seen on the envelopes and also on the photographers website.

Prep Physical Education Day
Now that our Preps will be at school for five days a week, they will be having their PE lessons on Thursdays only. That means they will wear the school PE uniform on Thursdays and not on Tuesdays. The students will get a reminder on Wednesday to ensure they wear the correct uniform on the correct day.

Professional Learning
This week several staff attended two days of a professional learning program Deep Leadership for Learning. We had the privilege of working with Daniel Birch, a prominent Principal from New Zealand exploring the possibilities and challenges of leading a 21st century school. This work is part of a three year action research program with the Catholic Education Office Western Region. Through participation in this program we expect to bring a rigor and strategic approach to the practices we develop as part of our culture of engaged learning for all.

We will share our learnings over the coming months and a report will be documented later in the year.

Building
The rain came one week too early!! The preparation work for the synthetic grass has been completed. We are eagerly waiting for the grass to be laid.
A mail box has now been installed. Many thanks to two of our parents: Paul Monkley for the installation and Peter for his advice.
Work started on the irrigation system today—this is the preliminary work for our garden to be established.

Jan Keogh
Principal