Parents are welcome into the learning spaces on **Friday 16th March**. See your children at work 2.30 - 3.30 and stay for afternoon tea 3.30 - 4.30. BYO food and either a picnic rug or outdoor chair. We are hoping to picnic on the synthetic grass! OSHC will still be available for those who require this. Children need to be picked up at the normal time if you are not joining us for the picnic.

**Prep 2013 Enrolments**
Families wanting to enquire about enrolment for children at St Francis of Assisi in 2013 should attend an information session about the two Catholic Primary Schools in our parish. **Wednesday 14th March**
7.30pm
St James School
Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing

Prep 2013 applications for families with children already attending St Francis 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.

On **Thursday 15th March** 2,000 students from Catholic schools across Melbourne will be gathering at St Patrick’s cathedral to celebrate the annual mass for schools. 10 of our Yr 5/6 students will represent us at this celebration. We will be carrying our school banner for the first time at a public event!

**Public Holiday**
There is **no school** on **Monday 12th March**. Enjoy the long weekend.

**Lent**
We are coming up to our third Sunday in Lent. We hear in the Gospel that Jesus drives the money changers from the temple. The story calls us to remember the importance of the sacred in our lives and the need to be respectful in places of worship.

**School Photos**
**Tomorrow**, Friday 9th: children are to wear their summer uniform. All children will be photographed and will be in their home group photos. Family photos will be taken only of students who have returned the family photo order forms.

**Year 2 ‘Keep the Flame Alive’**
A letter to parents has been sent home today. Please complete the tear off slip and return to school as soon as possible.

**Parent Helper Training program**
17 parents came to our training sessions this week. Many thanks for your willingness to be involved in the learning
spaces in some way. We look forward to completing the program and starting our volunteer program for term 2.

**Parents in Partnership**
10 parents of our 140 families responded to our invitations to be involved in monthly parent meetings this week—4 of these also came to the Parent Training sessions. We are really pleased to work with these parents but are extremely disappointed that more parents did not get involved. Building community is dependent on individuals choosing to commit to being there. At yesterday's meetings we had more staff than parents. A report from our meetings will be sent home next week.

**Sports Uniform:** This is worn on the following days -
- Yr 1 - 6: Tuesday
- Prep: Thursday only

Two children have been given permission to wear their sports jacket on other days if required in term 1 due to severe skin irritation from the school jumper. All other students are expected to wear full summer uniform including the school jumper when required. Congratulations to those Prep children who remembered to wear their sports uniform on the correct day.

**School Holidays**
Term 1 finishes on Friday 30th March at 2.30pm.
Term 2 commences on Monday 16th April.

**School Fees & Curriculum Levies**
Invoices were sent home yesterday. We would appreciate prompt payment of the curriculum levy and payment of the first instalment of your school fee by the end of this term. Many thanks for your patience as we have set up our systems.

**Student Banking**
Student Banking is now available. 
**Banking day is every Friday.**
If your child has a CDF bank book and you would like to deposit money into it, you may do so on Fridays. If you would like to open a bank book for your child, forms are available at the Office. Many thanks to Donna & Lenke who have volunteered to manage the student banking for the school.

**Lost Items**
We have a Lost Items box in the office. If your child has lost any items, please come to the office. We have a school hat at the office, if your child is missing a hat, please see Margaret.

**Combined Parish Raffle**
Thank you to all families for your support to the Annual Combined Parish Raffle. Your help in selling the Tickets given to you results in support for the Parish which in turn allows the Parish to support St James Primary and St Francis Primary. A reminder that all Raffle Tickets, Money Collected, Ticket Stubs and Unsold Tickets are to be returned to the School Office no later than Fri 16 Mar for processing. This allows us to have the opportunity to sell any Unsold Tickets to the Parishioners after Weekend Masses.

Jan Keogh
Principal