Catholic Education Week 2015

Next week across the Archdiocese of Melbourne we celebrate the contribution Catholic schools make to students, families and the wider community. The theme for this year is Seek God with all your heart. We as a community seek God and find God through the relationships we nurture and develop when we commit ourselves to building a vibrant Catholic learning community of peace, justice, respect and excellence.

Students have also responded to this theme through artwork and reflections. You can see some of their work displayed in the foyer of St James church and at St Francis. There is a lot to be proud of and celebrate as we enter Catholic Education Week! Let us continue to learn together how to ‘Sing out our joy to all the earth’.

There are a number of activities planned for next week:

**Monday March 16th:** School assembly at 8.55am. The choir will perform a special song. Parents are always welcome to join our short Monday morning assembly. Volunteer Training at 2pm. See Emily or Andrea if you have any questions.

**Prep** parents are invited to attend a BBQ and information session at 6.00pm. Children are welcome at this gathering. Reply slips for this occasion were due today. Please make sure you send in your reply slip asap, if you have not done so already. It is available on the home page of the school website.

**Tuesday, March 17th:** We celebrate St Patrick’s day by wearing green. All community members are invited to come in green clothes, with green adornments and/or green hair. We will celebrate the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Children are asked to bring a gold coin donation which will go towards Project Compassion. We also have 10 of our Yr 6 students who will be attending the Mass for schools at St Patrick’s Cathedral and the visual arts exhibition with Nicole and Dilani. This is a great celebration of Catholic education as schools from the Archdiocese of Melbourne gather to celebrate the Eucharist together.

Also on Tuesday, all staff in Catholic Primary Schools in the Western Zone are celebrating a mass at St Peter’s Hoppers Crossing. The mass begins at 4.30pm which means that all staff, including office personnel will need to leave school by 3.45pm. **No office transactions after 3.30pm on Tuesday.** Any parents who may be later than 3.45pm need to book their child into Camp Australia program. A staff member will be available for emergencies only. Your support on this day will be greatly appreciated.

**Wednesday, March 18:** School tours for families considering enrolment at St Francis in 2016 are being offered at 10.00am and 12.00pm. In the evening there is the **Prep 2016 Enrolment information meeting** being held at SFA. For families already enrolled at St Francis, enrolment forms can be collected from the school office from Thursday 19th March. Interviews will be held April-June. You do not need to attend the meeting unless you wish to.

**Thursday, March 19:** A special edition newsletter with reflections from each level.

**YR 5/6** sent off to camp next Wednesday. We hope they have a great time. It is a wonderful opportunity for very important learning in the outdoors.
Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

**PIP MEETINGS:** We had a good number of parents attend our PIP meetings this week. The **Social group** have planned to support the Prep BBQ on Monday night, as well as planning for the Mother’s Day afternoon tea. The **Fundraising group** are planning the following fundraisers: *Entertainment Book (which contains many vouchers and helps families to save money).* More information about this will be placed in next week’s newsletter. Term 2 will include the Mother’s Day Stall, School Walkathon and Tony’s Pies. Walkathon information will be sent home in the last week of this term. The **Project group** had 2 parents attend along with a number of staff. We would like to invite more parents to involve themselves in this group if possible but we need you at the next meeting (21st April). Due to the small number of parents we will have just one focus area for semester one: Home Group structures for 2016 and beyond. If you have an interest in being involved in this project please email Lucy at: lvassallo@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

A huge thank you to the 10 parents who attended the first meeting of our **Gardens and Maintenance group** for 2015. After a walk through our vegie boxes and sensory garden, the group discussed our working bees, future projects and ideas to make our environment better for our students and families. Next meeting will be on Wednesday March 25 at 7.00 pm in the staffroom— all welcome.

**SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT:** Congratulations to Jack Bonnett who was successful in recent tryouts at a District level and is now moving to Zone level for both football and basketball. Well done Jack, great effort in two different sports.

**COMMUNITY OUTING:** THE PATCH Primary School has their two-acre garden open to the public on the weekend of March 14 /15. Chrissy & Lucy are attending on Saturday, March 14. Contact Lucy via email if you are thinking of attending: lvassallo@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:** Thank you to our parents who are now turning out of the gate after drop off and pick up and making a left hand turn. Last week only 2 parents were noticed making a right hand turn. There is a **no-right-turn** sign facing the school exit gate. Also, nearly all our parents are crossing Fairview Pde at the school crossing with their children. This has made a vast improvement to traffic management and to the safety of our children. Other parents and carers are asked to note the requirement to **use the crossing.**

Parking on nature strips and across paths is illegal. Parents are again reminded to **park legally** when picking up children. If you are not coming into the school to collect your children you are encouraged to **use the drop off zone**—this is safer, saves time and reduces congestion in the neighbouring streets. Please consider.

**OSHC:** The end of term is fast approaching, and the school’s curriculum days will be the last day of term 1 (**27 March 2015**) and the first day of term 2 (**13 April 2015**). Camp Australia will be running a program on both of these days from 7am to 6pm. If you are needing care for your child on these days you can book online via our parent portal at [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) or alternatively call 1300 105 343 to make a booking for either of these days. 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. - Zeyna

**PARISH NEWS:**

**The Combined Catholic Parish RAFFLE 2015:** Many thanks to the families who are helping with the sale of tickets for the Combined Parishes Raffle, especially the 64 families out of 203 that have already returned their Raffle books. All sold ticket stubs and unsold tickets need to be back to school by Monday 16th March. Please make every effort to return these books as the Parish is accountable for all raffle books.

**NO 9am MASS** at St James Church on Friday 13th March due to a funeral. Funeral mass for Carmen Barbara will be at 10am.