Catholic Education Week 2014: 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 comes from Pope Francis who challenged World Youth Day pilgrims: ‘Dear young people do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things’. At this time we again commit to excellence in education and to building a community who nourishes the gifts and talents of all our members.

Join in our celebrations by checking out the display in the foyer of St James church and coming to the school between 5.00 - 7.30pm on Monday 17th March. You can catch up with staff, see students work & the learning spaces, experience a touch of the Irish & enjoy a sausage sizzle with other families.

On Tuesday afternoon 18th March all staff in Catholic Primary Schools in the Western Zone are celebrating a mass at St Catherine’s, Caroline Springs. 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 from 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.

Lent: Week 1
God of comfort and love,
We have heard your Word of life,
And have felt its warmth in our hearts.
Help us, like Jesus, to find courage and
Strength in your Word,

Enrolments for 2015: An information meeting will be held for new families living within the St Francis zone on Tuesday 2nd April @ 7.30pm. For new and existing families living within the St Clare’s zone a meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd April @ 7.30pm at St Francis school.

Enrolment forms will be available after these dates.

Tours of St Francis School will be held on Friday 28th March & Tuesday 6th May.

Welcome to Nadine Barnes. Nadine has been working in our spaces for several weeks now. We are delighted to announce that she will take on the role of Yr 2/3 home group teacher.

We pray for Matthew Cutajar (father of Isabella—Prep Danielle) who is critically ill and for Tarryn McRae. May they be blessed with the peace & strength of the Holy Spirit and find support from the love of family and school/parish community.

Parent Help Needed Today! March 13 from 5.30—6.30
Please bring along a rake.

We need to clear up stones and rocks from the area where our children play soccer and play with their cars and trucks. If you are able to spend an hour with us this would surely get the job done easily and quickly.
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

2/3 INQUIRY:
As part of Yr 2/3’s Inquiry Unit on “Celebrating Difference” students will be participating in a cultural experience incursion (focusing on Aboriginal, French and Japanese cultures) on Monday March 24. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the various activities planned. If you are interested in helping out or if there is a parent who works for an airline please email: tlawless@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

Hot Cross Buns FUNDRAISER:
Orders need to be returned to school by Monday. Many thanks to all those who have supported this fundraiser in any way.

COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE:
This raffle is a major fundraiser for our parish. There are 3 cars & Coles/Myer Gift Cards to be won. Any support you can give by buying &/or selling these raffle tickets is greatly appreciated. Please return any unsold raffle books as soon as possible and all sold books to be returned by 28th March.

YR 6 LEADERSHIP:
The formal presentation of Yr. 6 leadership badges took place at Monday morning’s assembly. We are proud of the positive start to the year our senior students have made. We look forward to the Action the Yr. 6 leaders initiate across the year to make a positive difference to our school community and to those in need of our service and support. Congratulations to Ella Roberts and Jason Ghidan on their official appointment as the SFA Student Leaders for 2014.

CAMP AUSTRALIA PROGRAM will be offered as usual on the last day of term. There will be no school for children on Friday 4th April. However, if you require care for your child/ren on this day please book a place on line or with Zeyna.

PIP: Just a reminder to parents that our first PIP (Parents in Partnership) meeting for this term is on Tuesday, March 25th. The Social Group meets at 2pm & the Fundraising, Project & Grounds/Maintenance Groups meet at 7.30pm. Meetings take place monthly. Attendance is flexible but we can’t make things happen without your support. Please consider being involved in one of these groups in order to continue supporting the establishment of our school and to influence the learning of your children. Children learn best when their parents are engaged in some way in the school community. You can find dates for our meetings on our school website under; School Community—Parents in Partnership link.

Many thanks to our parents who continue to support us by giving of their time in the learning spaces or helping with maintenance or assembling seating and flat packs of furniture and equipment.

ASIAN PERSPECTIVES & LOTE:
During our cultural experiences, we have been exploring Italy. When studying how to make the leaning tower of Pisa out of Lego, this is what Josh Sammut in Yr 2 said, “I made the Leaning Tower of Pisa. I used Lego and instead of rushing, I built it slowly. I made it lean by making a crack.”

MSJ Jubilee Mass
MSJ celebrates 50 years of empowering women of the west. All past students and staff are invited to a Celebratory Jubilee Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral in East Melbourne on Friday 28th March at 11am, celebrated with Archbishop Denis Hart.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
17th Mar: Parent Evening 5.00-7.30pm
Feast of St Patrick
Hot Cross Bun orders due
Volunteer Training session
20th Mar: Mass for schools at St Patrick’s
21st Mar: Parents & Leaders morning tea 9am
25th Mar: PIP 2.30pm – 7.30pm
27th Mar: Sponsor /Candidate Mass 7.30pm
28th Mar: School Tours