Catholic Education Week 2014: We marked the beginning of Catholic Education Week with our Open School session, Irish dancing and sausage sizzle on Monday night. We had a fabulous turn up of families who engaged with their children and the staff about learning. There was a great atmosphere of community throughout the school. Thank you to our parent volunteers who were involved in catering for this event!

Lent: Week 2 Have we heard God’s invitation to “Come back” to him? As we continue our Lenten journey we pray:

Loving God,
Show me the way to return.
Lead me this day in good works I do in your name and send your Spirit to guide me and strengthen my faith.

Holy Week Program for St James Parish has been sent home today. Hopefully your family is able to participate in the celebrations of the Triduum.

We pray for those who are sick: Matthew Cutajar & Tarryn McRae. May they experience the strength and comfort of our loving God.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR RAFAEL: During the season of Lent, the students have been exploring ways that they may grow closer to God. As a way of taking action, students are contributing to a ‘card-a-thon’ in support of a Point Cook boy who is battling cancer. ‘Rafael’ is celebrating his 10th birthday on March 25th and his birthday wish is to receive hundreds of cards. Home groups are in the process of composing birthday cards for Rafael. If you would like to contribute a card as a family or would like more information, please refer to rafaeldomingosmoraes.blogspot

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.

PIP: Just a reminder to parents that our first PIP (Parents in Partnership) meeting for this year is on Tuesday, March 25th. The Social Group meets at 2pm & the Fundraising, Project & Grounds/Maintenance Groups meet at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! All parents are most welcome.

Hot Cross Buns FUNDRAISER: Thanks for your participation in this Fundraiser. No more orders are being taken. The buns will be sent home on Wednesday 2nd April.

COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE: Please return any sold/unsold raffle books during the coming week.
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

**ASIAN PERSPECTIVES & LOTE:**
Children have been learning about the National dance of the Philippines. This dance is called Tinikling!! It involves dancing between two bamboo sticks! It requires careful coordination and good timing! Many of our children have shown great skill and enjoyment during this cultural activity!

**ACTIVE APRIL & PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE:** Please see the attached flier to indicate your interest in either of these events which promote enthusiasm for learning.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS:** Will take place in October. More information to follow.

**GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT:**
Thankyou to the three wonderful families and the school leaders who responded to the call for help with the clearing of stone from the area Yr 3-6 children are using for soccer. Doubtless to say we did not get the job done to the standard we required—too few workers! Many children did a ‘stones pick up’ on Friday to clear the area a bit more. The continued use of this area will be dependent on having a few volunteers to do some clearing every few weeks. If you weren’t available last week but could provide some support please leave your name at the school office.

**Tables and seating** are about to go into the play space near the shed/bike rack. These will provide an area for parents/carers waiting for children at the end of the day as well as further options for children at playing times.

**Irrigation Works** will soon be undertaken in the ‘oval’ area. In partnership with Thomas Carr College we will have a sprinkler system installed and grass planted during the autumn.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**
MSJ celebrates 50 years of empowering women of the west. All past students and staff are invited to the celebrations. See the school foyer for details of events.

**FAMILY DAY CARE:**
Name : Philomena Okorom
Phone : 0470 226 201
Time : 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday
Looking after children from 0 years and up.
Children can be picked up from their home and/or taken to school. They can be dropped to their home/after school care. Also available school holidays.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
21st Mar: Parents & Leaders morning tea 9am
24th Mar: Year 2/3 Incursion
25th Mar: PIP 2.30pm – 7.30pm
27th Mar: Sponsor /Candidate Mass 7.30pm
28th Mar: School Tours
Parish Raffle due
2nd April: St Francis Prep Information Night
3rd April: St Clare’s Prep Information Night
Last day of term.
Whole School Holy Week
Reflection @ 2.30pm.
23rd April: Term 2 Begins

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**INVITATION PARENT CONVERSATION with Leaders:** A session will be offered once a month for parents to have a cuppa and a chat with any of our leaders to enhance the 2-way communication opportunities at the school. These will be offered across a range of days and times to allow as many parents as possible to access them. We encourage you to come along and be part of continuing to build our partnerships across the community.

Our first session tomorrow at 9.00am in the staffroom.

We apologise that this notice was omitted from earlier newsletters. Please join us tomorrow if you can, or come along to another one during the year.