We have reached yet another milestone - the end of our first term as a school community! And what a term it has been.

The children have responded so well to building a culture of positive relationships within our spaces. It is a delight to hear them reciting our core values/behaviours: welcoming, encouraging, listening & being respectful; and then trying so hard to put these into practice. Our daily prayer: Lord make me an instrument of your peace - is one that is strongly influencing who we are as a faith community.

The staff have committed to working long hours and with a strong team approach to ensure all students are encouraged as learners. We have spent time on assessing the children and identifying their stages of learning in literacy and numeracy; as well as having a high priority on establishing a culture of engaged learning. These two foci will ensure a solid foundation for learning as we move forward.

We now have a group of parents who have completed the training program to enable them to assist staff within the learning spaces. We are looking forward to parents, staff & children working together across our spaces to ensure optimum learning is taking place.

Our first playground area is now open. Children are able to play on the synthetic grass areas as well as the adventure playground & sand pit. Both staff & students must be congratulated on their patience and their engagement in indoor activities as they waited for these spaces to become available.

It has been a delight to work with you throughout the term and to experience the development of a positive and energised learning community.

Holy Week & Highlights of Term 1 at St. Francis of Assisi.

Tomorrow at 12 noon our school community will gather to mark the most significant week in our Church’s calendar. You are invited to join the children & staff as we prayerfully remember the passion and death of Jesus.

Following the Holy Week liturgy, the children will return to their learning spaces for a short interval. They will then come back to our shared space so that as a school community, we can watch a presentation of the highlights of Term 1 at St Francis.

School Holidays

Term 1 finishes tomorrow at 2.30pm. If parents/carers are attending the Holy Week liturgy & Highlights of Term 1 from 12.00—1pm, children may be taken home at the conclusion of the celebration.

Term 2 commences on Monday 16th April.

Another milestone to celebrate as we come to the end of our first term!
Traffic Management  Over the past two weeks we have been trialling a small change in our after school pick up procedure. We are moving all of the children who are being picked up closer to the crossing at the end of the road. This allows us to load several cars at a time in a more efficient and safe manner. We ask that parents not call their children to the car but to wait until your car is in the loading area. This change has proven to be a faster and more effective way of getting children into cars and so we will be continuing on with this practice. We ask parents to be patient so that the pick up is as safe and efficient as possible for all.

Building Program  We look forward to two additional learning pods (6 home group rooms), a science space and a further learning space on a mezzanine floor in our next stage of building. This project will begin during Term 3.

Prep 2013 Enrolments  We have already received a large number of applications for Prep places next year. Current families with a child ready to start school next year need to collect an Application for Enrolment form from the office and return the completed forms as soon as possible to retain priority in the allocation of places.

Parents in Partnership  At our initial meetings on 7th March we made the proposal to hold a monthly meeting (during term time) which would comprise a Principal’s report and then a meeting of 4 working parties: Learning Partners, Policy Advice, Grounds/Maintenance and Social/Fund Raising. The parents in attendance felt this model will work well if we have a larger number of parents willing to be involved. You are invited to consider attendance at our next meeting: Wednesday 2nd May at 2.30 pm or 7.30pm. The meeting at 2.30pm has been organised for those parents willing to be involved but unable to attend during the evening.

Ideas generated so far are attached to this newsletter. At our next meeting we will do a further brainstorm and then decide on the ideas which will form the basis of our work for 2012. Hope you are able to participate as your support is vital in building a vibrant learning community.

Winter Uniform  This can be worn from the beginning of Term 2. All students should be wearing full winter uniform by 30th April. A spray jacket will be an optional item of uniform and will be available in the second part of the term. Children may wear/bring a coat/jacket for outdoor play in the meantime.

School Fees & Curriculum Levies  All curriculum levy payments should now have been finalized. Many thanks to all the families who paid these so promptly after receiving the invoice. Any outstanding payments should be made by Wednesday 18th April.

Initial instalments for school fees should have also been made by now. Please arrange an appointment with Jan if you need to negotiate a payment plan.

Wishing you and your families a happy, peace-filled and safe Easter.  If you’re in the parish during the holidays hopefully you are able to participate in the Easter ceremonies at St James church.

Jan Keogh  Principal