Visit by the Hon Julia Gillard PM:
The Prime Minister was warmly welcomed to the school last Thursday. The Honourable Julia Gillard actively engaged with the students, staff, parents and other visitors. We were grateful for her time, interest and interaction with us. I'm sure that it is a day that many in our community will remember. We look forward to creating a paved area in our grounds over the coming twelve months where we will be able to include the Prime Minister's hand print.

Month of Remembrance:
November is a month of Remembrance: We begin the month with the celebration of All Saints day. We had a beautiful Eucharist at school this morning where we were all reminded that each of us is called to live our lives as saints and that we have many models of ordinary people leading extraordinary lives. The Gospel of the day was the beatitudes: Jesus’ teaching of the promise of life and hope for all who live in God's way.

Tomorrow is All Souls' Day - the day when we remember those who have died. May this day be one where any loved ones you have lost through death are prayed for by the whole church. May they rest in the peace and joy of God.

A REMEMBRANCE BOOK has been created. This is a perpetual book and will be used each November. All families who have lost family members, especially during the last 12 months, are invited to write their names in the book. You will find the book in the shared learning area after assembly on Friday and right through November. (A Commemoration Book is also available in the Narthex of St James church. You can place the names of your departed loved ones in this book which will be a part of our liturgy at all masses in November).

PIP: Our last meeting for Parents in Partnership will be held on Wednesday 7th November. Last month we had very few parents able to come. We would love to see you at these last meetings: either 2.30pm or 7.30pm. Email info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au if you are able to join us. We will further develop our Homework Policy, detail the arrangements for our next fundraiser, discuss the grounds maintenance of the school as well as review how PIP has worked this year and how we might develop our partnership in 2013.

NO SCHOOL Monday & Tuesday 5th & 6th November. Tuesday is the Cup Day holiday while Monday will be a report writing day for staff.
Prep Orientation Program: The 2013 Preps and their parents have attended two sessions in the last fortnight. It is very exciting to be working with a new group of beautiful Preps: a very different experience to this time last year! They have enjoyed exploring the ‘big’ playground and spending time in the learning spaces, singing songs, listening to stories and asking lots of questions about their new school. We look forward to getting to know them and welcoming them to our wonderful school community.

Our last session is Friday 9th November. This will be followed by a Prep Parent Information meeting: Wednesday 21st November.

Children not returning to St Francis of Assisi school in 2013 (This does not apply to Yr 6 Students): If your child/children will not be returning to St Francis 2013, could you please contact the office as soon as possible.

Commemorative DVD: As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we will be producing a commemorative DVD of our first year as a school community. Please make sure that you have returned the letter stating that you will give permission for St Francis of Assisi School to use photograph/s or video-clips of your child/ren in the commemorative DVD. Please return this letter no later than FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2.

Commemorative Tea towel: An order form for the purchase of the commemorative DVD & tea towel will be sent home to families with next week’s newsletter.

Homework Policy: Many thanks for the wonderful response we had to the survey we sent home recently. This information is currently being collated and will be used to inform discussion at both PIP and staff meetings.

Confirmation: Last Sunday we had a lovely celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We congratulate Jericho, Melissa, Joshua, Chevron & Gail on this very important step in their journey of faith.

Mary Mass: Last night our Year 5 students and their families attended mass together at St James. During the mass, the community reflected on the life of Mary and the importance of this woman of courage in our life. The children are exploring the role of Mary and her qualities as we begin to move towards the season of Advent and Christmas.

Preps in PJs mass: Just a reminder for Prep parents that we shall celebrate mass together at St James on Wednesday the 14th of November at 7.00pm. It will be our final gathering for Preps in PJs and yes, we will all be wearing our pyjamas to mass!!

Closure days: Please note that staff will be planning for 2013 on Monday & Tuesday, 19th/20th November.

There will be NO SCHOOL for children on these days. Camp Australia will be conducting a program, only if a quota of children attending is reached.
Please contact the school or speak to Bethany who coordinates the morning & afternoon programs if you want to book in your child/ren as soon as possible.

Uniforms: A reminder that all students should now be wearing full summer uniform. No jewellery (except studs, sleepers and watches) should be worn; only blue or yellow ribbons or hair bands should be worn, and no make-up or nail polish is acceptable.

Hats during term 4: Some children still have not brought their hat to school. Part of the Sun Smart policy is that all students must wear a hat during outdoor activities in term 4. Please ensure that a new hat is purchased on Tuesday if your child’s hat has been lost.

Arrival time: Please note that teachers begin yard duty at 8.30am. No child should arrive at school before 8.30am unless they are booked into the OSHC program. It is unacceptable for the children to be on school premises without appropriate supervision.

Garden beds: All pedestrians please note that there is to be no walking across the garden beds. Keep to footpaths at all times.

Building stage 2: The steel has arrived! This means that we should see the frame of the new learning spaces going up during the next two weeks.

Slow down - Some cars are travelling too fast in and out of the school grounds. Remember that protecting the safety of children is everyone’s responsibility. Drive slowly while on school property.

School Crossing: Please ensure that if you are needing to cross Fairview Parade you do it at the school crossing. Modelling the safe pedestrian behaviours to your children at all times will provide them with the right messages about road safety. We would also appreciate any Thomas Carr College students doing the same thing.

Parish News:
Fete: On behalf of the Fete Committee I would like to thank all our volunteers who helped at the fete and all the people who came to support us. The fete was a big success. We will let you know in a few weeks time what the profit was.

Carmen Gleeson
Parliamentary Inquiry: In the news we often hear reports from the Parliamentary Inquiry about sex abuse. We are aware that for many different reasons this issue causes us distress. On Monday 6th November we are offering parishioners a time where we can prayerfully share this pain in a safe environment. We will be meeting at 7.00pm in the Old Hall at St James.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Closure Day (Cup eve)</td>
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<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Melb Cup (public holiday)</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Prep 2013 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 19,20</td>
<td>Closure Days</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Prep 2013 Information meeting @SFA @ 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Nov 28-30</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Camp</td>
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Jan Keogh
Principal