SACRAMENT of FIRST EUCHARIST was celebrated last weekend. We had 23 students receive Jesus for the first time. It was a prayerful and joyful celebration for the parish community. We pray for our students who are celebrating their First Eucharist this weekend.

PRAYERS please for Thomas (grandfather or Alden and Shaun) who is currently very ill. We also remember the first anniversary of Matthew Cutajar, father of Isabella (Yr 1). A memorial mass is being celebrated on Sunday, August 30 at 5pm at St James the Apostle Church. Families are welcome to attend to show your support.

ENVIRO NEWS
Tuesday September 1st is a significant day for several reasons. It’s the first day of Spring, Wattle Day and recently, Pope Francis declared this day, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This means we have lots to celebrate. To spread the news and stewardship, students and teachers will be engaged in assemblies and tours of the newest developments, the Indigenous Garden and the Orchard. They will be learning how to engage respectfully and carefully with our growing gardens and how to care for our environment. We look forward to a slow introduction in the use of the garden space to develop appropriate and respectful behaviours when playing in this area during recess and lunch, moving towards full engagement in this area in term 4.

Chrissy & the Environmental Leaders

NAPLAN: During May this year our students in Yr 3 and Yr 5 completed the NAPLAN Assessments. These results have now arrived at school and will be sent home with the children TOMORROW. Parents of Yr 5 students are asked to keep these results in a safe place as they are required as a part of your child’s enrolment process into secondary school.

MATHS with MICHAEL YMER: This year the staff have been working closely with Michael to further develop our approach to learning and teaching in the area of Mathematics. Michael is an expert in this field who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that has seen him work in schools across the world. We have enjoyed working with Michael but are very excited to have him at our school this coming Monday to work with the students and teachers in the spaces. At the end of the day Michael will remain at school and work with the Year 1-2 teachers from St Francis as well as Year 1-2 teachers from St Martin de Porres (Laverton), St Peter’s (Sunshine) and Our Lady of the Southern Cross (Wyndham Vale) as we continue our learning together.

BUILDING PROGRAM SAFETY
There have been reports of issues arising because parents are parking too close to or across the access gate to the builders site.

The builders are following up regarding ensuring contractors are leaving the property safely.

Parents are asked to make access possible for our building program to safely continue:

NO PARKING ACROSS BUILDERS ACCESS GATE in Fairview Pde

Follow any directions by Bowden staff

Weather permitting, the slab for the building will be poured tomorrow with steel works beginning next week!! This is an exciting time but your cooperation in ensuring the works can be undertaken safely and on time is critical.

Jan Keogh
Principal
9731 6004
**PROGRAM ACHIEVE** - a big thank you to the parents who attended our You Can Do It parent information session. Our presenter, Margaret Milne, showed a broad range of strategies that are being taught in the school and how these can impact in a positive way at home. Here is a reflection from Kellie on things she learnt:

“*The Program Achieve session was an extremely valuable parent session. I learnt a lot of skills to help develop my daughter’s wellbeing, especially in the area of building her confidence and resilience. I am already putting into practise some of the ideas that were discussed with great results. The emotional thermometer is getting a lot of use*”.

A copy of the notes from the session are available from the office if parents are interested.

**Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.**

**DENTAL VAN:** The Dental Van is returning on 7th, 9th & 10th September to see the children from the families who returned their dental forms last term. Unfortunately we are unable to accept any further request forms for this service.

**INTENTIONS FOR 2016:** A form was sent home last week which every family should complete and return to school by TOMORROW, Friday 28th August. This information will assist us in our planning for home groups in 2016. Many thanks to those who have already returned this.

**SACRAMENT of 1st RECONCILIATION:** A letter with details around the celebration of this sacrament will be sent home tomorrow. Please follow the instructions for the online booking of your preferred Reconciliation celebration.

**PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE:** The Challenge has been running all year and officially ends on 14th September. Lots of children have already completed the Challenge and a number are almost there. So make sure you remember to enter your books online so you don’t miss out. Please see Emily if you have any questions.

**FATHERS’ DAY STALL** is being held next Thursday, September 3rd. If you want your child to participate, send money (up to $5) in a purse or sealed envelope.

**FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST next FRIDAY:** We have 80 dads and 120 children for our Fathers’ day breakfast! If you are able to help with this during 7am—9am please email Lucy if you have not done so already. Lucy’s email is: lvassallo@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

**FOOTY COLOURS DAY:** On Monday 7th September we are having a footy colours day where the children get to wear the colours of their favourite AFL or other sporting team. We are doing this because we are raising money for the Royal Children’s Hospital. One of our social justice team had a special connection with the hospital in the past. We are going to have a staff member from the Royal Children’s Hospital at one of our assemblies in term 4. We would like the students to bring in a gold coin donation on the day and they can wear their footy (sports) colours. We would like everyone to please try and join in as this is really important to raise money for the hospital. The Social Justice Team

**DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Selected children from Years 3-6 will be attending this carnival. We are in need of 2 parent volunteers with a working with children check to help us with supervision of students and set up of events. Volunteers would need to be available from 9am – 3.30pm. You will be travelling by bus to Hoppers Lane Athletics track. Please email Lucas as soon as possible if you are able to help with this event. Lucas’ email address is: lmangani@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au or contact the school on 9731 6004.

**ROBOTICS INCURSION YR 3-6:** On Friday 4th September, some of the Year 3 to Year 6 students will be participating in a Robotics Incursion as part of their Inquiry learning. The company called Curstons from Belmont will be working with these students. The students will be involved in a 90 minute session that will enable them to design, create, evaluate, modify, test and demonstrate the way robots achieve set tasks.