Dear Parents,

Last Sunday was the beginning of Advent and with that it quietly ushers in a new Liturgical Year. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of hope, a time full of possibility. Advent is a reflective time, inviting us to reassess our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. In the busyness of our lives we are called to make space for the Lord, in prayer and in service, particularly to those most in need.

As the year draws to a close we give thanks for all its challenges and its blessings. We give thanks for all we have been able to achieve. I pray that your celebration of Christmas will be blessed with the joy and peace of Christ's coming, and that you and your family will take that joy and peace with you into all you do in 2017.

**SCHOOL FEES 2017**

In discussion with Father Anthony and the Parish Education Board we have decided not to increase school fees for 2017. I hope this helps out our many families who have households to run with rising costs.

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI STEM SYMPOSIUM - THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER**

As part of our Integrated Inquiry, many year levels have been learning about how things in our world go through a process of change and that we can use a DESIGN PROCESS to enhance technological advancements, create new products or solve problems. Through this inquiry many children at our school have been engaged in learning that improves current products or makes the world a better place.

It would be great to see as many parents as possible attending the day to celebrate the student’s learning. Below is a timetable of the day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Billy Cart Derby</td>
<td>9 am - 11 am</td>
<td>Staff Car Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Fashion Windows</td>
<td>11.45 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Catapults</td>
<td>12 pm - 1 pm</td>
<td>Synthetic Grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep - Animals and their Habitats</td>
<td>2.45 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Prep Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year One - Enterpreneurs</td>
<td>2.45 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Year One Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two - Car Exhibition</td>
<td>2.45 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Year Two Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>2.30 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Year Three Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four - Animal Extinction</td>
<td>2.30 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Year Four Classroom, Middle area and Passive area. Some year 4J and 4C students will also be where the shade sails are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five - STEM Challenge</td>
<td>2.30 pm - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Year 5 Classrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION AGM**

Last Friday we had the Annual General Meeting for our Parents Association in the Community Room. It was a very productive meeting with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements for this year and plan for the coming year. I would like to thank Christine Tolevski and Susie Ilijevski for being our co-presidents this year, unfortunately they have to resign from the role due to work commitments. I would like to thank Sandra Katsaros who has offered to be the 2017 PA President. I have great faith that with the support of the PA coordinators, Sandra will have a successful year.

The 2017 Parents Association is as follows:

- **President**  
  Sandra Katsaros
- **Vice President**  
  Pauline Vidos
- **Treasurer**  
  Nadia Bartolo
- **Assistant Treasurer**  
  Dani Galati
- **Hot Food Coordinator**  
  Maria Tolani
- **Disco Coordinator**  
  Nicole Meyer
- **Family Portraits**  
  Angela Pougioukas
- **Graduation Bears**  
  Cangie Sacco
- **Mother’s Day Stall**  
  Sandra Katsaros
- **Father’s Day Stall**  
  Sandra Katsaros
- **Student Banking**  
  Mel Carroll and Dee Cerminara
- **Pancake Day**  
  Nicole Meyer
- **Showbags**  
  Christine Tolevski and Susie Ilijevski
- **Sunnyboys**  
  Karen Di Clemente

I cannot express my gratitude enough to these wonderful ladies who put in so much work for the benefit of our school and children. Please if you have some spare time to support the team it is much appreciated.

**2017 LAPTOP PROGRAM**

Laptop Hire invoices have been sent home. These invoices are for students who will be in Year 4, 5 or 6 next year. Payment for Laptop Hire is due by 2nd December 2016.

**PREP, YEAR 1 & 2 CONCERT**

Not many sleeps to go! Our Prep to Year 2 Concert will be on Monday, 5th December commencing at 6 pm on the synthetic grass. On this night the children will need to come dressed in Christmas clothes (e.g. Christmas t-shirts, tinsel, Santa hats etc.), comfortable pants or skirts/dresses and appropriate shoes as the children will be doing some dancing during the evening.

The Parents’ Association will be holding a Sausage Sizzle and also selling drinks. Parents are welcome to bring their own picnic tea to have either before or during the concert. You will need to bring folding chairs to sit on.

We hope the weather will be kind to us and that we are all able to enjoy the picnic atmosphere and watch our children perform.

**COMMONWEALTH BANK—SCHOOL BANKING**

The last day for school banking was last Wednesday, 23rd November. Please don’t send any student banking to the school for the rest of the year.

**MUSIC PERFORMANCE NIGHTS**

Last Tuesday our Year 1-2 Junior Choir and our Year 3-6 Senior Choir performed. They were absolutely magnificent and I could have listened to them all night. We then broke up into smaller groups and were entertained by individual performances by all our Instrumental Music students. I must commend the students for being so patient and waiting for their turn. The students have really grasped the opportunity to learn their instruments and it was a pleasure watching them enjoy themselves in the spot light. On Wednesday our Middle and Senior school bands together with the ensemble program students (St. Monica’s) performed throughout the night. It was a night of entertainment with all members of the bands displaying their hidden talents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Theresa Egglezos and Pina Fusillo for organising both nights, as you can imagine a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make the nights as successful as they were.
SCHOOL FEES
As we approach the end of the year, it is time for all families to finalise their accounts for 2016. Payments may be made by cash, cheque or EFT at the school office from 8am to 4pm. If you are unable to come to the school, credit card payments may be made by phoning the school office on 9407 3100 or direct transfer payments may be made to our school fee account (BSB 083 347 A/C 528755292). Please include your child’s surname in the reference. If you have any queries or are unable to pay in full, please contact Anne Coleiro or Leanne Henwood at the school office or email accounts@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

CARPARK CLOSURE - THIS THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER
Some of the Year Six students have been building Billy Carts for their electives and these ‘Hot Rods’ are going to be raced around the Teacher’s Car park this Thursday, December 1st. We are asking that no one park his or her car in the Teacher’s Car Park on this day. The car park will be locked from 9 am – 3 pm without any cars in the car park. The car park will be opened for drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to attend, so bring a picnic chair and your binoculars and be prepared for an action filled day.

YEAR 1 - YEAR 6 ORIENTATION
On Wednesday 7th December from 9.15 am to 10.45 am students will have an orientation session to enable them to spend some time with their 2017 teacher and the students that they will be with. I encourage parents to positively support students as they work through their feelings about their class placement for 2017.

PARENT HELPER THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA
On Thursday, 8th December we will be having an afternoon tea to say thank you to all the parents that have assisted with school activities throughout the 2016 school year. Afternoon Tea will be held in the Small Hall at 2 pm. An invitation will be sent home soon.

YEARS 3 - 4 & PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Sunday 11th December commencing at 7 pm in the School Hall. This term our Year 3 & 4 students have been working very hard in Music and Drama, by rehearsing various liturgical Christmas carols for the Year 3 & 4 / Parish Choirs Carols. There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks for purchase on the night. We invite everyone to join us in preparation for the Christmas Season.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER
Preparation for our Year 6 Graduation is well underway. Tickets have now been distributed. If you haven’t picked up your tickets please see Mrs. Grace Lucic as soon as possible. Only 3 tickets are available for each family. Please arrange your table when tickets are collected. Each table seats a maximum of 12 people (4 families). Costs for the evening have been included in the fees and levies for this year. Prior to the collection of tickets please ensure that all school fees are paid in full. On this evening we can only accommodate the Year 6 child and his/her parents. Only 3 tickets can be made available for each family.

VACATION CARE
Holiday program will be operating on Wednesday 25th January 2017 to Wednesday 1st February, 2017. Please note Thursday 26th January is a public holiday and therefore there will be no care. Enrolments are available at the office and OSHC program. Enrolments will close 5th December 2016.

2017 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN
PLEASE NOTE: ONLY NEW APPLICANTS NEED TO APPLY!
All existing students currently enrolled in the instrumental music program will be automatically re-enrolled, unless Pina/Office are informed to cancel or transition your child’s enrolment. We still have a few spots available for any students in Years 3-5 wishing to enrol into our NEW ENSEMBLE PROGRAM. Students can still enrol to learn the flute, clarinet or cello and need to see Mrs Egglezos. Instrumental Enrolment forms can be collected from the front office or downloaded from the school website.

Mrs Theresa Egglezos & Mrs Pina Fusillo - Music Staff
UPCOMING DATES

**Billy Cart Derby Day**    **Thursday 1st December**
Mr. Ron Hee and Mr. Ivo Lucic and their band of billy cart enthusiasts are well underway. All the billy carts are finished and they will be taking over the staff car park for the big race day. **Teachers and parents will not be permitted to park in the staff car park on this day.**

**Prep to Year 2 Concert**    **Monday 5th December 6 pm**
Come and join us for a fun evening. Bring along dinner and sit back and enjoy. The PA will be selling BBQ sausages and drinks before and during the performance. Let’s pray for a fine evening.

**Year 6 Mystery Tour**    **Friday 9th December**
Where will they go this year? Always great fun – students turn up on the day not knowing what is in store!

**Year 6 Graduation Mass**    **Monday 12th December**
This is the final farewell for our Year 6 students. This is an opportunity for families to come together to give thanks for the 7 years that the children have been with us at St Francis (Year 6 parents are encouraged to attend).

**Year 6 Graduation Dinner**    **Tuesday 13th December, 2016**
Tickets have now been distributed. If you haven’t picked up your tickets please see Mrs. Grace Lucic as soon as possible. Only 3 tickets are available for each family.

**Final Day for Year 6 Students**    **– Tuesday 13th December 3.30 pm**
Year 6 students will be dismissed at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 13th December. This will be the final day of school for our Year 6 students.

**Final Day for Students (Prep to Year 5)**    **– Thursday 15th December 1 pm**
The end of school year Mass for children in Prep to Year 5 will be celebrated at 10.30 am on 15th December. Children will be dismissed at 1 pm on Thursday, 15th December. This will be the final day of school for students.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR—2017 - ASSESSMENTS
We will again follow a similar routine as this year, in that we will conduct testing with students on the first two days of the school year (Year 1 to Year 6). **Students from Year 1 — 6 will begin their first formal day of school on Thursday, 2nd February, 2017.** Please note that the Prep grades will commence on Friday 3rd February but will finish at 12.30 pm.

- Year 1 - 6 students one hour testing on either Tuesday 31st January or Wednesday 1st February

Parents please note that we have made changes to the assessment schedule for the Year 2-6 students for next year. We have made these changes because we believe that it will be more advantageous to meet and assess the students individually.

We will again use the online booking system. Instructions for this will be sent home later in the term.

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop at the school will be open on Wednesday, 1st February, 2017 from 8.30 am to 10.30 am or parents may wish to go to Academy Uniforms at 238 Wolseley Place, Thomastown.

God bless,

Mark Basile
Principal
YEAR SIX LAPTOPS
All year six students will be handing their laptops back to the school library THIS Wednesday 30th November. Prior to doing this, students will need to ensure they have downloaded/backed up any work they have stored on their laptop. Once the reimaging process begins, there will be no way to restore any of these locally stored files.

Students ARE permitted to use a USB to copy any files from their W Drive (school network folder), their Desktop, MyDocuments, MyPictures, MyVideos folders, etc. As for the contents of their Google Drive, students will still be able to access these files until the end of 2016, however it is advised that they follow the instructions in this brief tutorial video that I have created for them. Following these steps will allow students to re-upload and integrate the contents of their current St Francis Google Drive to the new one provided by their secondary school (if their secondary school uses Google Apps For Education).

https://youtu.be/2jSEvBUXE6Q

Caithlin Power
eLearning Leader

BADGES

Special Congratulations go to:
Jesse M (5K), Jordan P (5O) and Chantelle M (3D), who have attained a Gold Badge.

Congratulations also to the following children who have recently been awarded Blue Badges:
Alyssa R (2F), Mirelle L (Prep N), Dallas S (4B), Mia A (5S), Ann B (3T), Matilda T (2F), Maya I (3D), Ryan T (1P), Mia D (2R), Riley O (6H), Syabella G (Prep B), Mia G (3M), Francis J. (Prep N), Noah F (3D), Adrian M (2W), Jack O (1H), Jessica M (4A), Marisa P (Prep M), Xavier B (6D), Catherine S (3D), Jayden G (Prep T), Amy G (3D).

Children’s Liturgy News
Sunday the 4th December will be the final children’s liturgy for the year!
From the Liturgy Team we wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas, and a safe and happy new year.
We will see you again in 2017!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>Year 6 Dancing</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation—St. Monica’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Passion Projects - Year 5 Expo (5.30 pm–6.30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Billy Cart Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>STEM Symposium / Expo (Open afternoon for parents) 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation—Parade &amp; Assumption College</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Prep to Year 2 Christmas Concert - 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation - OLMC, Marymede and all Government schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Reports/Learning Assessment Journals go home today</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Whole School Orientation for 2017 Prep–Year 5 - (9.15 am - 10.45 am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Bears distributed today</td>
</tr>
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<td>Passion Projects - Year 6 Expo (5.30 pm - 6.30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Parent helper Thank You Afternoon Tea - Small Hall (2 pm - 3.30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Year 6 Mystery Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Parish Christmas Carols (Years 3 &amp; 4 &amp; Parish Choir) 7 pm in the Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Print this page and place it on your fridge
“Pokemon to me is more than just game, it’s a lifestyle”
Alexander C. 2016

To a lot of people Pokemon is just a game where they run around on their phone trying catching things for fun.

Pokemon to me is not just a game it’s the greatest experience I will ever have. **My name is Alex C (Year 6B) and I was selected to attend the Pokemon World Championships.** I have been to America to compete for the past two years, competing in Boston (in 2015) and in San Francisco (2016). They were the greatest experiences in my life. I met so many nice people and we all have a weird interest in Pokemon - I can call them some of my closest friends.

Even though I am relatively new to the Pokemon community I have obviously left a good impression being **ranked second best in Asia Pacific** (in 2016) and ninth best in 2015! One of the amazing benefits of playing Pokemon is being able to travel the world to the world championships (where I don’t pay for the for flights and accommodation).

Recently I **have been chosen to compete in London on December 5th in an International competition** (with all the costs paid for - which makes my parents very happy!) London will be my favourite place I have ever been to because I am going with my whole family (except my little brother, who is happy as he gets to stay with my Grandma!).

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**Parents’ Association News**

If you have any advertising needs you may advertise on our P.A. Notice board outside the office for $2.00 a week. Any queries please contact Trish on 0412 344 813.

Second Hand Uniform:
We are asking for donations of the new school uniform which are still in good condition. All donations can be handed in at the office.

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**Community News**

South Morang Cricket Club in partnership with Cricket Victoria are running a 8 week Milo T20 Blast program for Boy's and Girls from the ages of 7 - 12. The program is ran on Sunday Mornings between 9:30 am to 11 am. For more details or to register please contact Mark on 0423755981 (after 4pm Mon - Fri) or email southmorang_jdo@gmail.com
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Prep B  Johnny G  for using great manners. Well done!
Prep J  Maddison W  for making some positive morning transitions into the classroom
Prep M  Katherine C  for writing a fantastic recount. Great work, Katherine!
Prep N  Jacob L  for his willingness to help others
Prep T  Nathaniel G  for trying hard with your habitat!
Prep U  Marla A  for using a number line to help her count on when adding numbers
Year 1C  Viyan P  for his positive attitude towards learning. Well done!
Year 1D  Lyla H  for always demonstrating full body listening in class
Year 1F  Joshua T  for always conducting himself with maturity and working well
Year 1H  Christian A  for always showing respect and reverence during morning prayer circle
Year 1O  Johansa F  for adding detail to her recount writing. Well done!
Year 1P  Sienna N  for writing detailed recounts about her weekend
Year 2B  Michael D  for being a great listener and for always following directions
Year 2C  Christian D  for his wonderful skills in playing the money maths game
Year 2D  Christian C  for helping his peers in the classroom. Well done!
Year 2F  Sienna B  for being a helpful, responsible and reliable member of our classroom
Year 2G  Harry B  for always following directions and for all his hard work this year. Well done!
Year 2R  Mia D  for the very sensible choices she makes. You are a star, Mia!
Year 2U  Max C  for extending his vocabulary to make great word selections for his persuasive writing. Well done!
Year 2W  Angelina B  for creating a great poster to promote her toy car. Well done Angelina!
Year 3A  Alana K  for displaying beautiful manners in the classroom and for always showing respect to her peers and teachers
Year 3D  Christian D  for displaying beautiful manners in the classroom and for always showing respect to her peers and teachers
Year 3M  Christian C  for helping his peers in the classroom. Well done!
Year 3P  Olivia C  for sharing her learning in an articulate way.
Year 3R  Gemma D  for always being a motivated and positive learner and being kind to others
Year 3T  Tessa B  for always being polite and attentive and ready to help others in the class
Year 4A  Sebastian M  for an excellent term of work as part of our ‘Turn Orange for Orangutans’ campaign
Year 4B  Joseph I  for his efforts in extra curricular classes
Year 4C  Nicholas T  for putting effort into writing detailed texts
Year 4I  Amelia F  for her consistent efforts to complete all home learning tasks following instructions. Well done!
Year 4J  Anastasia P  for working hard in our Maths sessions
Year 4M  Samia S  for working hard in her STEM challenge group
Year 5K  Elijah B  for his great contributions during our STEM challenge
Year 5M  Anthony M  for his positive preparation during our STEM challenge
Year 5O  Mia A  for always being a positive and thoughtful class member
Year 5R  Max W  for always completing his work on time
Year 5S  Samuel D  for great teamwork in our STEM challenge
Year 5T  Hayden H  for his willingness to assist classmates and provide insightful discussions during class reflection time.
Year 6B  Julian R  for his creative flair when creating his nativity scene
Year 6D  Brock L  for the effort he placed into his modern day nativity scene. Well done and keep it up!
Year 6H  Alistair L  for consistent effort in all learning activities
Year 6M  Amelia R  for showing a positive attitude towards all learning activities. Wow!
Year 6S  Mya A  for creating a detailed and unique Memory Scrapbook
Year 6W  Julian V  for his engaging narrative. Well done!

Pupil of the Week

Prep  Aidan P  (Prep N)
Year 1  Rachael N  (1F)
Year 2  Nicholas W  (2F)
Year 3  Kaitlyn V  (3P)
Year 4  Jasmine V  (4J)
Year 5  Olivia L  (5O)
Year 6  Olivia M  (6S)

Keys To Life Award

Prep  Luca D (Prep T)  for Organisation
Year 1  Aidan B (1F)  for Getting Along
Year 2  Lucas S (2F)  for Resilience
Year 3  Isabella D (3P)  for Getting Along
Year 4  Elisha F (4J)  for Confidence
Year 5  Joshua W (5O)  for Confidence
Year 6  Andre H (6S)  for Persistence