Dear Parents,

I would like to express my gratitude to the families of St Francis of Assisi for your support over the past year. In my time at St Francis I have been fortunate enough to experience significant professional and personal growth. I am extremely proud of our school and each year I am blessed with more and more fond memories. I look forward to 2017 when we welcome a new group of prep students and I look forward to speaking to our year 6 graduates in the years to come about their progress at Secondary School.

End of Year Prayer

My prayers and thoughts are with our families as you complete the last few days of a very busy year. I know how everyone feels during this time of the year, mixed emotions at seeing the end of some things and the excitement of new things to happen. With that in mind I would like to share with you a final prayer for the end of the Year:

O God of all beginnings and endings,  
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.  
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,  
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.  
The days have passed quickly, O Lord.  
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and holy days,  
The lessons, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,  
All have come forth from your hand.  
While we trust that your purposes have always been at work each day,  
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate  
Just what you have been up to in our school.  
Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.  
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.  
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,  
And bless us, according to your will,  
With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams.  
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,  
And guide each day as you have done this past year.  
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.  
May we continue to grow  
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace  
All the days of our lives.  
Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS:  
To our Year 6 students on the strong leadership they have shown this year. They have been an excellent group – friendly, involved, responsible and a great example to the younger children. I trust that these students have enjoyed a fulfilling time at St Francis and we wish them all the very best in their next step of education and ultimately their adult lives. Good luck to each and every one of our departing graduates.
YEAR 6W - ANTHEA McKay
Last Friday was Anthea McKay’s last day at St Francis of Assisi. Unfortunately Anthea’s grandmother has passed away and she needed to travel interstate for the funeral. She is very disappointed to be finishing the year in this way and is very sorry that she is unable to celebrate the final days with the children.

Mrs Teresa DeBono will be taking the class in Anthea’s absence.

Please remember Anthea’s family in your prayers.

PREP U NOW PREP C
We know that life is full of surprises and Katherine shared her pleasant surprise with me 2 weeks ago. We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Uccellini is pregnant and will be having her first child next year. Katherine is an exceptional teacher and will undoubtedly be an exceptional mother.

This joyous news has necessitated a change in our plans for 2017. To avoid a change of teacher part way through the year we have decided to have Miss Colleen McCann and Mrs Natalie Velevski take over what would have been Katherine’s class in 2017.

Both teachers are experienced in teaching Prep and I know they will be able to provide quality education for the class. Natalie will take the class on Monday and Colleen will take the class Tuesday to Friday. The class will now be known as Prep C and will remain in the same classroom.

At the beginning of next year, Katherine Uccellini will be in the class (Week 1 and 2) to ensure a smooth transition for the children. This will give them time to familiarize themselves with their new teachers.

WHOLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION
Last week the students had the opportunity to spend some time with their teacher and fellow classmates for 2017. There were no doubt some nerves over the weekend but there was a sea of smiles and excited chatter at the conclusion of the session which bodes well for 2017.

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS
Our Year 6 children formally finish at 3.30pm on Tuesday 13th December.
The end of school year Mass for children in Prep to Year 5 will be celebrated this Thursday 15th December at 10.30 am. Children will be dismissed at 1 pm this Thursday, 15th December.

STARTING DATES FOR 2017
School will resume for Years 1 – 6 on Thursday 2nd February. Please note that Year 1-6 testing will take place on Tuesday, 31st January & Wednesday, 1st February. Please ensure that your children are available to come in on one of the testing scheduled sessions.

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.

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

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.
UPCOMING DATES

**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.

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.

BOOKINGS FOR ASSESSMENTS 2017
There have already been over 700 bookings for Student Assessments. **PLEASE ensure that all students are booked in for assessments at the beginning of 2017.** Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the instructions—the instruction sheet is attached to this Flyer.

STUDENT’S MEDICATION COLLECTION
All medication and epipens need to be collected from the school office by parents at the end of the school year. Parents please note we cannot hand epipens to the children. These need to be signed out.
Your assistance is appreciated.
Any concerns please see Helen the School Nurse.

Amidst the madness of recent weeks, I would like to take time to reflect and give thanks to the following:

ST. FRANCIS’ TEACHING STAFF—THANK YOU
For their generous and uniting efforts with the children. Their time spent in the classroom is only a fraction of the time the teachers spend in the service of your children. Outside school hours, they involve themselves in unpaid meetings, curriculum organisation, the filling out of paperwork, report writing, parent teacher interviews, planning, updating professional skills and much more. My thanks to all staff for your commitment, improved student learning, teaching practice and flair for the enrichment of the children. It’s all those little extra things you do; which gives your class that personal touch.
ST FRANCIS’ SCHOOL OFFICERS & OUR SCHOOL NURSE— THANK YOU
Pam Meli, Cheryl Robbins, Anne Coleiro, Leanne Henwood, Lyndell Collins, Pina Fusillo, Dianne Maniszewski, Lina Marquis, Ellie Baghiere, Kathrine Canny, Beatrice Cambrea, Linda Canals, Julie DeCata, Jannet Fernandez, , Angela Gianfriddo, Kathy Holmes, Mary Kirkopoulos, Suzie Ilioski, Linda Palermo, Joanna Balliro, Maria Panuccio, Marini Peiris, Rita Pitruzzello, Jeanette Polazzon, Namali Rodrigo, Nella Smarrelli, Veronica Spiteri, Leanne Farrugia, Caitlin Girolami, Nimi George and Tinu Anil. The tasks which these ladies perform are diverse and ever increasing, but are always carried out with much diplomacy and skill. Let us give thanks for the commitment of our school officers who play another vital role in the life of the school.

I also wish to thank our School Nurse Helen Donegan who has done an exceptional job as our School Nurse.

PARISH—THANK YOU
A special thanks to Fr. Anthony and Fr. George for their constant support of all children and staff, especially in the continued fostering of their faith.

ST. FRANCIS PARENTS THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH:
Classroom Helpers, Parents Association, School Board members, Working Bees, Library helpers, Excursions, School Sporting Event Helpers. And many, many more!

This is certainly a very impressive list and one that, you the parents, can be very proud of. Well done! Sincere thanks and appreciation!

ST FRANCIS CHILDREN—THANK YOU
Thank you to all the boys and girls who have completed an excellent year, thus making our work a pleasure and all our efforts worthwhile.

2017 - LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT
Principal Mark Basile
Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching Delfina Pieri
Deputy Principal – School Community Grace Lucic
REC / Wellbeing John Dwyer
Literacy Mary Costanzo
Learning Support Nicole Federico
Mathematics Leader Brooke Brennan
E-Learning Caithlin Power
Literacy Support / Reading Recovery Michelle McKenzie & Deb Butler

EXTRA CURRICULA
PE / Sport Brett McCarthy & Adrian Talarico
Art Jenny Brown
LOTE Teresa DeGiulio (Prep to 6) Italian
Vanessa Vittorio (Yr 5-6 Italian)
Miranda McCluskey (5-6 Japanese)
ICT Jo Muir
Drama Katherine Uccellini (Years 1-4) Chloe Jones (Prep)
Kitchen Garden Andrea Dato and Colette Hickey
Science Chloe Jones (Years 1-4) Vanessa Vittorio (Yr 5-6)
Library Colette Hickey
Music Christine Grey
2017 CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Prep B  Elena Beers
Prep C  Colleen McCann/Natalie Velevski
Prep G  Bridget Green
Prep M  Mary Mellor
Prep N  Natalie Marciniec
Prep W  Michelle James
Year 1A  Ashleigh Doyle
Year 1B  Maria Barillaro / Vanessa Vittorio
Year 1D  Helen Dean
Year 1H  Jane Huy
Year 1N  Natalie Degiorgio
Year 1O  Adriana Ortiz
Year 2D  Danielle Dounis
Year 2F  Jackie Footman
Year 2G  Arista Giannis
Year 2R  Dinesha Rajasingam
Year 2T  Tayla De Sensi
Year 2W  Judith Wright
Year 3A  Aggie Abela / Kalane Horwood
Year 3D  Denise Pavlakos / Katherine Uccellini
Year 3F  Anthony Asta
Year 3S  Jackie Stavreski
Year 3P  Annette Apolloni
Year 3T  Susanna Todorovska
Year 4A  Melissa Anderson
Year 4B  Chris Borg
Year 4C  Connie Caruso
Year 4F  Jannet Fernandez
Year 4K  Will Kent
Year 4T  Kate Thompson
Year 5D  Samantha D'Cruz
Year 5K  Ann Kuric
Year 5M  Cathy Murphy / Adrian Talarico
Year 5O  Olivia Mullavey
Year 5R  Katrina Rinaldi
Year 5S  Shelly Michalke
Year 6B  Veronica Brightwell / Sharonna Coe
Year 6I  Daniela Insolia
Year 6J  Julia Mancuso / Andrea Dato
Year 6M  Dina Mercuri
Year 6P  Christina Padula
Year 6T  Thuy Pham

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK:
We say farewell to the following teachers who are moving on to new schools and other ventures.

Maria Buttifant, Theresa Egglezos, Mariegold Frago, Vangie Gregorio, Alison Hall, Julia Maiolo, Amanda Sutera (on 12 months leave) and Renee Unthank.

We wish them well in their new roles and thank them for their contribution and hard work here at St. Francis.

Maternity Leave
The following teachers are going onto maternity leave. We wish them well for their upcoming births -
Teresa De Bono, Sarah Lemin, Anthea McKay, Bianca Nicol, Jackie O'Connor and May Park.

We also wish every happiness and success to the handful of children and families transferring to other schools, suburbs and states.
IN CONCLUSION
It is impossible not to realise that education is made up of many intangibles that all contribute to the development of the whole person, involving a range of learning partnerships and activities between children, parents and teachers. Throughout 2016 we have sought to enrich student learning, and community building, to foster Faith development and enhanced individual learning.

I wish the children, parents, families and friends a happy, safe and peaceful holiday break. May we all find comfort and support in the Christmas season of peace and goodwill amongst all people!

God bless,

Mark Basile
Principal

Special Congratulations go to:
James G (6M)
who has attained a Gold Badge.

Congratulations also to the following children who have recently been awarded Blue Badges:
Roman I (Prep B), Xander R (1C), Natasha J (Prep N), Alexia T (1F), Michael D (Prep M), Mackenzie L (2U), Antonio A (Prep U), Orlando F (2W), Isaiah B (2U), Joshua G (4J), Xavier G (Prep M), Lucy K (3T), Lily B (2B), Nicolas B (Prep M), Alyssa O (2W), Talia E (3D), Brandon R (1P), Isabella I (1P), Isaak K (Prep M), Alyssa V (Prep M) and Dion P (Prep N).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday December 12</td>
<td>Year 4 Excursion to Redleap Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 13</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner - Casa D’Abruzzo 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday December 15</td>
<td>End of Year Mass - 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday December 15</td>
<td>End of Term 4 - Students finish at 1 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday December 15</td>
<td>End of Term 4 - Students finish at 1 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st January, 2017</td>
<td>Testing Days for Years 1 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st February, 2017</td>
<td>Testing Days for Years 1 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st February, 2017</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open 8.30 am - 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd February, 2017</td>
<td>Years 1 to 6 commence school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd February, 2017</td>
<td>2017 Prep children begin (8.50 am to 12.30 pm)</td>
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</tbody>
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Print this page and place it on your fridge
Dear Parents,

Year 1 to 6 student assessments will be held on Tuesday 31st January and Wednesday 1st February 2017.

Prep student assessments (2017) will be held on Monday 6th February, Tuesday 7th February and Thursday 9th February from 1 pm to 4 pm and each Wednesday, 8th, 15th and 22nd February from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Bookings open at 7 pm Thursday 8th December.
To book your child’s assessment time follow the instructions below.
Please ensure you book prior to Wednesday, 25th January.

Go to web address www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter the school event code.
mcgf8
Then follow the 3 simple steps below.

1. Enter your details
2. Choose teachers
3. Choose times

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to the web address www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews, until bookings close.

ASSSESSMENTS — START OF SCHOOL 2017

The first formal day for students in Year 1 to Year 6 will be Thursday 2nd February and for Prep, Friday 3rd February 2017.

ASSSESSMENTS

The Year 1 to Year 6 teachers will be undertaking testing on Tuesday 31st January and Wednesday 1st February 2017.

The Prep teachers will be undertaking testing on Monday 6th February, Tuesday 7th February, Thursday and 9th February from 1 pm to 4 pm and Wednesday 8th, 15th and 22nd February from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

PREP: 1 HOUR ASSESSMENTS (this includes a Parent Chat). The Assessments and Parent Chats will take place on: Monday 6th February, Tuesday 7th February, Thursday, 9th February from 1 pm to 4 pm and Wednesday, 8th, 15th, 22nd, February from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

YEAR 1 to YEAR 6: 1 HOUR ASSESSMENTS will take place on Tuesday 31st January & Wednesday, 1st February.

Parents can change their interview bookings any time prior to the closing date by revisiting the web address www.schoolinterviews.com.au, and using the above event code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the School Office.
TAKING ACTION IN GRADE ONE

In Grade One, students were busy designing and collecting donations to pass on to chosen charities. Some charities include St Vincent De Paul Society, Caritas Australia and the Starlight Foundation.

I had 6 boys in my class who chose to donate to Caritas Australia who help people grow their own food. They had the idea of donating fruit and vegetable seeds, along with a booklet of instructions for planting the seeds. Firstly, they had to write a letter to Bunnings, asking for their help with the seed donation. Their letter didn't go unheard.

Yesterday, 1D had two visitors from Bunnings Mill Park. They came bearing gifts, not only a full basket of seeds, but also a box of pencils and rulers to all grade one students in recognition of their hard work in helping others at this time of the year.

I'd like to congratulate all the Grade One teachers and students who put in so much effort into their donations. It feels great to be part of such a wonderful team!

Natalie Degiorgio

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Parents’ Association News

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was drawn today. Thank you to the families who supported our Christmas Raffle.

The winners are:

1st Prize  Jackson & Maddison 3T
2nd Prize   Dante 2B
3rd Prize   Deacon 4I
4th Prize   Ava 4B
5th Prize   George 6D
6th Prize   Maddison 4M
7th Prize   Mia 2U
8th Prize   Michael Prep J

Thank you to our sponsors for your generosity. They are listed in this Flyer.
Thank You To The Following Companies Who Donated To Our Christmas School Raffle 2016

Ray White Mill Park (Jay Moxon & Lisa Reginato)
Plus Fitness 24/7 (Mark Risteski)
Hairhouse Warehouse, Epping
Aquastyle, Mill Park
Skaterz, Eltham
Elk Accessories, Preston
LaManna Supermarket
Alaura Jewellery (Kris Fragale)
Shopaholic Heaven (Nella Ozzimo)
Canvases And Crafts 4 U (Rita Pisani)
Wild Cards & Gifts, Plenty Valley
Reservoir Skin Fitness Centre (Stephanie Contu)
Lollipops Playland, Bundoora

Please support these businesses who Support our School
St Francis of Assisi, Mill Park
Advent / Christmas Services

Parish / School Christmas Carols
Sunday 11th December 7:00 pm (hall)

Confessions
Saturday 17th December 9:45 am -10:45 am
Tuesday 20th December 9:45 am - 10:30 am
Wednesday 21st December 9:45 am - 10:30 am and 8 pm
Thursday 22nd December 7 pm - 8 pm
Friday 23rd December 9:45 am - 10:30 am
Saturday 24th December 9:45 am - 10:45 am

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December
9:15 am Advent Mass
5:00 pm Family Mass
6:30 pm Nativity Play
7:00 pm Vigil Mass
9:00 pm Tagalog Mass
11:30 pm Christmas Carols

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December
12:00 Midnight Mass
9:00 am Christmas Mass
10:30 am Christmas Mass
(Please note there is NO 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day)
(Monday 26th December Mass at 9:15 am)

www.cam.org.au/millpark
or phone 9407 6700