From The Principal

Dear Parents,

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.

Next Tuesday we celebrate the graduation of our Year 6 students. The students have been exceptional leaders in our school throughout this year, I congratulate the parents of our Year 6 students on supporting them in conjunction with us through their primary years at St. Francis.

Finally, I wish each and every Year 6 student the very best for the future and I look forward to you returning in coming years and sharing your successes with us.

BILLYCART DERBY

Last Thursday St Francis of Assisi was treated to another exhilarating Billy Cart Race day. Over 70 Year 6 students have been designing and building their own billy carts throughout the term with materials that were either found or bought. Overall, every team had a lot of fun and the day was a huge success.

PREP, YEAR 1 & 2 CONCERT

Our Prep to Year 2 Concert will be held this evening. It will commence at 6 pm on the synthetic grass. 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.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR PREP, YEAR 1 & 2 CONCERT

Helpers are needed at the Christmas Carols tonight. We need help on Monday 5th December to cook sausages, sell sausages and drinks. If you can help any time between 4pm and 8pm please contact Pauline on 0405 459 847. Your help will be very much appreciated.

Special Points of Interest:
- Billycart Derby
- Prep, Year 1 & 2 Concert
- Student Reports
- Class Groupings
- End of Year Arrangements
- Start Dates for 2016
- Classroom Teachers
- Year 1-6 Orientation
- Parent Helper Thank you Afternoon Tea
- Years 3 & 4 Parish Christmas Carols
- School Fees 2017
- Year 6 Graduation Dinner
- Vacation Care
- 2017 Instrumental Music Program
- Upcoming Dates
- 2017 Beginning School Year Assessments
- Uniform Shop
- Thank you and Farewell

Also included in this Newsletter
- Badges
- Calendar Dates
- Learning & Teaching
- Assessment and Reporting
- RE News
- Parent’s Association News
- Sports News
- Community News
- Parish Bulletin
- Lifefteen Advent Encounter
- Parish Advent/Christmas Services
- Parish Summer Holiday
- Awards

Class Masses

Class Masses begin at 9:15 am in the Church. Families are welcome to attend.

Dec. 12  Year 6 Graduation Mass at 10.15 am
Dec. 15  End of year Mass (Prep to Year 5) 10.30 am
STUDENT REPORTS
Students’ final report will be issued tomorrow, (Tuesday) students will also receive a Christmas Card from their 2017 teacher. Included with the card will be instructions for bookings for student assessments on January 31st and February 1st, 2017. Bookings open at 7 pm tomorrow (Tuesday, 6th December).

CLASS GROUPINGS – RESILIENCE
We have endeavoured to meet the educational and social needs of all students in arranging their placement for next year. Some parents may be disappointed about the placement of their child. Some students may feel uncertain about their teacher or the group of students in their class for 2017. As parents we need to be AFFIRMING and POSITIVE when speaking about the year ahead. Please do not let personalities and side issues impact upon your child’s outlook for 2017. Remember schools are in the business of education not entertainment. That requires us to ensure that the best educational groupings are made and this can at times mean that best friends are not placed together.

PLEASE ASSIST US IN BUILDING RESILIENCE IN ALL STUDENTS.
STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN TO FACE LIFE’S CHALLENGES WITH SUPPORT.
(Parent support in this would be greatly appreciated as changes will not be made to student grade allocations.)

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS
Year 6 Graduation Mass will be held at 10.15 am on Monday, 12th December in the Church. 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 at 10.30 am on 15th December. Children will be dismissed at 1 pm on Thursday, 15th December.

STARTING DATES FOR 2016
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. Booking details for these assessments will be included with your child’s report which goes home tomorrow.

OUR CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR 2017
On the following page is our starting line-up for 2017. We welcome back a handful of our teachers who are returning from maternity leave as well as a few new teachers joining us as well.

YEAR 1 - YEAR 6 ORIENTATION
This 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
This 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 was sent home to families last week.

YEARS 3 - 4 & PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS
This 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.

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

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
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 with the student reports.

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.

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 Insole
Year 6J    Julia Mancuso / Andrea Dato
Year 6M    Dina Mercuri
Year 6P    Christina Padula
Year 6T    Thuy Pham
THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

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.

Maternity Leave
Teresa De Bono, Sarah Lemin, Anthea McKay, Bianca Nicol, Jackie O'Connor and May Park.

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

God bless,

Mark Basile
Principal

BADGES

Congratulations to the following children who have recently been awarded Blue Badges:
Noah B (Prep J), Belinda P (Prep T), Christian L (2R), Annen C (Prep T), Ava T (2G), Matteo D (2R), Asher B (2U), Madeline D (6S), Michael C (Prep J), Sienna L (Prep N), Liana M (1F), Veronica B (Prep N), Jessica D (5O), Luca D (Prep T), Ashish D (2R), Miriam M (1D), Renae L (Prep T), Jamie M (1D), Stella S (3T), Archie S (Prep B), Joseph S (Prep N), Andrew A (2G), Kiara C (Prep T), Adriana H (6W).

Pupil of the Week

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Kaisha T</td>
<td>Prep B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Laura A</td>
<td>2G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Christian D</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Eden D</td>
<td>4I</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Anthony F</td>
<td>5M</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Farah A</td>
<td>6W</td>
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Keys To Life Award

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Zachary Y (Prep N)</td>
<td></td>
<td>for Persistence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Ella-Jane G (2G)</td>
<td>2G</td>
<td>for Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Evan K (3D)</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>for Persistence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Caleb T (4I)</td>
<td>4I</td>
<td>for Confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Luella R (5M)</td>
<td>5M</td>
<td>for Persistence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Adriana H (6W)</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>for Organisation</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation—Parade &amp; Assumption College</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>Prep to Year 2 Christmas Concert - 6 pm</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation - OLMC, Marymede and all Government schools</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Reports/Learning Assessment Journals go home today</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Whole School Orientation for 2017 Prep—Year 5 - (9.15 am - 10.45 am)</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Bears distributed today</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Passion Projects - Year 6 Expo (5.30 pm - 6.30 pm)</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
<td>Parent Helper Thank You Afternoon Tea - Small Hall (2 pm - 3.30 pm)</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Year 6 Mystery Tour</td>
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<td>December 11</td>
<td>Parish Christmas Carols (Years 3 &amp; 4 &amp; Parish Choir) 7 pm in the Hall</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass 10.15 am</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Year 4 Excursion to Redleap Reserve</td>
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<td>December 13</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner - Casa D’Abruzzo 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>End of Year Mass - 10.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>End of Term 4 - Students finish at 1 pm</td>
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LEARNING TOGETHER,  
CELEBRATING TOGETHER

Last week we celebrated student learning across the school through our STEM Symposium, Year Level exhibition and Passion Project EXPO. By attending the sessions parents and family members would have witnessed new learning around important learning areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering (design) and Mathematics. Students used newly developed vocabulary and were provided feedback about their learning.

Here are some of the highlights-

**YEAR PREPS** organised a science exhibition where students had the opportunity to answer questions and discuss their jointly constructed habitats with their parents.
**YEAR 1s** hosted an exhibition about their ideas to support charities in our local communities. The students were young entrepreneurs.
**YEAR 2s** shared their advertisement about the Next Big Thing. They shared and communicated their designs.
**YEAR 3s** redesigned communities meeting the needs of their members.
**YEAR 4s** were out and about promoting ways to support endangered animals and ideas for how they could make a difference in the world.
**YEAR 5s** hosted a STEM challenge expo. Students and parents were involved in some problem solving activities.
**YEAR 6s** showcased their designs in the area of Billy Cart Derby, Fashion and Catapults. A great day of celebrations.

**PASSION PROJECT EXPO - Year 5s**: The production of Aladdin by the Performing Arts group was entertaining and captivating. Parents also had the opportunity to sample some of the fine cooking skills of our Kitchen Garden group. The science group hosted various science experiments. Parents visited the Art Gallery and had the opportunity to see some fantastic robots at work at the Robotics Centre. The Media group showcased their newly developed skills through presentation of their news reports and the Health and Fitness group shared their learning. We look forward to hosting the Year 6 Passion Project Expo this Wednesday 7th December from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

**WHY EXPOS AND OPEN AFTERNOONS?**

Student learning is enhanced when students are engaged in authentic and purposeful opportunities. 21st Century learners want to feel that their learning is making a difference to their own lives and the lives of others. Providing an audience to share in the learning with the students allows the learning to be more authentic, relevant and purposeful.

*Thank you for sharing and celebrating with us.*

If you have any questions or feedback about learning and teaching at SFOA please contact me at dpieri@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au

**Delfina Pieri**  
Director of Learning and Teaching
LEARNING AND TEACHING
ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING PRACTICES AT SFOA

On Tuesday, 6th December the children will bring home their December Report. There are TWO parts to the Report, they include: The Summary Report and the Learning Assessment Journal.

PART ONE: LEARNING ASSESSMENT JOURNAL

Some of the features of the Learning Assessment Journal include:
1. Student work samples that have been corrected and/or annotated.
2. Criteria to provide feedback to students and parents about meeting the expectations of a particular task.
3. Goal setting, self reflections and self assessments that highlight the student taking ownership and setting direction for their learning.

Year 5 students have a digital Learning Assessment Journal that includes the above features.

PART TWO: SUMMARY REPORT

The summary report has been modified to meet the feedback we received from staff and parents. It is more graphical in representation and complements the Learning Assessment Journal. Some of the features of the school report include:

Growth Summary Report
Previously known as the dot point page. This page demonstrates your child’s progression within a 6, 12 or 24 month period. The work samples in the Learning Assessment Journal will provide additional information and feedback to support this page.

Religious Education
The Religious Education report will include an overview about the understandings and skills that have been a focus for learning in Semester Two, Learning Intentions and a Five Point Achievement Scale. It will indicate your child’s level of achievement against the learning intentions.

Student Comment Page
This page is personalised and highlights what your child has learnt in English and Mathematics. Future learning goals are also stated.

Class Comment
This paragraph is personalised and highlights skills, understandings and dispositions that your child has developed through the unit of inquiry. Parents also receive feedback about their child’s ability to manage their own learning and their ability to work with others.

Days Absent
The amount of days your child has been absent from school in 2017.

Extra Curriculum
page provides parents with feedback about their child’s progression during specialist subjects. Each area includes Learning Intentions and a Five Point Achievement scale. It will indicate your child’s level of achievement against the learning intentions. The areas include: Physical Education (P-6), Italian (P-6), Japanese (5/6 only), Art (P-4), Drama (P-4) Music (P-4), Library (P-4), Computers (1/2) Literature Studies (5/6) Science (3/4) and Selected Passion Project (5/6).
Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths and areas of progress with your child.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is an area of concern, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and cooperation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

USEFUL RESOURCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH LEARNING:

SchoolMate is an App for Victorian parents to help you understand your child’s learning. It shows parents a snapshot of what your child is learning in each subject, at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS). SchoolMate provides tips for parents about what you can do at home to help your child’s learning. SchoolMate suggests related apps, books, events and activities relevant to each subject area. We think SchoolMate is a great resource for parents and we encourage you to visit the App Store or Google Play and download it free today by searching for ‘SchoolMate’. SchoolMate works on all iPhone 4s, 5s and 6s and iPads. It also works on Android phones and tablets. It is linked to the AusVELS Curriculum and endorsed by the Department of Education and Training.

Delfina Pieri
Director Learning and Teaching
Advent- A time of waiting, preparing and repenting.

Christmas is for all! The story of Christ’s birth inspires and strengthens each one of us. Christmas is a time for thanksgiving and it is also a time of hope. The birth of Christ reminds us all that with every new day, we have a chance to be born again and live a life of service, humility, peace and love.

As we look at the many nativity scenes that adorn our schools, churches and homes, we notice some important features that provide insight into the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus’ birth wasn’t only celebrated by his immediate family- it was celebrated by a community, his extended family-parents, angels, shepherds and even kings. This scene reminds us that the joy of Christmas is for all of humanity, it is not just for kings, (the esteemed and privileged members of the community) but for the shepherds (the poor and disenfranchised among us) as well.

So this Christmas, as you look at your nativity scene, I invite you to take a deeper look into the significance of the image of a young mother with her precious child, surrounded by ‘family’. I pray that you too have a Christmas filled with the joy and blessings of that first Christmas and are surrounded by the love and peace that God’s love brings.

2016 has been another wonderful year, filled with many faith-filled events and celebrations. The ‘spirit’ of Christ has certainly been alive and active within our St Francis of Assisi community and I would like to express my gratitude to all staff, students and parents who have contributed so generously to our liturgical celebrations, sacramental programs and social justice initiatives.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the efforts of the 2016 Religious Education Leadership Team, comprised of Joel Benny, Theresa Francis, Rita Wakim, Jacob Kochuthara and Philip John who have worked tirelessly to maintain and strengthen our faith community. They have shown exemplary leadership and personal integrity in fulfilling a variety of roles and have made a significant impact upon our school. On behalf of the entire school and parish community I thank them for their outstanding service and wish them well as they continue their life’s journey.

Throughout the year many senior students have held positions of leadership and have made valuable contributions to the running and culture of the school. I thank all school leaders who have assumed key roles and worked hard to make St Francis of Assisi a wonderful place to learn and grow. Student voice and leadership is central to our Catholic ethos and one of our school leaders Max Bovalino would like to take this opportunity to share his reflections about his time at St Francis of Assisi School.

First things first, I would like to thank all the teachers who have helped me get to where I am today. Secondly, I would like to thank all the Extra Curricular teachers who have helped me excel in areas I wouldn't have imagined I would ever be good at. Next I would like to thank Mrs Brown for helping me with all my art in the 2015 Passion Project Program. Art is definitely a subject I will take to Year 12 with me. I would also like to thank all of my teachers Mrs Mellor, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Rapinett, Mrs Barillaro, Mrs Nicol, Mrs Butler, Mrs Mancuso, Miss Strickland, Miss Rinaldi and Miss D'Cruz for every single second they have put into helping me with my learning. For all the music help and for Mrs Egglezos organising bands and conducting in all bands. I would like to especially thank Mr D Hatherall for introducing me to the Trombone. Thank you Matt for fixing my laptop countless times and thank you to all the librarians for helping me read books that I would have never have grown a love for. Finally, I would like to thank my friends for their ongoing support and friendship.

The year of 2016 has been one of the best years of my life and I couldn’t thank everyone enough.

I’m sure one final thank you should be enough to acknowledge everyone who has been my friend, teacher, parent, parent helper, assistant teacher, brother, sister, and classmates - THANK YOU.

Max B.
Time to Pray

Lord Jesus, teach us to have faith in you. When we feel overwhelmed fill us with your peace, When we feel confused, fill us with your wisdom, When we feel self-doubt, fill us with the strength of your unconditional love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

John Dwyer
Religious Education Leader

Making Time for Jesus Awards

Well done to the following children for filling in their Making Time for Jesus cards.

Sebastian E (4C)

Parents’ Association News

Christmas Raffle: Christmas Raffle tickets will be sent home last week. Ticket cost is 5 tickets for $10. Please return raffle tickets and money to classroom teacher no later than Thursday 8th December. The raffle will be drawn on Monday, 12th December.

If you have any advertising needs you may advertise on our P.A. Notice board outside the office for $2 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.

WE NEED MORE HELPERS!!!!
If you would like to volunteer for the Parents’ Association and for all other queries please contact Christine Tolevski on 0412 666 945 or Suzana Ilievski on 0407 481 494 or via email papres@sfmillpark.catholic.edu.au
Prep Tennis
The Preps have been focusing on tennis skills this term and as we are a Tennis Australia partnership school this year we have been able to provide each Prep student with their very own tennis racquet! It's been great working with the students to develop their skills and now they can continue practising at home. Here they are with their brand new Racquets.

Swimming
We have had a great response to the 2017 swim team trials so far. Last week we had 30 swimmers in the pool, it's great to see so many students trialing for the team. We are still training on Wednesday mornings so if you are a confident swimmer in freestyle and backstroke over 50m and have not been to a session yet please come down and see how you go. The squad will be announced in the last week of Term 4 and we will have our final team selection trials in Term 1 next year.

Sports Uniforms
Could all Sport Uniforms please be returned by this Wednesday 7th December as we still have a number outstanding from Soccer/T-ball, Netball, Football and Basketball. These are sets that are needed for our teams each year! Please make sure you have returned yours.

We have had a great year in the PE Dept. We hope that all students have a safe, active and fun filled holiday break and we look forward to another great year in PE/Sport 2017.

Go SFOA!!

Mr. Brett McCarthy
Parade St. Damians
Junior Football Club
For more information visit www.paradesaints.com.au

*** Low cost - Great fun! ***
Come and join one of the fastest growing and family friendly clubs in the Yarra Junior Football League.

Girls and Boys welcome from ages 7 to 17
2017 Teams include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls Only Teams</th>
<th>Teams</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Under 15</td>
<td>★ Colts (Under 17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ Under 12</td>
<td>★ Under 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ Under 10</td>
<td>★ Under 12</td>
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Season begins March through to August.

- Too young to play?
- Not ready to commit to games yet?
- Just want to come down for a kick and improve your skills?

Boys and Girls aged 5 to 12 are encouraged to join our Auskick group running on Friday nights under lights from 6-7pm.

For more information or to register please visit www.paradesaints.com.au/auskick
WEEKEND MASS TIMES:
SATURDAY VIGIL: 5.00 PM;  
SUNDAY: 9 AM, 10.30 AM & 5.00 PM.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:
Monday – Friday 9.15 am  
Wednesday 7.30 pm  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

RECONCILIATION:
Saturday 9.45 am  
Wednesday evening after Mass & Novena

ADORATION:
Saturday 9.45 am – 11 am concluding with Benediction.  
Wednesday 7.30 am – 7.30 pm

MARRIAGES:
By appointment with a Priest.  
Contact Parish Office.

BAPTISMS:
By appointment with a priest.  
Contact Parish office.

LEGION OF MARY:
Every Tuesday in the Parish Youth Nook at 7.30 pm.

WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP:
Praise and worship every Thursday 7.30 pm in the Chapel followed by fellowship in the Youth Nook.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD:
Sundays 10.30 am Mass during term

VIGIL MASS:
1st Friday of the month 7 pm to 1 am.

FILIPINO MASS:
2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.

ITALIAN MASS:
2nd Tuesday of the month at 11.30 am.

MALTESE MASS:
3rd Sat. of the month at 4pm (chapel).  
Confessions: 3.30 pm;  
Rosary: 3.40 pm.

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:
Contact Alfons & Helen Glatzel: 9404 2050

LIFETEEN:
Sunday after 5.00 pm Mass.  
Contact James on 9407 6700.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:
2nd Fri of the month 7:30 pm in (chapel)

NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):
Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

AGAPE MALAYLEE PRAYER GROUP:
Every Sunday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (Chapel or Church)

______________________________________________________________

New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance
Thursday 31st December 2015, 7:00 pm—1:00 am

- Carvery meal & dessert (vegetarian available)
- Tea & Coffee provided (BYO drinks)
- Dinner will be served at 8pm


ST FORM A TABLE OF FAMILY & FRIENDS!
St Francis of Assisi Hall. For more info call Ruth on 9407 6704.  
Tickets now available.

Christmas Eve Play on 24th December at 6:30 pm

Would you like to participate in the Christmas Eve Nativity Play, starting at 6.30 pm, before the 7.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass? Please contact Ruth on 9407 6704 (leave a message).

CAROL SINGING AT WESTFIELD PLENTY VALLEY!
Our 5.00 pm Sunday Youth Choir will sing Christmas Carols at Westfield Plenty Valley on Wednesday 21st December, starting at 6.00 pm. Young singers are invited to come and join in. Contact Maree on 0450 274 888 or Ruth on 9407 6704. Keep the date free!

PARISH SUMMER HOLIDAY
You are invited to our Parish Camp!
When: Friday 6th – Sunday 8th January  
Where: Burnside Camp, Anglesea.

Come with your family and friends and enjoy a weekend at the beach in the school holidays. Bookings will be taken from next Sunday.

Contact Ruth: 9407 6704.

ROSARY WITH CHILDREN
At the Chapel every Saturday at 10:00 am under adult supervision. All children are invited and encouraged to learn how to say the Rosary.
A Youth Event
Hosted by Life Teen Mill Park

advent encounter
music · keynote · adoration · food

Friday 9th December - 6pm to 9.30pm

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
290 Childs Rd. Mill Park

FR. DAN SERRATORE MGL
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BISHOP MARK EDWARDS OMI
PRESIDING AT ADORATION

FREE EVENT / FOOD PROVIDED / PARISH PH: 9407 6700

millparkyouthministry
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
St Francis of Assisi Parish invites you to our

Parish Summer Holiday

FRIDAY 6TH – SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2017
Burnside camp, Anglesea

Burnside Camp is in a bushland setting 5 minutes drive from Anglesea Beach with excellent clean facilities. Recreation includes Beach Volley ball, Sports Oval with Cricket pitch, BBQ, Trampolines (with safety nets) and Nature Walks. There is a carpeted hall for indoor games and Table Tennis.

COST FOR THE WEEKEND:
Adult (18+) $75
Secondary school child (under 18) $40
Pre/Primary school child $30
Children under 3 free

Come and Enjoy!
Relax at the Beach!
Have fun with Family & Friends!

If you and your family wish to attend the Summer Camp, please fill in the slip below and return to the School or Parish Office. Enquiries: Ruth 9407 6704 (Ruth.Leas@cam.org.au).

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________ Mobile: ____________________________
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Prep B  Daniel M  for doing such a great job with his report about cheetahs. Well done!
Prep B  Andrea P  for the great pictures to match her animal report. Well done!
Prep B  Archie S  for being a responsible class member. Keep it up!
Prep B  Amelia P  for being confident coming into the classroom. Keep it up!
Prep J  Caitlin S  for creating a wonderful zebra for her animal habitat
Prep M  Alyssa V  for using strategies to work out words whilst reading. Well done, Alyssa!
Prep M  Oliver L  for creating an amazing habitat for a barn owl
Prep M  Isabel S  for creating an amazing habitat for a peregrine
Prep N  Jacob A  for trying his best
Prep N  Nakhlia Y  for his friendly and positive nature
Prep T  Alessia G  for forming her letters correctly
Prep U  Amarachi E  for sharing her learning about cheetahs at the Expo
Prep U  Xavier P  for his great non fiction book about snakes
Year 2B  Ava C  for writing a beautiful Christmas letter. Well done!
Year 2F  Alyssa R  for showing great improvement in her writing. Well done!
Year 2G  Antonio V  for working really hard this year. Well done!
Year 2R  Tiffany M  for always showing respect to teachers and peers and making sensible choices
Year 2U  Isaiah B  for working hard to complete Expo pieces to a high standard. Well done!
Year 2W  Lucas B  for trying his best to make good choices and focus on his work. Well done Lucas
Year 3A  Amy M  for showing enthusiasm and creativity with her Inquiry 3D model
Year 3D  Justin R  for showing good focus in completing set tasks. Well done!
Year 3M  Cara S  for always working hard and showing a positive approach to her learning. Well done!
Year 3P  Jesse A  for creating an excellent cinquain for poetry writing
Year 3R  Talia  for trying to keep positive and showing resilience even in hard times
Year 3T  Lachlan R  for excellent listening and doing his best across all curriculum areas
Year 4A  Julian F  for an excellent start to life at St. Francis of Assisi. Keep it up!
Year 4B  Ava B  for contributing and working hard in her literacy focus groups
Year 4C  Arlen G  for being resilient and contributing to class discussions
Year 4I  Dominik G  for putting in a great deal of effort with his home learning. Well done!
Year 4J  Ramiro E  for working hard in literacy
Year 4M  Jaxon N  for sharing ideas and working hard all week
Year 4M  Jaiden J  for sharing ideas and working hard all week
Year 5K  Maddison W  for being a pleasure to have in our class
Year 5M  Daniel C  for his mature attitude and ability to lead by example
Year 5O  Evan P  for always helping others and his funny sense of humour
Year 5R  Tia S  for working beautifully and completing all her learning tasks
Year 5S  Sydney L  for a fantastic year
Year 5S  Giuliana D  for a fantastic year
Year 5S  Gabrielle L  for a fantastic year
Year 5S  Luke M  for a fantastic year
Year 5S  Angela F  for a fantastic year
Year 5T  Amelia R  for finishing the year off really strongly and maintaining high standards with her homework
Year 5T  Venessa K  for finishing the year off really strongly and maintaining high standards with her homework
Year 6B  Ethan C  for being resilient and positive in the face of all challenges
Year 6D  Isabelle K  for her creative nativity scene. Well done and keep it up!
Year 6H  Kathryn D  for working so hard to produce a beautiful outfit for her fashion elective
Year 6M  Chloe M  for having a positive attitude and being a helpful class member. Wow!
Year 6S  Tijana I  for using her initiative and being a responsible learner
Year 6W  Julie P  for her creative contemporary nativity scene. Well done!