5th December, 2013
Dear Parents

As we come to the end of another academic year we give thanks for all of our blessings. Our annual Farewell Ceremony and BBQ will take place this evening. I wish to congratulate and farewell our Year 6 students and Year 7 students as they move onto a whole new phase in their lives. It is now up to these children to be the best that they can be after receiving a wonderful foundation at our school. I am sure that all of them will flourish in their new environments. I wish all our families a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

I wish to thank a number of people. Firstly, our wonderful staff at the school. They only always give of their very best for the good of every child. Thank you teachers, aides and general staff!! Thank you to the P&F for their outstanding support during the year. Your great efforts have helped keep the school well - resourced. Our facilities and resources are second to none.

Thank you to Fr Rod for his wholehearted support of the school; it is wonderful to know that we have such a caring “patron” who is always ready to support us. I wish to farewell Mrs Andrea King who resigned as teacher librarian recently. We thank her for her service to the school. Congratulations go to Mrs Mandie Tindall who has been appointed as our new Teacher Librarian. We look forward to working with you next year. We also farewell Mrs Susan Smith as a teacher aide. Thank you Susan for your excellent care and service of the children. Parents should please keep their “eye out” for school reports which were sent home today.

VALE MARION YOUNG

The St Francis de Sales School community would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Young family on the loss of Marion. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of grief.

Marion has been a great friend and supporter of our school for many years and has always offered a wonderful service to the school community. She has also been an integral part of the Clifton community and she will be sorely missed.

R.I.P.
Message from Bishop Robert

Dear School families,

As the school year comes to a close, I wanted to offer some insights into this time of Advent. Sunday 24 November 2013 was the feast of Christ the King and the commencement of the last week of the liturgical year.

Sunday 1 December 2013 is the first Sunday of Advent and the start of the new liturgical year. The prefix ad indicates movement towards something, a preparation for an event. We know Advent is the time when we prepare for the coming of the birth of Jesus.

It is a time of preparation for the wonderful celebrations of Christmas. In our part of the world there are many things going on at the one time all calling for our attention: end of year functions and the rush to complete many tasks before closing down and going on summer holidays.

Amid all the demands being made on us at this time let us not be entirely carried away with incidentals but truly make it a time when we can step back so that we may fully appreciate the extraordinary blessings being offered to us.

In the past, people may have used a trusty wind up alarm clock lest you slept in and missed an important event. You may still use that alarm clock but today people are more likely to use some electronic device, perhaps a mobile phone, to alert you it is time to get up and be under way.

The Advent Liturgy is our wake up call to a forthcoming event. We are being told to be fully awake, to be watchful and prayerful. The voice of St John the Baptist calls people back to God. The call is to repentance and for a change of heart.

It is a time when we ourselves are invited to receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance, to receive the goodness of the Lord and to share that with those around us. It is a time when we can repair broken friendships, to reach out to others.

This Advent may we not only hear the call but generously respond, preparing a way for the Lord in our heart and in our world.
**SCHOOL FEES:**

All outstanding fees are to please be paid by Friday, 6 December 2013.

It would be appreciated if any families having difficulty meeting this commitment could contact me as soon as possible.

**Reminder:**

If your child is going home with any other parent tomorrow, please ensure that a note is sent to school detailing this information.

**COFFEE MORNING FRIDAY**

If you would like to join parents for a coffee tomorrow morning (Friday 6/12/13) before picking up your children from school after the Xmas assembly, please meet at the Jam Factory at 9am.

**Prep Parents**

The students are bringing all their books home. As some are not completely full, please send them back next year and we shall continue our work in them. This will cut down on a few books that you need to order.

*Thanks, Jacqui Drysdale.*

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**Dates To Remember**

**DECEMBER**

5th - 6.00pm Year 7 Farewell Mass in Church + all students to attend. Everyone Welcome

5th - 7.15pm - P & F end of Year BBQ Celebration at School for all Parents and students.

6th - 11.00a.m. Xmas Assembly. School Closes at 11.15 a.m.

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**2014**

**JANUARY**

18th - School Office will be open.
18th - 22nd Pupil Free - Staff In-Service.
27th - Working Bee at School 8.00 - 11.00
27th - Uniform Shop Open 8.00 - 11.00
28th - School commences

**FEBRUARY**

4th - P & F Meeting 7.00pm
9th - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
14th - 16th Clifton Show
28th - P & F Meet and Greet (DATE CLAIM)

**March**

15th - Parish Fete at the school.
18th - 20th LITERACY WORKSHOPS

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**Club Hotel Raffle Roster**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 6th</td>
<td>K Keleher &amp; P McKenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13th</td>
<td>R Auger &amp; K Meacle (Holidays)</td>
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**Quote of the Week**

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.

– Florence Nightingale

**God Bless,**

Brett Pollard

Principal
Uniforms

Remember that you can pre order your children’s uniforms by completing the order forms on the school's web site and then emailing them to me ready for pick up on the 27th January. This year we also have in stock Chair bags in Bottle Green for $7.00 and Day Socks are available in a 3 pack for $ 14.00. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and safe travels over the New Year break, see you again on the 27th January.

Many Thanks
Uniform Convenor

Xmas Tree

Tomorrow is the last day to bring in a donation for those in need at Christmas. If you have not already done so, please help fill up the space.

Christmas Hamper

It is that time of year when we need to turn our attention to those that are less fortunate than ourselves. As we have done every year, we are asking you to bring in one or two items of food (with an extended period of time before expiry) each week. The display in the office only has a few items on it; so please don’t delay, send in your items.
FAREWELL MASS ORGANISATION

I would like to encourage every child in the school to be seated in the church for the Farewell Mass by 5.55pm at the latest. The Prep/1 classes will be seated together in the front four rows in the church on the right-hand side facing the Altar, while the Year 2/3 Class will be seated behind them. The 4/5’s will sit on the left hand side facing the altar. Our Year 6/7 Class will be seated in the middle front 3 rows of the church with the next 6 rows in the central aisle being reserved for their immediate families.

Year 2/3 Pirate Plays

Congratulations to the Year 2/3 Class who put on a great show this morning. The plays were enjoyed by all.

"Thank you to the parents, siblings and grandparents that came along to our Year 2/3 pirate plays. We had a lot of fun performing for you and hope you enjoyed it too!" Mrs Taylor

St Frannies has Talent!

Well done to all the children who took part in the competition. What a delight to watch the finalists!!! Congratulations to Lexie Wilkinson for winning the competition. She was selected by our panel of judges: Fr Rod, Mrs Larkin and Mrs Fogarty.