Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Mass: Thank you so much for making me feel so welcome at last Sunday’s 9:30am parish mass! Father Stephen and all of our staff plus parents have made me feel ‘at home’ and I am very blessed to be the principal of St Mark’s. I look forward to working with you this year.

Camp: This week is exciting for our Year 5 and Year 6 students as they go on camp with their classmates and teachers from Wednesday until Friday. The Year 5 students will travel to Tunnel Ridge at Landsborough (www.tunnelridge.com.au) and the Year 6 students will travel to Alexandra Headlands to the Alex Park Conference Centre (www.alexpark.com.au).

Both camps offer excellent outdoor education activities and it is a fantastic way for our students to experience many these outdoor activities and also to create special bonds within and across classes. Staff attending the Year 5 camp are Ms Donato, Mr Biddulph, Mrs Gorman, Mrs Kuschert and Mrs De Jesus. Staff attending the Year 6 camp are Mr Ebzery, Ms Waites, Mr Johnstone, Mrs Eaton and Mrs Lysaght. I will attend both camps and look forward to spending time with our students. My thanks go to the teachers attending - whilst they will be having fun; they are ‘on duty’ day and night.

Outdoor Education Centre: Soccer has been popular with the Year 3—6 students on the oval. We have also been using our new outdoor education centre for the past week and it has been a hit as you can see by the photos! We are having a small opening and blessing of the centre next Friday 11th March at 9am and all parents are invited to attend. Two special guests (Mr Montgomery and Mrs Ioannides) will be joining us for the morning!

Dance Cart: Our Dance Cart concert will be at 6:30pm on Friday 18 March in Mercy Hall. Costume requirements can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal

“No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.” ~ Helen Keller
Please help us raise money for Project Compassion

Every year St Mark’s does an outstanding job of raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves by contributing to Caritas’ Lenten Appeal of Project Compassion. This year to date we have only raised about $650. We are incredibly grateful for this contribution—and we encourage you, where possible, to dig a little deeper to find some spare change to contribute. Huge congratulations to Mrs Scanlon and the students of 3G for their donation of $226 over the past 3 weeks!! Let’s see if another class can catch them! One fundraising suggestion is to put an empty jar in the kitchen and any spare change gets put into the jar. It is surprising how quickly 5c and 10c pieces add up! The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”. As Pope Francis says, “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning.

St Mark’s Sacramental Program 2016

Confirmation and First Holy Communion for children in Year 3 and above.

Enrolment form with payment of $50 per child or $75 per family and a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate must be lodged by Friday 8th April at the Parish office.

Parents must also attend a Parents Information Session on Wednesday 13th April at 7pm in the church. For the children, the teaching program commences on Saturday 16th April.

Enrolment forms can be collected from the table at the church entrance, the school office, the parish office (office hours are Mon-Fri, 9am to 3pm), downloading from parish web page: www.stmarksinala.com. Or by … Contacting the Parish Secretary: Phone: 3372 5658. Email: stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au.

Date Claimers ...

- Year 5 & 6 students go on camp tomorrow: Wednesday—Friday 2-4 March.
- This Friday, 4 March, 3W will lead us in our Assembly Prayer at 8:45 in Mercy Hall.
- 4W & 1G will celebrate their buddy class mass on Thursday 3 March at 9:30 am in the Church.
- The Year 6 students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 10 March.
- Our new Outdoor Learning Area will be Opened and Blessed on Friday 11 March at 9am.
- The School Swimming Carnival has been postponed until Monday 14 March and is a wonderful way to demonstrate the virtue of Resilience! See you all there!
- Year 4 & 5 students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 17 March (St Patrick’s Day).
- Dance Cart concert will be at 6:30am on Friday 18 March in Mercy Hall. Please drop children to classrooms by 6pm.
- Our Holy Week liturgy will be on Thursday 24 March at 11:30am in the Church.
- School holidays start at 3pm on Thursday 24 March. Good Friday, 25 March is a public holiday.
- School starts back at 8:30am on Monday 11 April.

Virtue of the Week: Friendliness

What is Friendliness?
Friendliness is taking an interest in other people, making them feel welcome, and being willing to share with them. When you are friendly, you happily share the things you have. You share your time and yourself. Friendliness is sharing the good times and the bad times together.

You are practising Friendliness when you …
- Like yourself.
- Share yourself and what you have with others.
- Look for someone to do things with.
- Smile at someone that you don’t know.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
SPORTING NEWS:

AFL Gala Day: Last Monday, St Mark’s entered a Senior Boys and Girls team in the regional AFLQ Carnival. In hot conditions, both teams toiled hard with some encouraging results to match. Unfortunately, neither team progressed through to the next round of this competition, but all players certainly took plenty from the experience of playing in a high level of play. My thanks to all of the players who competed well in trying conditions, Mrs De Jesus and the many Parents who come to support both teams on the day.

District Basketball: Congratulations to Jeremiah Fereti from Year 5W, who gained selection in the Inala District Basketball Boys team to compete in the Regional Carnival in coming months.

Swimming Carnival: Teachers have been busy organising their students into events for the swim carnival on Monday March 14. I have made some changes to the carnival format this year. The Year 1 and Year 2 carnivals will this year be split into 2 separate times with Year 2 going down from 9:15-11:15 while Year 1 will compete from 11:15 - 1:15. Year 3 will be in the mushroom pool, with the best swimmers joining the senior carnival for all 25 m events and then going back to the mushroom pool in between these races. The Senior carnival (Year 4-6) will be in the Olympic size pool from 9-1:30.

Parents, I have left Mrs Aileen Richter in charge of organising a Parent’s team for the novelty event so if water is your go, please see her. Already Mr Everett has deserted the teachers and signed on for the Parent’s team.

Should you have any further queries about swimming or anything sport please don’t hesitate to see me.

Sporting Prediction: Parents as I will be away on School camp this Thursday, my prediction for the opening game of the NRL Season is Parramatta 28 – Broncos 12.

Kind Regards, Mr Biddulph.

Prep 2017 Enrolments

St Mark’s School is now accepting applications for enrolments from all our school families and the wider community for Prep 2017. A child born from 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012 will be eligible for Prep in 2017.

Please come to the office to collect an application form.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN MORNING at Brigidine College, Indooroopilly on Monday 7 or Tuesday 8 March 2016 9.30-10.30am

OFFER YOUR DAUGHTER THE CHANCE to be a part of a strong academic tradition balanced by the wellbeing philosophy of Strength and Gentleness.

Phone 3870 7225 to secure an enrolment pack or book a place for the Open Morning Visitaton Day
Go to www.brigidine.qld.edu.au for more information.

DANCE CART!

All parents and friends are invited to attend the Dance Cart showcase evening on Friday 18th March to see what their children have been learning in dance class this term. Parents are asked to have their children to their classrooms by 6pm so that the Concert can commence at 6.30pm.

Listed below are the costume requirements for each class:

PG – Eye of the Tiger: All students – Plain white T shirt and coloured shorts

PW – I’ve Been Everywhere: All students - Plain white T shirt and plain green school shorts

PB – I Milk Cows: All students – Plain White T shirt and plain green school shorts

1G – Walking on Sunshine: All students – Jeans and any shirt (they will given a shirt to wear)

1W – ABC: All students – Jeans and any shirt (they will given a shirt to wear)

1B – Calendar Girl: Girls – Plain white T shirt and black leggings to go under a skirt; Boys – Jeans and a plain white T shirt

2G – Ring Ring: All students – Jeans and any shirt (they will given a shirt to wear)

2W – This Ole House: Girls – Plain white T shirt and leggings to go under a skirt

2B – Signed Sealed Delivered: All students – Jeans and a plain white T shirt

3G – Telephone: Girls – Black leggings to go under a skirt and any shirt (they will be given a shirt to wear); Boys – Jeans and any shirt (they will be given a shirt to wear)

3W – 4 Minutes: Girls – Black Leggings to go under a skirt and a plain white T shirt; Boys – Jeans and a Plain white T shirt

3B – Price Tag: Girls – Black singlet or T shirt and black leggings (knee length if possible); Boys – Jeans and a Plain white T shirt

4G – Surfin Safari: Girls – Plain white T shirt and black leggings to go under a skirt; Boys – Plain white T shirt and Boardies/surf shorts

4W – Sugar Rush: Girls – Plain White T shirt and black leggings to go under a skirt; Boys – Jeans and a plain white T shirt

4B – On the Road Again: All Students – Plain white T shirt and jeans

5G – Vogue: Girls – Plain white T shirt and Black leggings to go under a skirt; Boys – Jeans and a plain white T shirt

5W – Bills: All Students – Plain white T shirt and jeans

6G – TNT: Girl – Plain white T shirt and black leggings to go under a skirt; Boy – Jeans and a plain white T shirt

6W – Eat It: All students – Jeans and a Plain white T shirt
MONSTER EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS PLEASE!

Please bring in Easter Eggs, Chocolates, or non-chocolate items like Easter Activity Books, Stickers or soft toys, things to make up Easter Hamper Prizes.

Brisbane P&F AGM Meeting on
Thursday 10th March 2016 5.30pm at the Marist College, Ashgrove
Everyone Welcome—Complimentary Supper Provided

Special Guest for the evening : Michelle Young speaking on Visible Learning
Michelle is a Senior Education Officer at Brisbane Catholic Education.
Visible Learning is the result of the largest ever evidence-based research into what actually works best in education.

According to Hattie's findings Visible Learning occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of students and help them become their own teachers. RSVP Friday 4 March info@pandf.org.au or call 3336 9242
Please advise Dietary Requirements Brisbane Catholic Parents and Friends

$20 Family Portraits on Saturday 19th March 2016 @Mercy Hall

WHAT YOU RECEIVE FOR $20.00

TO BOOK—Use your Smart phone, Laptop or Computer to go online to book & pay $20

- Sitting times are allocated online only -

Any questions call Ena Miranda on 0413 713 432 or email her on ena_607@hotmail.com

2016 Queensland Catholic Schools Parents Conference
1:00pm Saturday 30 April to 12:00pm Monday 2 May 2016 @ ROCKHAMPTON

Engaged Communities for the Future.

We invite you to be part of conversation around the following:
What does Parent Engagement and Parent Voice look like in your Catholic school in the future?
Your school community is invited to attend this important Conference and we encourage every school to be represented at this event.
Plan now to send at least one member of the school leadership team and a parent from every school community to this Conference to Dr Debbie Pushor.

Happy 3rd Birthday Tempy