Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all who came to the fabulous Mothers’ Day BBQ last Friday – we had a great time! Our special thanks also go to Robert and Heather from Bunnings for the craft, the staff for cooking, setting up and face painting and to the P and F members who organised the afternoon. We hope all Mums and Grandmothers were blessed and spoilt day on Mothers’ day.

Homework Club: We have changed the homework club time to 8am-8:30am each Tuesday morning in the library for Year 3-6 students.

NAPLAN: This week, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will participate in the national testing program in the areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Maths across the days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (one hour per day). The national tests are one piece of assessment at one particular time and the results will be known in August/September. If your child is sick during the testing, please let their class teacher know if you wish them to sit the test on Friday morning.

High School Expo: Next Wednesday May 18, St Mark’s will be holding a ‘High School Expo’ in Mercy Hall from 6-8 pm. This expo is an opportunity for Catholic High Schools within our catchment area to display, demonstrate and communicate what their school has to offer. As high school selection for your child is an important decision in their educational journey, we would encourage you to attend. Parents know their child best and an expo such as this will make parents aware of the schools that can best cater for their child’s learning and educational needs. Please note, that many high schools request enrolments for students from as early as Year 3-4. Schools exhibiting at our High School Expo are – Our Lady’s College, Annerley, St Augustine’s College, Springfield, St Peter Claver College Ipswich, Ambrose Treacy College, Indooroopilly, St Thomas More’s College, Sunnybank, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, St Lawrence’s College, South Brisbane and St James’ College, Fortitude Valley.

Uniform: Thank you for keeping to the uniform guidelines in regards to wearing the correct uniform on the correct day. On school photo day, (Wednesday 25th May), all Year 1-6 students need to wear their formal check uniform. You will receive a photo pack for ordering photos with your child today.

Staffing news: Mrs Debbie Eaton, our P.E. teacher, has resigned due to her family moving to the Sunshine Coast. Debbie has been an integral part of our St Mark’s community for the past 9 years and her excellent teaching, good humour and fantastic involvement in ongoing care for all of the students at St Mark’s will be greatly missed. Debbie’s last day at school will be on Thursday 23rd June. More details will follow in the next few weeks for Debbie’s farewell.

Mrs Jess Oliveri (Year 1B) and her husband announce the birth of their daughter, Indi, on the weekend. We wish their family many blessings on their new baby girl!

This week, Ms Cheryl Waites (Year 6G teacher) and Mrs Clare Kuschert (Assistant Principal) are in New Zealand on a study tour which involves visiting schools that are implementing the Visible Learning approach to teaching and learning. Their valuable insights and learnings whilst away will greatly assist the professional development of our teachers when they return.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal
Virtue of the Week: Determination

What is Determination?
Determination is focusing your energy and efforts on a particular task and then sticking with what you are doing until the task is done. Determination is using your will power to do something even when it is really hard. You try and try, you work and work, until you get it done.

You are practising Determination when you ...
- Believe what you are doing is important.
- Resist being distracted.
- Keep going even if it gets difficult.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Finish what you start.

Date Claimers ...
- NAPLAN is on this week: Tuesday 10 May—Thursday 12 May.
- Our Pentecost Assembly will be run by 1B (with a little help from their buddies, 5G) this Friday 13 May.
- Our annual HIGH SCHOOL EXPO will be on next Wednesday, 18 May from 6pm. If you have a child in Yr 3-6 we encourage to you come along to chat to some local Catholic high schools about enrolling for Yr 7 onwards.
- 6G + 2W will celebrate their buddy class mass next Thursday, 19 May at 9:30am.
- 1W will lead us in Assembly Prayer on Friday 20 May.
- SCHOOL PHOTOS are on Wednesday 25 May.
- Our school Disco will be at 6:00pm on Friday 3 June in Mercy Hall.
- The bi-annual school fundraising Lapathon will be on Friday 10 June.
- St Mark’s Athletics Carnival will be on Friday 17 June.
- Year 5 & 6 Personal Development workshop with NET Ministries and Real Talk will run Monday –Wednesday 20-22 June.
- School Holidays start at 3pm on Friday 24 June.
**ADVERTISMENT FOR SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR**

**CASUAL POSITION VACANT**

A casual position exists for a School Crossing Supervisor at St Marks Catholic School.

The hours of work for the School Crossing Supervisor may be up to an hour in the morning and half an hour in the afternoon.

School Crossing Supervisor/s may be required to work five days per week in all weather conditions.

Commencement of work for the successful applicant is dependent on:

The favourable outcome of a health assessment carried out by a duly qualified Medical Practitioner according to the guidelines in the “Notes for Medical Practitioner” on the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme - Health Assessment Form;

The applicant either holding a current Blue Card or having submitted an application for a Blue Card to the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. An applicant will not be employed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads unless they meet this criterion.

Department of Transport of Main Roads will organise and fund both for selected applicant.

Application packs are available from the School.

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May is National Family Reading Month!!! Please take the time to read with your children as it improves language and literacy skills, builds relationships and role models great reading habits!! We are building a collage to celebrate this initiative and would love photos of your family reading.

Please send them to lmcollins@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Thanks
Leesa Keaton
Teacher Librarian
Well done to all the students that represented St Mark’s at the District Cross Country! As a spectator and a parent, I was very pleased and extremely proud to see each student giving their 100%. A huge thank you to the P & F for the new singlets. They looked fantastic and you can see the students wore them with pride. Thank you to Mr Biddulph & Teachers for their dedication in training our students and organising this great event! Photo & Story by Mrs Aileen Richter.

Thank you to the Parents, Teachers & Students who volunteered, Robert & Heather from Bunnings, DJ Manny, Cr Charles Shrunk & Melanie from The Premiers office for supporting our Mothers Day BBQ. Thank you to the families who joined us to celebrate our Wonderful Mothers!

Thank you, Anna, Ena & Veronica for running the Mothers Day Stall.

UPCOMING P&F EVENTS...

Wed 1st June 2016 State of Origin—Wear your team colours —Gold Coin donation
Fri 3rd June 2016, 6.00-8.00pm School Disco—Gold Coin Entry.
Fri 10th June 2016 Lap-a-thon or Walkathon—Our Major Fundraiser