Semester One Reports: Thursday 23rd June

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, our students ran and walked the Lap-a-thon on the oval which raises money for the P and F Association. Thanks to all staff for the organisation and running of the event. It was actually a hot day and the students did an excellent job to complete the course! Please send all money and sponsorship forms into the office by this Friday.

Athletics Day this week: The exciting whole school event this Friday is the annual inter-house Athletics carnival. There are two lead up days before the main day on Friday. My thanks go to Mr Biddulph for his excellent co-ordination and to the teachers who have worked so well in preparation to ensure it all goes well. Details for events are contained in this newsletter. All parents and families are very welcome to come and support your children on all sports days this week.

Important things to note for this Friday:

• Sausage sizzle orders need to be in to the tuckshop this Thursday
• A coffee van is in attendance on Friday from 8.30am – 11 am.
• Children may wear their house colours on Friday: blue for McAuley, gold for MacKillop and red for Mercy.

Enrolments: We are currently enrolling Prep students for 2017. Please make a time for a meeting with me if you have a child who is entering Prep next year. We are also currently developing staffing plans and budgets for next year. Apart from Year 6, if your child is not returning to St Mark’s next year, please give the office a call to let us know.

Winter Appeal: Our winter appeal continues on for the next two weeks – thanks so far for your generous donations to help those in need during winter in our community.

Semester One Reports: Student reports are currently being written and printed and will be distributed to you on Thursday 23rd June. Students will take their own report home on that day. If you wish to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss the report, please make an appointment to see them in the first week of next term. Cohort reports for each year level detail the general percentage results across a year level and will be available from the office on Thursday 23rd June if you wish to receive one.

Building update: During these July holidays, we hope to begin the renovation and new construction of the Administration office building. More details will follow next week.

Enjoy the week ahead,

Allison Malouf
Principal
Virtue of the Week: Enthusiasm

What is Enthusiasm?

Enthusiasm is doing something whole-heartedly. It is giving 100%. It is really getting behind something, holding nothing back. Being enthusiastic is being excited about something, looking forward to it. It is being cheerful, happy and positive. Enthusiasm comes from having a positive attitude.

You are practicing Enthusiasm when you …

- Throw yourself into what you are doing – give 100%.
- Smile, laugh and have a good time while you do things.
- Think of imaginative ways to do a dull job.
- Do something just to serve God.

Date Claimers ...

- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal is on now!! Please bring in your donations to classrooms!
- This Thursday, 16 June, 3B and Prep B will celebrate their buddy mass class. All are welcome!
- This Friday, 17 June, is the St Mark’s Athletics Carnival. Parents and friends are welcome to attend!
- Next week, Monday-Wednesday 20-22 June, our Year 5 and 6 students will participate in a 3 day retreat focused on providing them with the skills and knowledge they need as they continue to grow and face new challenges. The students will be invited to explore their relationship with Jesus, especially as they start to experience changes in their world. Monday will be facilitated by NET Ministries and will focus on the importance of God in their lives and how relying on God can help in times of difficulty. On Tuesday Real Talk and NET Ministries will be talking to the children about the importance of making good choices and the role God can play in those decisions. Wednesday will be run by St Mark’s staff as they explore some of the physical changes the students will experience as they continue to journey through puberty. This is the fifth year we have run a similar experience for the students and I know that they have found it helpful. Please come and see me if you have any questions.

Year 3 Visit to St Stephen’s Cathedral

Last Thursday, the Year Three’s visited St Stephen’s Cathedral, as part of our RE unit focusing on how people become members of the Catholic Church. Our visit began with the excitement of a bus ride to the city followed by Mass and a tour of the historical features around the Precinct. During the visit, we met some of the many people who work and volunteer within the Brisbane Archdiocese. This included a special visit with Archbishop Mark Coleridge who took time out of his busy day to come and say ‘hello’ to us. He reminded us that St Mark’s is very special to him because we share the same name! We also each had the opportunity to add our own ‘heart’ lock to the ‘heart of mercy’ art piece as a symbol of our commitment to show love to others. We are very grateful to the Vocations Office for making this available to us!

Here are a few of the students’ reflections on the day:

“The most interesting thing I learnt was that the word ‘cathedral’ comes from a Greek word which means ‘bishops chair’.”

“I saw a statue of St Mary Mackillop and next to her there were prayer candles. People could light the candles and say a prayer.”

“I remember the organ with the enormous pipes!”

“We did a lot of activities but all of Year three was excited because a man called Patrick showed us the art piece of the heart of mercy. He gave us each a lock in the shape of a heart to put on the art work and then we said a prayer about mercy. We got to keep the keys!”

“Our tour guide was named Frankie. She showed us special things like the stained glass windows. One of the windows had St Mark in it!”

“We met Archbishop Mark and he showed us his Bishops cross. He told us that he was going for a trip to Rome the next day.”


**Bush Friends**

Year 4 students have been engaged with the Bush Friends program from the Brisbane City Council over the past few weeks. Last Tuesday, the council officers - Brendan, Lisa and Gemma – made their last visit with the students. Out at Kitty’s place, they revised previous information given to the students of: looking after our environment; picking up rubbish on the land; highlighting the harm cats can cause if left out at night and how our own backyards can be places for our bush friends.

The students then made a butterfly puddle which are shallow and filled with sand, stones and a little water so the butterflies can carefully stand in the water. Previous Year 4 students’ butterfly puddles can still be seen in various locations around the school. The students also made insect hotels from left over pipes and filled them with sticks for the insects to visit. Similar hotels can be made at home with soft drink bottles and sticks.

The Bush Friends program from the council recently won an award for their work with Year Four students from all over Brisbane and the St Mark’s teachers and students agree that it is a worthwhile program!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations Amielia and Kruze for making the Met West Regional U12 Touch Team. They will be competing at the State Championships on the 18th-21st August in Roma. Also well done to Jacob, who despite his age, was selected as a Shadow (reserve player). There were 9 school districts at the trials so these St Mark’s students played very well to gain selection.- Aileen Richter

There was a great article in the QT about the increase in numbers of ladies playing footy these days. Kayliah Connors, an ex St Marks Student, was in the article as one of the girls competing in the footy State Championships in Toowoomba. She has been working hard at footy since her days at St Marks when she first made it into the Inala team 2014. Kayliah has proven that a combination of determination and hard work in chasing your dreams will take you far. St Mark’s keep an eye out for this future star.

A few tips that can help your Child Succeed in School!

Create a home environment that encourages learning eg. leave books lying around the house for them to read OR take them to the library OR share stories from your childhood.

Set high but achievable expectations for your child’s achievements and future careers

Open communication—Ask them what they learned at school or what they loved about their day, tell them about your day, engage them in a conversation.

These tips were from Going Beyond the Bake Sale—Anne Henderson or go to www.pandf.org.au

Wear your House Colours this Friday at the Sports Carnival!

Parents if you are available this Friday 17th June, you are Welcome to join your Child at their Sports Carnival—Come & Create Happy Memories to last a Lifetime!

Thank you to the person who kindly nominated me for a Qld Day Community Award it was greatly appreciated. My mother was very excited to attend this special event.

Kind Regards Agnes Sio

Thank you to the South West Progress Association for organising the Qld Day Community Awards & Welcoming Baby Ceremonies. They aim to uphold the evolving social standards whilst facilitating community pride in our environment. Please call 3271 4867 for further details if you wish to assist them.