Dear Parents and Carers

Swimming carnival: Thank you to Mr Biddulph for his excellent organisation for our swimming carnival yesterday and to the enthusiastic students and staff for their participation and supervision. Congratulations to MacKillop House for their mighty and close win! Congratulations to the age champions who will be presented with their medals on Friday at assembly.

Kitty’s Place: Last Friday, we welcomed Mr Montgomery and Mrs Ioannides back to St Mark’s to help us bless and open our new outdoor education centre – to be known as Kitty’s Place. Kitty was the nickname of Catherine McAuley (founder of the Mercy sisters) and we thank Father Stephen for so beautifully leading us in the blessing. It’s a great outdoor space – please come and see it with your child! Thank you to our parents who attended – it was great to see you there.

Dance Cart: This Friday night at 6:30pm is the Dance Cart concert in Mercy Hall – we are looking forward to entertaining our parents. All children need to be at their classroom by 6pm. Please note that there is no food being sold on the evening.

Stand Up Against Bullying: This Friday, we recognise and endorse the National Day Against Bullying – your child will receive a wristband with important messages from this day.

Book Fair: Thank you to Mrs Keaton and Mrs Badke in the library for getting our book display together! Books are able to be purchased for the rest of this week.

Easter: The Easter Raffle at St Mark’s is BIG – 100 prizes to be won! Thank you for your donations so far and please keep them coming in. The Easter Raffle will be drawn next Wednesday afternoon from 2pm in Mercy Hall. Thank you also for your continued donations to Project Compassion as every little bit of money helps.

P and F AGM: The Executive Committee for 2016 have all been re-elected. My thanks go to Agnes Sio (President), Anna Sinitsky (Vice-President), Veronica Tierney (Secretary) and Ena Miranda (Treasurer) for their on-going service to our school through their P and F roles. Agnes and Anna will also be representatives on the Archdiocesan P and F Council.

Arriving at school: Our school day starts at 8:40am – if your child arrives late, they must sign in at the office and receive a ‘late slip’ to take to their teacher. If your child is sick at home, please phone the school by 9am to let us know. If your child is sick and we do not hear from you, you will receive an automatic text message asking you to call the school. Thank you for keeping to these guidelines.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
— Anne Frank
**Virtue of the Week: Generosity**

*What is Generosity?*

Generosity is sharing. Generosity is giving to someone else something that is meaningful to you. It is giving freely without thought of a reward, recognition, or a gift in return. It means giving fully, giving a person or group that deserves your help, all the help that you can possible give them.

*You are practising generosity when you...*

- Donate money to Project Compassion.
- Give all that you can.
- Enjoy giving freely.
- Think of a way to help or give something that means something to you.

**Mrs Nikki Lysaght**
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Swimming Carnival Aged Champions

Year level champions from the swimming carnival were announced yesterday and the medal presentations will be made on Friday's assembly (18/3/16). Thank you to the students, teachers and parents who enthusiastically participated in yesterday's carnival and for the preparation that took place leading up to the carnival. My special thanks to Mrs Oudyn, Mrs Brehemer & Mrs Scanlon who co-ordinated the Year's 1, 2 & 3 carnivals respectively.

Yesterday McKillop (Gold) house were the winners of the 2016 swim carnival for the 1st time since 2004, in a very close finish. Mercy (Red) were a close second with McAuley (Blue) a commendable 3rd.

The emerging champions for Year 3 were Ruben and Yvonne, while Cruze and BJ were the Year level champions for Year 4, Lily and Michael in Year 5 and Amiela and Daniel in Year 6.

Year level champions will receive their medals on Friday's assembly (March 1)

District Cross Country

Now that swimming has finished for this part of the year, we now turn our attention to the Inala District Cross Country to be held at St Mark's on Friday April 29. We have hosted this event for many years and it is an excellent promotion for our school in the wider community.

Training will commence this week for any student born in 2004, 2005 and 2006 who wish to trial for a place in the St Mark's team for this event.

Kind Regards
Mr Biddulph - Sports Co-Ordinator

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

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

Book Fair This Week!!

The Book Fair is an exciting way to promote reading and books. Parents you are most welcome to join us in the library for the Book Fair. The children will view the books in library time from Monday to Wednesday. It is always a fun time!

Parent Viewing Times:

Mon (not before school) 3.00 – 3.30pm
Tues 8.00 – 8.30am 3.00 - 3.30pm
Wed 8.00 – 8.30am 3.00 – 3.30pm
Thurs 8.00 – 8.30am 3.00 - 3.30pm
Fri 8.00 – 8.30am (last opportunity to purchase, books returned later in the morning)

Children are given the opportunity to fill out a Wish List in order to help them and their parents with the purchasing. It is explained as a Wish List – some wishes come true others don’t! You are not expected to buy everything on this list – please do not let your child convince you of this. You may prefer to select a book with your child. This should ensure that both you and your child are happy with the purchase. You are most welcome to visit the Book Fair. If you are unable to attend but want your child to purchase a book then please send money for purchases by Friday. MANY BOOKS ARE IN THE $4 TO $10 RANGE. Should you wish to donate a book from the fair to the school, please see Mrs Keaton or Mrs Badke.

Happy reading!
Leesa Keaton and Therese Badke
(Teacher-Librarians)
Please bring in Easter Eggs, Chocolates, or non-chocolate items like Easter Books, Stickers, Easter Bunny toys— to make up Easter Hamper Prizes.

UPDATE FROM P&F MEETING ON 9TH MARCH 2016

P&F Meetings are now on every 2nd MONDAY of each month

Next meeting is on **MONDAY 11TH APRIL 5PM**

P&F purchased a set of St Mark’s Singlets for our Student Representatives to borrow when representing the school in district competition.

P&F approved to pay for the great ideas that Mrs Malouf suggested to support our Children. Install a water bubbler/fountain in the Father Gilly Lions Oval, a chilled water option in the bubblers in the middle of the school and a portable PA system.

**Term 2 Events** (11th April – 24 June 2016)

- Wednesday 4th Mothers Day Stall – *Need helpers Please*
- Friday 6th May – Mothers Day BBQ—*Need helpers Please*
- Wednesday 22nd June - State of Origin Free Dress Day
- Disco Friday —*School to set date*

**Term 3 Events** (11th July – 16 September)

- Wednesday 31st August Fathers Day Stall
- Friday 2nd September – Fathers Day BBQ
- Year 5/6 Sleep out Friday 9th September
- Lapathon—Major Fundraiser—*School to set date*

Trivia Night 21st October 2016 ( Trivia Committee—Simone, Anna, Cheryl, Veronica)

**DANCE CART on Friday 18th March 6.30pm Mercy Hall**

Enjoy your Child’s performances—**NO Food or Drinks will be sold on the night.**

Michelle Young—Visible Learning

Listening to Michelle that night, confirmed that St Mark’s have passionate Teachers who work together to share their knowledge/expertise inspiring our Children to Love Learning and become their own Teachers.

At school they are changing the language they use and we can support them at home by asking questions like:

- What did you learn today? How do you know you learned this information? What do you need to do to get to where you are aiming and Who do you see for further help?
- We asked these questions at home and were excited that they wanted to share their knowledge with us.
- **Ask your child about their spelling words** and you might pick up a couple of new words along the way.
- Also the readers they bring home can contain great information for the whole family.
- **Give the questions a go at home and let us know!**   Email agnes.sio@hotmail.com

**$20 Family Portraits this Saturday 19th March @Mercy Hall**

**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