Dear Parents and Carers

Last week, we commenced the season of Lent, a time of 40 days where we try to reflect on our life and to do good works for others. At our opening mass last week, we committed to living our year with love, mercy and hope. During Lent the tuckshop will be offering the usual menu and adding Fish Fingers for purchase every Friday for $3 per serve.

Swimming Carnival date change: We have had to change the date of our swimming carnival. The new date is Monday 14th March. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We hope to see many parents at the carnival at Corinda Pool. This Wednesday and Thursday, the Year 1-6 children will begin their preparation swimming lessons for the carnival. Learning to swim is a vital part of a child’s physical education program and all children are expected to participate.

Dance Lessons: We have commenced dance lessons on Tuesdays. There is a whole school dance concert on Friday 18th March commencing at 6:30pm.

Enrolments Prep 2017: We are now accepting enrolments for Prep students to commence school in 2017. Children born between 1 July, 2011 and 30 June, 2012 are eligible to enrol in Prep for 2017. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website www.stmarksinala.qld.edu.au or collected from the school office. Our enrolment policies can be viewed at our website. Interviews for siblings and new families will commence in the first week of Term 2. Enrolment forms need to be submitted by the 24th March, 2016.

School Fees: Please note that the first school fees are included with this newsletter.

Leadership team conference: Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mrs Lysaght (APRE), Mrs Kuschert (Assistant Principal) and I will be away from school as we develop the plan for 2016 goals and action plan for St Mark’s. The plans will be available on the school website for your perusal. During our absence, Acting Principal will be Mrs Williams on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Oudyn on Wednesday.

P and F AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the P and F Association will be held on Wednesday 9th March at 5pm in the staffroom. Please note that all positions will be declared vacant – please see me if you wish to discuss your nomination.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal

Each New Year holds the promise of new possibilities, new dreams and new opportunities to make a difference that changes someone’s life.
Date Claimers ...

- This Thursday’s 4G & 2B class mass has been postponed due to clashes with the swimming timetable.
- This Friday, 19 February, 5G will lead us in our Assembly Prayer at 8:45 in Mercy Hall.
- Next Friday, 26 February, 6G will lead us in our Assembly Prayer at 8:45 in Mercy Hall.
- Year 5 & 6 students go on camp Wednesday—Friday 2-4 March.
- 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!

Virtue of the Week: Respect

What is Respect?
Being respectful is an attitude of honouring people and caring about their rights. Being respectful is reflected in the way we treat one another (& their belongings) and the way we speak. Being respectful includes self-respect. You protect your own rights, such as privacy and modesty. If anyone violates your rights, even if it is an elder, this must be stopped. Every woman, man and child was created by God, and we all deserve respect.

You are practising respect when you ...
- Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated.
- Listen to the wisdom of elders.
- Look after your body and your rights.

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.stmarksinda.com. Or by ... Contacting the Parish Secretary: Phone: 3372 5658. Email: stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au.

Commissioning of Student Leaders

Last Friday we commissioned our student leaders during our Welcome Mass. All Year 6 students received a school badge to symbolise their commitment to being leaders within our community. In addition, 10 students were also recognised as captains of the school or particular student committees. They also received special captains badges. We are very proud of all our leaders - and we know they will do a fantastic job this year living love, mercy and hope in Jesus!

School Captains: lossefa & Mina
Faith and Mission: Thang & Ellen
Sports: Rony & Amielia
Culture/Arts: Daniel & Desdemona
Stewardship: Misiona & Zara

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
**SPORTING NEWS:**

**Swimming:** Parents, this Wednesday and Thursday February 17 & 18 all students from Year 1 through to 6 will participate in 2 swimming lessons, in preparation for our whole school carnival. These lessons allow teachers to place students in events matching their swimming ability for the carnival. All permission notes should have been returned to teachers and I ask that all students have appropriate swimmers, towel, footwear for getting on and off the bus, caps and sunscreen. I have asked Teachers to send up caps from last year so please check with your child.

While on swimming, congratulations to Amielia, Cruze and Michael for their participation in the Inala **District swimming carnival** held last Thursday at Corinda. They gave their best on the day and will no doubt take plenty from the experience of competing at a higher level.

**District Trials:** St Mark’s pays an affiliation fee to be part of the Inala District Sports Association. This entitles the School to compete in District competitions as well as allowing students to trial for Inala District representative teams in the various sports offered. The sports offered by the district include Swimming, Basketball, Netball, AFL, Rugby League, Soccer, Touch Football, Cross Country, Softball, Rugby Union, Tennis, Cricket, Athletics and Volleyball.

While I know most students and the sports they play and what would be suitable for them to trial in, on occasions I may not be aware of students who play other sports on the list. If your child plays any of the sports listed above and are of an ability consistent with a district trial please let me know. I send home trial information at the appropriate time.

**Inter School Sport:** This Friday sees the beginning of the term 1 Inter School Sports season for 2016. This year we are entering Netball and Rugby League. We wish those teams every success. All relevant information will be sent home for the students involved in this season.

**AFL:** Next Monday February 22, St Mark's will play in an AFL District competition at Forest Lake AFC. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their skills and hopefully progress through to the regional stage. There will be one girls and one boys team playing.

Kind Regards, Mr Biddulph

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**St Mark’s Uniform Shop**

*Available to students every Monday and Tuesday*

Cost is $1.00 for toast, cereal and a drink.

**Homework Club**

Homework club is run on a **Tuesday afternoon** for students in Year 3—6 in the **library (NOT the 1st and last week of term)** from **3-3.45pm.** It is a time when two teachers are present to assist the students in completing their weekly homework.

Students are to remain in the library during this time.

Afterwards, the students will be walked up to the office to be collected by the parents.

**Homework Club Family Registration**

Please complete this section and return it to the school office if you wish your children to attend homework club.

Family Name: ..........................................................
Parent Telephone Number ............................................

Student: ........................................ Class: .........
Student: ........................................ Class: .........
Student: ........................................ Class: .........
Student: ........................................ Class: .........

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Thank you to everyone involved in making the Year 6 Commissioning Mass Memorable.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Students for accepting their responsibilities as St Marks School Leaders. The younger students will look up to them for examples of leadership in their behaviour and efforts to support St Marks values in the classroom & playground.

Please WELCOME the latest member to our St Mark’s Community Mercy Born on Friday 5th February.

$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

Parents & Carers Corner
Here are some useful information from Michael Grose – Check out his webpage http://www.parentingideas.com.au

Confidence is essential for Children to thrive. Encouragement is a powerful confidence-builder that every parent or carer can practice.

Focus on positive behaviour - Stop fault finding
Accept your Child’s genuine efforts as good enough for their development, eg your 7 year old makes his bed and skips tucking in the corners, don’t fix it for him because he will get better at it as he gets older.

Use your child’s previous performance to measure his efforts,
Don’t compare him to other children.

Focus on behaviours that lead to success such as effort and persistence rather than on the results or the performer himself - Labelling discourages your child. Negative labelling – calling your child Stupid regularly makes him believe that he is stupid, Positive labelling – calling your child wonderful all the time puts pressure on them to be perfect

We can help our children from home by building their

Brisbane P&F AGM Meeting on Thursday 10th March 2016 5.30pm at the Marist College, Ashgrove

Michelle Young to speak on VISIBLE LEARNING
RSVP 3336 9242

St Mark’s P&F AGM on Wednesday 9th March 5pm