Dear Parents and Carers,

**New play areas:** This week, we have introduced two new play areas. The first one is the soccer oval which will be used by Year 3-6 students at first break. The second beautiful new area is our outdoor learning centre which has the labyrinth, butterfly garden, dry creek bed, outdoor classroom, sundial and handball court. All students from Prep-Year 6 will be able to use the outdoor education centre at first break.

**Attendance at school:** Thank you for dropping your children at school on time in the morning! If your child is away from school for the day, please let the office or your class teacher know by phoning the school before 9am. If we do not hear from you when your child is absent, you will receive a text message asking you to call the school.

**Industrial Action:** You may have seen in the media reports about Catholic school staff going on strike this Thursday 25 February, 2016. Some teachers from our school are expected to strike, but we anticipate that there will be minimal disruption to our school program. Classes and activities will proceed as scheduled.

Please note that Nikki, Clare and I are away Tuesday and Wednesday this week at a leadership conference. Trish Williams (Monday and Tuesday) and Karen Oudyn (Wednesday) will take on the role of Acting Principal in my absence.

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 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.
- 4W & 1G will celebrate their buddy class mas on Thursday 3 March at 9:30 am in the Church.
- 3W will lead us in our Assembly Prayer on Friday 4 March at 8:45 am in Mercy Hall.
- 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!

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**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.

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**Virtue of the Week: Resilience**

**What is Resilience?**

Being resilient means that you have the ability to overcome odds and demonstrate the personal strengths needed to cope with different kinds of hardship. Resilience is the ability to bounce back after encountering difficulties, negative events, and hard times and to return to almost the same level of emotional wellbeing.

**You are practising Resilience when you ...**

- Find ways to solve your problems.
- Exercise control over negative thoughts and take responsibility for choosing how to act and feel.
- Persist with a task and persevere.
- Possess a sense of fun.

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**Mrs Nikki Lysaght**
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Prep 2017 Enrolments
We are 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.

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: ________

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.

Available to students every Monday and Tuesday
Cost is $1.00 for toast, cereal and a drink.
Dear St Mark’s Community

It’s that time when families bring in donations for the MONSTER EASTER RAFFLE!

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

ST MARKS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL P&F

St Mark’s P&F AGM on Wednesday 9th March 5pm, Staffroom
All positions vacant, please speak to Mrs Malouf if you are interested in any of the positions

Brisbane P&F AGM Meeting on
Thursday 10th March 2016 5.30pm at the Marist College, Ashgrove
Everyone Welcome An evening meal will be provided at no cost Special Guest for the evening:

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. Visible Learning applies the strategies and innovations that are proven to work best and identifies where to concentrate efforts in order to improve student achievement. According to Hattie's findings Visible Learning occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of students and help them become their own teachers.

All Executive positions are vacant and most office bearers are finishing their terms. Nominate today for a position on the Executive of your Archdiocesan Parents and Friends. Nominations are called for all Executive positions including: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 10 ordinary members. Nomination Forms are available from info@pandf.org.au

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