Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we celebrate all of our wonderful mothers and grandmothers! On Wednesday, the P and F will hold the Mothers’ Day stall where students can buy a gift for $3. On Friday afternoon, we are holding our annual Mothers’ Day BBQ from 3pm – 4:30pm with a Bunnings craft activity, face painting, raffles, music and dancing, DJ, sausage sizzle and drinks. Please join us – we would love to see you! If you are able to help with the BBQ, please contact the office.

Thank you to Mr Biddulph for his excellent organisation before and during the District Cross Country last Friday and thanks also to our staff who helped to run the day. All participants enjoyed the carnival which ran very smoothly. Thanks to our parents who cooked nearly all day to supply hungry students with lunch! Congratulations to our St Mark’s team, who ran well, looked great in their new singlets and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On 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: We wear the check uniform 3 days per week and the sports uniform 2 days per week. The sports uniform for Year 1-6 is worn two days per week as per the following:

Tuesday and Thursday: 1B, 4G
Tuesday and Friday: 2B, 3B, 3W, 3G, 4B
Wednesday and Friday: 1G, 1W, 2W, 2G, 4B, 5W, 5G, 6W
Prep students wear their sports uniform every day and Year 6 students may wear their leadership shirt on any day. If you need assistance with any aspect of the uniform including purchasing, please see me. Please note that black joggers (shoes) may be worn with both the sports and check uniform.

School photos: These are being held on Wednesday 25th May – packs for ordering will be send home next week. Please note that all students in Year 1-6 will be required to wear the checked formal uniform for their school photos.

Homework club change: Due to some organisational re-arrangement, homework club for Year 3-6 students is now going to be held every Tuesday morning from 8am – 8:30am in the library. Students will be supervised by teachers and this is an opportunity to catch-up and complete homework. This change will take effect from the 10th May (next week).

Our buddy benches have finally been installed! One is in Kitty’s place and the other is located in the Year 3/4 play area – I’m sure our students will make good use of the benches and our thanks go to Bunnings for their generous donation.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal
Mothers and Mary

Mothers play a significant role in the lives of their children and families. Be they living or dead, present or absent, a mother profoundly shapes the life of her children and who their children become.

Our mothers are the loving and nurturing protectors and providers. With these qualifications God weaves together the fabric of your family’s life, in all its different colours and textures, in all its changing form and flow.

 Mothers are the loving and nurturing protectors and providers. With these qualifications God weaves together the fabric of your family’s life, in all its different colours and textures, in all its changing form and flow.

I am the mother of 3 beautiful children. I love and adore them—as I know they love and adore me. And much to my husband’s despair (at times) there is nothing that cures any ailment; from a bumped head, scraped knee or wounded heart like a kiss and cuddle from Mummy.

There is power in being Mum!

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the ultimate mother role model. She seemingly had it altogether. But let’s look more closely ... She was a young, unmarried woman who gave birth to the SON OF GOD!!! What responsibility!!! She encouraged Jesus to perform the first miracle at the wedding in Cana. She watched her son grow into his ministry and change lives. She watched her son be tortured and crucified to death. She watch him rise from the dead!!! What an amazing woman of compassion and strength.

I know I, and many other woman, often feel overwhelmed by the role, the responsibility, to be caregiver. And while I love to look at Mary as an “ideal” this can often be daunting—a woman perfect, free from sin is often the picture painted.

However, reading Bible stories of Mary often reveal a side of Mary not often seen, the “real” Mary. We need to remember that Mary was first and foremost, human. Taking care of Jesus was no different from raising any other child. The same mess. The same worry. And she, like each of us mothers, simply takes it all in our stride—“working” tirelessly, fiercely to protect and care for our children.

Mother Effect is a group of mums passionate about “promoting the dignity and role of motherhood in [their] generation”. Join with other mothers of young children for Mother Effect every Wednesday morning during term time at Lobelia House (corner of Lilac and Poinsettia Streets, Inala) from 9:30am—11:30am. It’s a great place to connect with other mums for friendship, support and faith.

Date Claimers ...

- Our Mother’s Day Assembly will be run by Prep G on Friday 6 May.
- Mother’s Day BBQ will be on Friday 6 May at 3:00.
- NAPLAN runs from Tuesday 10 May—Thursday 12 May.
- School Photos are on Wednesday 25 May.
- Our school Disco will be at 6:30pm 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 at 6:30pm on Friday 3 June.

Virtue of the Week: Caring

What is Caring?
Caring is giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you. You can show you care about someone by saying and doing things that help them. Caring about something means giving it your very best. It is a sign of love, respect and concern. Caring about yourself means that you treat yourself with the respect and concern that you deserve as a child of God.

You are practising Caring when you …

- Love others and yourself.
- Let people know that what they say is important to you by looking at them and listening closely.
- Treat your body with respect.
- Protect and nurture anything placed in your care, particularly pets.
- Don’t allow blind loyalty to lead you into trouble.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
**Student Awards**

For Loyalty:

- PG: Desley 3W: Byron
- PW: Amelia 3B: Goretti
- PB: Edward 4G: Kevin and
- 1G: Peter Shayla
- 1W: Maria 4W: Angela
- 1B: Leah 4B: Nina
- 2G: Serena 5G: Amy
- 2W: Emily 5W: Lisa
- 2B: Quyet 6G: Helen
- 3G: Faustina 6W: Kruz

**THIS WEEK’S STUDENT BIRTHDAYS**

- Emil 2W
- Vi 5G
- Ever 6G
- Ruby 4B
- Louis 2G
- Davania

**District Cross Country**

Last Friday St Mark’s hosted the 2016 Inala District Cross Country. It was a successful day that saw up to 12 schools attend. In terms of performance, all of our students competed well with credible finishes for Amelia (12th), Rony (8th), Kruz (12th), Jacob (12th) and Emmanuel who featured in the top 20 in their respective events. Thank you to all of the team who showed excellent commitment to the training tasks presented to them in the last 10 weeks.

As always, days like these only happen when all of the community is involved. Thank you to the St Mark’s staff for their contributions, the Vietnamese community for their preparation of food for the canteen and the P & F who paid for the running singlets this year and their support of our team and school on the day.

**Tennis & District Touch trials**

Next week we have students attending district trials for both tennis and touch football. We wish them well in this trial process.

**Gala Day**

On Friday May 20, all Year 5 & 6 students from St Mark’s will participate in a Gala Day in one of the four sports listed: Rugby League, Tennis, Lawn Bowls & Softball. All staff from Year 5 & 6 will be attending with Mr Ebzery taking Lawn Bowls, Miss Waites taking Tennis, Mrs Barker taking Softball and I will take the Rugby League team.

I will send home notes with relevant information and permission in the next week.

Kind Regards Mr Biddulph (Sports Co-ordinator)

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**ADVERTISEMENT 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. Completed applications should be returned to the school office.

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Remember that breakfast club is free and is on from 8am – 8:30am each Monday and Tuesday.
Come & learn about PBL! How does PBL help your child?
St Marks P&F Meeting on Monday 9th May 5pm, Staffroom

Whose child is this by Jessie Girl Rivera

Whose child is this? ' I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
'Mine', said the parent with a tender smile
'Mine to keep a little while
To bathe her hands and comb her hair
To tell her what she is to wear
To prepare her that she may always be good
And each day do the things she should'

'Whose child is this? ' I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in
'Mine', said the teacher with the same tender smile
'Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach her how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct her dear little mind
To help her live by every rule
And get the best she can from school'

'Whose child is this? ' I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
'Ours' said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
'Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever

Engaged Communities for the Future Conference”
Saturday 30th April—Monday 2nd May

Anna Sintisky, Ena Miranda, Veronica Tierney and myself attended this conference representing St Marks.

On behalf of our parent community I would like to Thank these women for giving up their family time and money to attend this event. They were seeking new ideas to strengthen parent engagement within our community.

Parent Involvement VS Parent Engagement
Examples of parent involvement are the parents who turn up to support the students, Gala days and special events. They attend to encourage and support our Children. Parent involvement is vital for our community.

Parent Engagement is when parents work to establish partnerships with the school to benefit our Children. Examples are working bees, helping with reading, tuckshop and attending P&F meetings.

These were a couple of topics covered by Debbie Pushor at the conference.

Right to Left: Agnes Sio, Anna Sinitsky, Debbie Pushor, Veronica Tierney & Ena Miranda.

Mothers Day Stall - Wednesday 4th May
Buy a Beautiful Gift for your Mum or Grandmother
$3.00 each — only 1 gift per student please

Come and Celebrate our Wonderful Mothers
at the Mothers Day BBQ on Friday 6th May – 3pm-4.30pm

$2.00 Sausages and $2.00 Can of Soft drinks
$1.00 Raffle Tickets

FREE Mothers Day Craft Activity courtesy of Robert from Bunnings Oxley
FREE Face Painting courtesy of St Mark’s Teachers
DJ MANNY - Prizes for Best Dancers