Dear Parents and Carers

It finally feels like winter has arrived this week! If you child needs a school jumper, please see the school office. This is the launch of our annual Vinnies Winter Appeal this week to help those families who are less fortunate than us.

Tomorrow on Wednesday June 1st, it is the first State of Origin rugby league match and we are having a free dress day – children are encouraged to wear their colours in exchange for a gold coin donation to the P and F. Please note that covered shoes and shirts that cover shoulders are to be worn (no strappy tops).

On Friday 3rd June, it's disco fever in Mercy Hall from 6pm-8pm! Entry is by gold coin donation with snacks and glow sticks on sale. Parents are required to stay with their children for the disco. We hope to see you there! The disco is for St Mark’s students only and their younger siblings. Thank you to the P and F for their organisation.

Next week on Friday 10th June, it is a the P and F fundraiser – the lap-a-thon. Children will complete ‘laps’ of the oval in order to raise money. Please bring sponsorship forms and money in from 13th June onwards. Running training for the lap-a-thon and for our Athletics Carnival is next week from 8am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Andrew Toomey will be our new P.E. teacher from next term. Please see next week’s newsletter for Mrs Eaton’s farewell.

Many of you will know Wendy, our friendly crossing supervisor who has worked at St Mark’s for many years, providing safe roads for all of our students and parents. Wendy is moving to another school and so we will farewell Wendy at assembly this week. We thank her for her excellent care of our students and good nature with all.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Allison Malouf
Principal
Virtue of the Week: Unity

What is Unity?
Unity is a very powerful Virtue, and it brings great strength. It is a way of seeing the universe as one, designed by God who created us all. You allow yourself to see how everything is connected and depends on one another. Unity brings harmony. It doesn’t mean to be the same. You value what each part brings to the whole. Unity brings peace and balance.

What can I practice to improve my Unity?
- Think for yourself
- Look for the truth by investigating things for yourself
- Own up to your mistakes and accept the consequences
- Stand up for people’s rights, including your own

Date Claimers ...
- St VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL IS ON NOW!! Please bring in your donations to classrooms!
- This Thursday, 2 June, 3G & Prep G will celebrate their buddy class mass at 9:30am in the Church.
- Next Friday, 3 June, 4B will lead us in our Assembly Prayer.
- Our school Disco will be at 6:00pm on Friday 3 June in Mercy Hall.
- Next Friday, 10 June, 2B will lead us in our Assembly Prayer.
- The bi-annual school fundraising Lapathon will be on next Friday 10 June.
- St Mark’s Athletics Carnival will be on Friday 17 June.
- Year 5 & 6 Personal Development workshop with NET Ministries and Real Talk will run Monday –Wednesday 20-22 June.
- School Holidays start at 3pm on Friday 24 June.
- Term 3 starts on Monday 11 July.

Year 3W wonders ...
This term Year 3 students are asking (and answering) the question “how do people belong to the Church?” They are learning to explain ways in which the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) welcome and strengthen members of the Church community. The students will describe significant people, events and features of our St Mark’s Parish and the Archdiocese of Brisbane, past and present, including the collaboration of clergy, religious and laity. Today Year 3W were asking wondering questions about a collection of historical photos from St Mark’s school and parish.

National Reconciliation Week & Sorry Day
National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. The theme for NRW 2016 is “Our History, Our Story, Our Future”. Thank you to 1G who helped focus us on this important week as part of their Assembly Prayer on Friday. We sat in a “yarning circle” and prayed for peace and reconciliation.


**Year 4 have been on the move!**

Over the past 2 weeks, Year 4 have been on two excursions! The first was to the Science Centre. It was Tuesday the 17th of May. The three classes, their teachers and Mrs Morrow travelled by bus into the Science Centre.

They had a quick morning tea before breaking up into the three classes and moving around the Science Centre in rotations. There was the area on Forces (which is what Year Four are studying in class). In the Electricity Room, the staff member informed the students about electricity as well as showing them electricity experiments. The last area was Measure Island. The students were able to measure lots of different things, like the length of a crocodile, don’t worry parents, no students or crocodiles were harmed here!

After lunch the students and teachers made their way to the Discovery Room in the Museum. The students were fascinated by the displays here. Next, on the first floor of the museum, the students were allowed to explore the many displays.

The following Tuesday, the 24th of May, the students walked to Kev Hooper Park, where they were met by staff members from Brisbane City Council. The students were provided with a piece of fruit, apple or mandarin, for morning tea. The students were then divided into classes and were guided by different BCC staff members around the park. There were 3 rotations. One, was an interactive talk about cleaning the rubbish out of our waterways. Another, was a walk around the park to track evidence of animal life. The students also were able to plant new trees in the park, so they can observe the trees growing in the future years. The students wore gloves and were shown how to plant the trees by volunteers, who look after the plants in the park.

The Lions Club cooked a sausage sizzle for everyone for lunch.

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**Mercy 2B**
**Blessings 4W**
**Lonii 4W**
**Anton 5G**
**Sally 6G**
**Amara PG**

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**Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp**
Stuartholme School and St Laurence’s College are hosting a 3 day residential Camp for children with intellectual and physical disabilities aged between 5 and 14. It is to be held at Stuartholme School, Toowong from 17th-19th September, 2016.

For the children, the Camp is one of fun with art, cooking, musical activities and a baby animal farm just some of the activities available.

There is no cost involved in participation.

If you are interested in obtaining an information package please see us in the office at St Marks or alternatively you can contact Mrs Kerrie-Anne O’Neill on 30101115 or sonycampapplications@slc.qld.edu.au for an application package. Application forms need to be returned by Friday 10th June 2016.

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**Best Borrower Award!!!**

In the library we love students who remember their books on library days!! Most Prep students get one book a week whereas Jermaine in Prep W borrows two books twice a week!! He comes in at 8:30am with his lovely mum to borrow some new books!!! We love seeing students enjoying reading!!! If your child has finished their library book, encourage them to come in and borrow a new book!!

Thanks
Leesa
Keaton
Congratulations!

Mason Kent from 3W participated in the Weet-Bix Triathlon. He swam 75 meters, rode 3 kilometres and ran 500 meters at the Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler. Mason was a bit nervous to begin with, but after his swim with 300 other 7 year olds he had the confidence to ride and run around the Sleeman Complex. When asked what the hardest part of the event was, Mason responded finding my bike! - Written by Shane Kent.

STATE OF ORIGIN — Wear your Team Colours
THIS WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE 2016
GOLD COIN DONATION PLEASE

St Mark’s School Disco
Fri 3rd June 2016
6.00-8.00pm at Mercy Hall
Gold Coin Entry—Chips, poppers and LED candles on sale

Parents please attend with your children.

ONLY 2 WEEKS TO EARN PRIZES AT THE LAP-A-THON
Friday 10th June 2016

All money raised by the Students go to the P&F to purchase a shade cover over the steps in the Oval. Many events take place in this area and the shade will provide protection from the sun for the spectators/participants.

RAISE $10 OR MORE TO EARN A PRIZE!