Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

P and F: Thank you to Agnes and her team for their fantastic efforts with the organisation and cooking of the Bunnings BBQ at Oxley last Saturday in the heat! This Wednesday afternoon at 5.30pm is the first P and F meeting for the year – we would love to see you at the meeting if you can attend.

Welcome Back BBQ: We hope to see many of you at school this Friday afternoon at 3pm-4:30pm for our Welcome Back BBQ: singing, dancing and eating plus raffles! It’s a great chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones too. More details are on the P and F page.

Parent Information Night: Next Wednesday night (10th February) we are holding a Parent Information Evening. Please go directly to your child’s class at 6.30pm where their teacher will speak about the year ahead, homework and class expectations. The session will be repeated at 7:10pm to allow you to go to another year level.

Homework Club: Homework Club is run every Tuesday afternoon from 3pm-3:45pm for Year 3-6 students. This club is run by the teachers and allows your child to have assistance with completing their homework. Please fill out a registration form on page 3 of the newsletter and return to the school office. Homework club starts next Tuesday 9th February and your child has to be registered to participate.

Breakfast Club: The school provides breakfast (cereal, toast, Milo) for students who need it from 8am on Mondays and Tuesdays just outside the tuckshop. Cost is $1 per student. The Breakfast Club will start next Tuesday 9th February.

Staffing News: Mrs Nicky Savage (office duties) has resigned her position during the holidays. We thank her for her excellent work at St Mark’s over the last eighteen months. We welcome Mrs Angela Bromfield, our new Guidance Officer, to our community.

Parking: Parents are reminded to park on the streets surrounding the school for drop-offs and pick-ups. Parking is not permitted in the staff carpark, school grounds, parish carpark or the Indigenous Centre (Ngu-Tani Lui) next door to our school.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Allison Malouf
Principal

Welcome to the 2016 school year!

2016 TERM DATES:
Term 1: 27 Jan - 24 Mar
Term 2: 11 Apr—24 Jun
Term 3: 11 Jul—16 Sep
Term 4: 4 Oct—2 Dec

Mrs Malouf and some of our new Preppies from Prep W.

“Let us allow God to fill our hearts with his goodness and mercy.”
~ Pope Francis
Welcome Back for 2016

Welcome to 2016! We are pleased everyone had a safe Christmas and has returned to St Mark’s refreshed and re-energised, ready for another year where we set about making St Mark’s a better place to be.

A warm welcome to new families who are joining the St Mark’s community for the first time this year. 2016 brings with it many exciting challenges as we encourage our students and staff (and parents) to identify with the message of Jesus in all we say and do.

Our theme for the year is: “Living Love, Mercy and Hope in Jesus”. In our Catholic school Jesus is the centre of all we do and the foundation on which we build our educational and spiritual activities. Everything we do, the way we treat others, the activities we choose to participate in, and the ethos of the school are all inherently linked to the person of Jesus and his words and actions.

As members of the St Mark’s community we aim to live in him! Pope Francis has named this year as a “Year of Mercy” – which is about “being more”. And hand in hand with mercy comes love and hope. This year we will recognise Jesus’ message throughout our daily interactions with others. We will learn more about the mission Jesus has left us by regularly reading scripture and relating it to our lives.

St Mark’s is a community that strives to share the Good News of Jesus in all we do by living Clearly and Boldly. We invite you and your children to embrace this theme with us by looking for opportunities to contribute to our school. There will be many ways in 2016 for you to get involved.

This year each class will again be writing a class covenant which describes what kind of people they want to be this year.

I look forward to catching up with you at some events over the term.

Date Claimers ...

This Friday, 5 February, 6W will lead us for our Assembly Prayer. You are most welcome to join us in Mercy Hall at 8:40.

Our P&F Welcome BBQ is also on Friday 5 February at 3pm. See you there!

Our Welcoming and Commissioning Mass for 2016 will on Friday 12 February at 9:30am in St Mark’s Church. It will be a special time when we commit ourselves to “living love, mercy and hope” in Jesus during 2016. Our Year 6 leaders will also be presented to the community and they will be commissioned as they promise to lead St Mark’s to the best of their ability. Once again it promises to be a joyous occasion to start our school year. All parents and friends are most welcome.

Our Parent information Night will be on Wednesday night, 10 February at 6:30pm. It is most important that at least one parent from each family attends this meeting. Please assembly in your child’s classroom by 6:30.

Virtue of the Week: Responsibility

What is Responsibility?

Being responsible means that others can depend on you. Being responsible means to do something well and to the best of your ability. When you are responsible, you keep your agreements. If you agree to do something – make sure it gets done. When you make a mistake, you take responsibility for it. When you are responsible others know they can count on you.

You are practising responsibility when you …

- Take your agreements seriously.
- Do things to the best of your ability.
- Accept credit or correction for what you do and how you do it.
- If you make a mistake, explain what happened without making excuses.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Mother Effect starts again on Wednesday 10 February. Come along for coffee, morning tea and great conversation at the Mothers Group every Wednesday morning 9.30am - 11.30am at Lobelia House.

For further details, please call Carrie McCormack 043 429 0540 or Christine DaCosta 043 458 1406.

This ministry is sponsored by St Mark’s Parish and School.

Loading Zones – Drop off/Pick Up areas

The success of loading zones requires cooperation from all motorists using it to ensure quick movement of vehicles through the area.

Please observe any time frames on the sign (see example) and only stay in the area for as long as it takes to get the children in to or out of the car within a two minute timeframe.

The driver must not park the car in these signed areas and go into the school with the children or to pick up their children.

This area is designed to keep the vehicles moving. It is there for the convenience of ALL motorists.

Please do:
- Plan your trip to avoid arrival at peak times
- Pick-up or drop-off children via the car’s kerb doors
- Drive out safely
- Talk to your children about what time to be there and not to stray or wander away
- If your children are not at your arranged spot, go around the block and try again

Do not:
- Get out of your vehicle
- Double park
- Stay more than 2 minutes
- Arrive early in the afternoon and sit in the zone
- Use staff parking areas

Road Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility. If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone your local Road Safety Office on 1300 360 135

Parents, The Inala District Swimming Carnival is fast approaching. Can I see any parent who has their children enrolled in an outside swimming club and are turning 9, 10, 11 or 12 this year. They may be able to nominate for this carnival to represent St Mark’s. I need to see you by Wednesday February 3 if you wish your child to be nominated. Kind Regards, Mr Biddulph

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. This procedure is for the students’ safety.

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: ............

LIBRARY—BORROWING

Borrowing started this week. Please make sure your child has a library bag to protect their books. If you don’t have one they can be purchased from the library or uniform shop. Thank you. Mrs Badke and Mrs Keaton (Teacher Librarians)
ST MARKS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL P&F

Please join us this FRIDAY 5th Feb 3pm— 4.30pm at St Marks

Welcome BBQ for all Students, Staff & Families

Live Calypso Music by Alvin, Free Face Painting,

1 entry per family in the Complimentary Raffle Draw — must be at BBQ to collect prize

$2.00 Sausages on Bread and $2.00 Soft drink Cans.

$2.00 Raffles—1st prize $50 Woolworths Gift Card,
2nd prize $30 Woolworths Gift Card, 3rd prize $20 Woolworths Gift Card

Proceeds will sponsor Year 6 Leader Shirts so students pay $10 instead of $25 for 1 shirt.

St Marks P&F Meeting on Wed 3rd Feb @5.30PM
Come and meet your new Principal –Mrs Allison Malouf

Bunnings Oxley is donating a Buddy Bench to St Marks

Thanks to Robert and Bunnings Oxley, for donating a Buddy Bench this Friday.
The Buddy Bench is the place to sit when you need a friend.
The Bench is a reminder for everyone to be mindful and kind towards others.

Thank you for making Saturday’s Bunnings BBQ a Success!

Bakers Delight
141 Dandenong Rd
Mt Ommaney, Ph 3715 6088
Thank you to Matt from Bakers Delight for supporting our Bunnings BBQ.

You are Welcome
To share academic/sports achievements and special events of your child with us, please email photos to agnes.sio@hotmail.com

Happy 7th Birthday Isaac Richter!