Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday we brought Harmony Week to a fitting conclusion with a beautiful and uplifting prayer assembly led by 2W. Focussing on music, we celebrated the contributions of the various groups that make up the school community of St. Mark’s. Special thanks to Mrs Miles and Mr Johnstone who made significant contributions to ensure that our children were greatly involved and affirmed. The distinctive nature of St. Mark’s as a multi-cultural school is one that we can all be very proud of as it affords us with the opportunity to recognize, support and lift everyone in our community. I think we have also discovered some amazing talent too!

**Winter Appeal**

Our annual Winter Appeal for St. Vincent de Paul is off to a good start. Please send along donations with your child to the class teachers. It is our way of supporting those less fortunate than ourselves and, like so many of the virtues to which we aspire, the virtue of generosity is taught.

**Spirit of St. Mark’s Awards**

We have a very special whole school assembly on the last Friday of term. At this assembly, one child from each year level will be presented with the “Spirit of St. Mark’s” award. Teachers are currently making decisions on who the recipients will be and I know it will not be an easy decision. Our school is full of outstanding young people, living the virtues beautifully every day. This is one way that we acclaim those who are great role models for their peers. Do come along if you can.

**Personal Development**

This week our older students are involved with a number of sessions and presenters in workshops and activity groups designed to support and give depth to their growth as young people of faith and possibilities. My thanks to Mrs Lysaght and the teachers who have put together a wonderful programme. We wish them the best as the week progresses.

**School Fees**

School fees went out last week. As usual, your prompt attention to them is appreciated. Please contact the office if you did not receive them.

**Prep Enrolments**

Have you a child born between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010? If you have not yet enrolled your child, please come and pick up an application form from the office as soon as you can. Places are filling!

**End of Term Matters**

The term finishes on Friday, 27th June at 3.00 pm. You should receive and have arranged your important parent/teacher meeting that will take place at the start of next term. Please ensure that you have received the form from your child. Please keep school reports safe—lots of people have been coming in to have them copied. The reports are important and needed for secondary school interviews and the like. Please assist your child to find any library books etc. that need to be returned to school. A good number of our older students will take part in a Gala Sports Day soon. Please support and encourage them if they are involved. This week is the last week for Home-work Club this term.

**Lap-a-thon**

To get fit, to enjoy being active and to raise funds to support the school, the P and F sponsored lap-a-thon happens on Friday 15th August. Details will come at the start of next term.
Year 6&7 Retreat

This week our Year 6 and 7 students will participate in a 3 day retreat focused on providing them with the skills and knowledge they need as they continue to grow and face new challenges. The students will be invited to explore their relationship with Jesus, especially as they start to experience changes in their world, particularly as they leave the safety of St Mark’s that they’ve known for the past 6 or 7 years. Tuesday and will be facilitated by the National Evangelisation Team (NET Ministries) and will be focus on the importance of God in their lives and how relying on God can help in times of difficulty. On Wednesday Real Talk and NET Ministries will be talking to the children about the importance of making good choices and the role God can play in those decisions. Thursday will run by St Mark’s staff as they explore some of the physical changes the students will experience as they continue to journey through puberty. This is the third year we have run a similar experience for the students and I know that they have found it helpful.

Please come and see me if you have any questions.

Winter Appeal

This year our Year 5, 6 and 7 leaders are again running our Winter Appeal for 3 weeks in June starting. During this time YOU can help by donating money and goods which will go directly to families in our area. St Vincent de Paul have specifically asked for certain items for their Family Packs.

These items include:

- Tin corn beef, band aids, coffee, shampoo, spaghetti, sugar, long life milk, laundry powder, toothpaste, nappies all sizes.
- Deodorant, Pasta sauce, razors, baked beans, tin potatoes, soup, jam, scotch fingers.
- Pasta shells, soap, tea, toilet rolls, noodles, cereal.

Donations are be handed in to your class. There are prizes to be won including homework passes for individual students and a pizza party for the class that brings in the most amount of donations. We will deliver the items on Friday 27 June.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations!

Date Claimers ...

- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal ON NOW and runs until the end of term.
- Year 6 & 7 Retreat Days 17—19 June.
- 1B will lead us in our assembly prayer on Friday 20 June.
- “Onesie” Day for Winter Appeal on Tuesday 24 June.
- 1B and 3Ws buddy class mass will be on Thursday 26 June.
- Assembly Prayer in the last week of Term 2 will be led by 1W on Friday 27 June.
- Holidays start 3pm Friday 27 June. Term 3 starts Monday 14 July.

Markus says when you try your best you build RESILIENCE!!

Virtue of the Week: Excellence

What is Excellence?

Excellence is doing your best. It is giving your best to any task you do or any relationship you have. Excellence is a desire for perfection. It is the key to success. You don’t try to be better than anyone else. You are trying to be the best that you can be.

You are practising excellence when you ...

- Give your best to whatever you do.
- Give your best to relationships.
- Remember to plan and practice.
- Develop your own gifts.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Cybersafety - Tips for parents!

**Cyberbullying** is the use of technology to bully a single person or a group of people. Bullying is repeated behaviour with the intent to harm others. Behaviour may include:

- Abusive texts and emails
- Posting unkind or threatening messages, videos or images on social media websites
- Imitating or excluding others online
- Inappropriate image tagging

For many teenagers (and even children in upper primary school), their online life is an important part of their social identity. Many young people fear that parents might take away their devices and refuse access to the internet and so do not report cyberbullying to their parents. Teenagers are also often concerned that parents’ actions will make cyberbullying issues worse, so it is important to remain calm and supportive. ([http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/) Parents’ guide on this site)
Welcome to St Mark’s

Good Luck to Mr Adrian Biddulph on his nomination in the Brisbane Catholic Education Excellence in Teaching Award.

You do an outstanding job inspiring our children everyday.

P&F Meeting update
Discussed processes to build upon the success of the last disco; allocating a break-out area like the car park with lights on and all other areas around the school will be out of bounds. Setting a designated place and time for collection after the disco.

- One of our dad’s is passionate about working with the school to develop a program that will help our children and ourselves value and learn how to maintain our precious bushland.
- Major Fundraising Event—St Mark’s Lap-a-thon on Friday 15th August.
- P&F donated $5000 to the school to assist with various projects. These actions affect our children.

Congratulations
Kaliyah Connors, for making Inala District U12 Girls Rugby League Team

GOOD LUCK State of Origin game on this Wednesday.

Important Dates
Friday 15th August—Lap-a-thon
Major Fundraising Event

Friday 5th Sept—Family BBQ
Afternoon Sausage Sizzle—Celebrating Families & Fathers

Sunday 15th Sept—Family Photos

“The Inspired Home” 2nd Aug 9.30am to 3.30pm $50.00 - St Josephs Corinda
If you enjoy “The Block” then you will LOVE this!
In the morning lots of input on interior design, then in the second session it’s your turn. All proceeds go towards the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd