Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday, we were all treated to a wonderful night of entertainment with the Dance Cart performances. It was very enjoyable and you are, no doubt, proud of your children. They certainly gained a lot from the experience. The tunes were catchy and the steps so well rehearsed and delivered with energy and delight. Thanks for your on-going support and presence through this programme.

Lenten Journey
We continue the Lenten journey this week with all classes learning, and experiencing, a little of the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our prayer wall is full and donations for Project Compassion have been wonderful. I am very appreciative of the donation from the Vietnamese food sold to support this appeal. Over $1600 was raised. Thank you. We conclude the appeal this week. Included on page 3 of this newsletter is a timesheet of the various liturgies and Masses here at St. Mark’s. I encourage you to attend with your family. The joy of the risen Christ is for us all. This joy and hope is what sustains us through life’s ups and downs.

Monster Easter Raffle
Winners will be drawn tomorrow. There are so many prizes—thanks for your most generous support. Have you got your ticket? Your last chance to buy them is in the morning! Good luck!

Important Dates
Term 1 finishes at 3.00 pm this Friday. School resumes on Tuesday, 22nd April, 2014 for the next term. Inter-school sport will be on this Friday because of the postponement of games from last week due to the weather. Again, all players need to be aware of the need to be organized and well presented. We wish them all the best in their respective games.

Cross Country
Many students are training well for the annual cross country championships that we host here. Please encourage and support them to keep training over the holiday period. The event will be run on Thursday, 24th April. All are welcome to come and join us on the day. Mr Biddulph is asking for assistance with spring rolls. If you can assist, please let us know.

Instrumental Music in Year 4
All parents should receive a letter from me this week giving details of the Creative Kids instrumental music that will commence next term. We are excited with the prospect that this experience will give to all students.

Fees
Fees for the month will be sent home first week back next term. Many thanks as you attend to these promptly. Should you have concerns or difficulties, simply make contact with Ms Barry or me through the office.

Practical Matters
- Change of telephone numbers or addresses should be given to the office.
- Collect any lost property
- Watch for a number of projects scheduled to be done over the next few weeks.

Have a happy and holy Easter.

Garry Montgomery
Principal
Remembering Holy Week

As this is our last week of school before the holidays our focus, as a school, turns to Holy Week. For all Christians, this is the most significant season of our year because it is at this time that we enter into the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. This is when we remember that God loved us so much that He came to be with us to share our joy and pain, our hellos and goodbyes, all the ups and downs of our lives. It is the time we especially remember the relationship that is at the heart of our religion. That is the relationship we share with our loving God. Over the last couple of weeks the students have been working with their teachers to represent part of the story of holy week in a creative way. Here is a snapshot of their work.

Date Claimers ...

- This week each class will visit the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross for Holy Week.
- On Friday 4th April, 5W will lead us in our Prayer Assembly.
- On Tuesday 22nd, April, we will gather together as a whole school to celebrate Easter and Christ’s Resurrection at 11:40am in the Church.

Virtue of the Week: Reverence

What is Reverence?
Reverence is behaving with an awareness that you are always in the presence of the Creator and that all life is very precious. Reverence can be experienced in moments of prayer or reflection. It is treating Holy books and other sacred things as very, very special.

You are practising reverence when you …
- Have an attitude of deep respect toward all living things.
- Have a regular practice of reflection or prayer.
- Treat sacred things with special care.
- Spend time in the beauty of nature.

Project Compassion

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful efforts in supporting Project Compassion!

Mrs Chantale Wilson
Acting Assistant Principal Religious Education
St Mark’s Sacramental Program 2014 - Confirmation and First Holy Communion
Year 3 or over
Enrolment form together with payment of $35 per child or $50 per family and a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate must be lodged at the parish office by Monday 5th May.
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)
Or by... Contacting the Parish Secretary:
Email: stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au
Phone: 3372 5658

Easter Services 2014
Second Rite of Reconciliation
Individual confession will be available:
Monday 14th April: English
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 6pm
Second Rite: 7pm
Tuesday 15th April: Vietnamese
Second Rite 7pm
Holy Week Schedule:
Wednesday 16th April
English 8am Mass
Holy Thursday 17th April
English 7pm
Vietnamese 9pm
Good Friday 18th April
Stations of the Cross .......... 9am
(assemble at Church)
Lord’s Passion
English 3pm
Vietnamese 7.30pm
Easter Vigil 19th April
English 6pm
Vietnamese 8pm
Easter Sunday 20th April
Vietnamese 8am
English 9.30am
English 5pm

LIBRARY NEWS
Book Fair – a Wonderful Success!
Lovely to see so many parents!
We sold almost $3000 worth of books and made over $750 for the library!

Many thanks to all the children, parents and staff who participated in our Book Fair. We had many happy children as they selected new books in the library last week. We have many new books donated for having the Book Fair from parents, teachers and the Book Warehouse. Your support makes all this possible.

Many thanks to all our helpers especially Mrs Rangel and Ms Pilar and all the staff who gladly rostered themselves on to assist.

Please encourage your children to return overdue books this week so that they can borrow for the holidays.

Happy reading! Mrs Keaton and Mrs Badke (Teacher-Librarians)
Congratulations on an AMAZING Dance Cart Event.
Thanks to Nang Do for looking after the canteen whilst we watched the show.
Thank you to Aileen Richter for the photos.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
Mr Montgomery and Jo Patrick have organised Harmony Place coordinators to run Wellbeing Education sessions for parents at St Mark’s next term. Topics covered include:
- Mental Health: focusing on how to stay mentally healthy
- Natural ways of self-care: embracing wellbeing
- Self-esteem: empowering yourself
- Happiness: how to choose happiness in your life
- Positive Thinking: the importance of being positive
- Recovering from hard times:
Followed by an hour tai chi, yoga, dance or relaxation class. Details to be finalised next term.

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<th>Upcoming P&amp;F Events</th>
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<td><strong>Mothers Day BBQ</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 9th May 3pm-5pm</td>
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<td><strong>Gold Coin Donation</strong></td>
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<td>Wear Blue or Maroon Wed 28th May</td>
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<td><strong>School Disco</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 6th June 6.30pm-8.30pm</td>
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<td><strong>Fathers Day Gifts Order Forms</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 1st July</td>
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<td><strong>Family Day BBQ</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 5th Sept 3pm-5pm</td>
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<td><strong>Family Portraits</strong></td>
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<td>Sunday 14th Sept 9am-4pm</td>
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<td><strong>World Teachers Day Morning Tea</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 26th Oct</td>
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<td><strong>Lap-A-Thon Teachers Awards</strong></td>
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<td>P&amp;F Christmas Party</td>
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