Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday saw the running of our annual swimming carnival at Corinda. It was a terrific day with great spirit and competition on display. Congratulations to Mercy house who have backed up their efforts from last year to win again. Special thanks goes to Mr Biddulph for his overall coordination of the event and the many teachers who had vital parts to play in its success. Thanks, too, to the many parents and family members who came to join in the fun of the day.

Lent
We have begun our Lenten journey with ashes received last week. We will again be supporting Caritas through the Project Compassion appeal. Please support this through your child/ren. To assist this appeal, some of our wonderful parents are selling Vietnamese food for the next three Wednesdays through the tuckshop. I encourage your support of this please.

Targets have been set and we know that our school community can live the virtue that is the focus in the school this week—generosity.

Principal’s Afternoon Tea
With great pleasure, I hosted the first principal’s afternoon tea last week. Teachers chose one person from each class who had already been chosen as a student of the week. These fine young people try to live out the virtues each day and are a credit to themselves, the school and their families. I was so impressed with those who came to enjoy this celebration and I look forward to the next afternoon tea just before the end of the term.

Inter-school Sport
A number of students will be selected this week and will represent St. Mark’s on either a soccer or a netball team. We wish them all the best as they compete for top honours. More importantly at the moment is the responsibility to honour commitments to training, supporting coaches and teammates as well as playing the game in the spirit that it is intended. Representing the school is a privilege and I trust all understand just what that means. Full and correct uniforms are absolutely necessary.

Monster Easter Raffle
Yes, it’s on again this year. We are calling for Easter egg raffle donations to be sent to the office now. Last year over 100 fabulous prizes were won and we are hoping to be able to do the same again. Tickets will be sent home next week. To avoid disappointment, make sure you get your tickets!

P and F Association
This week’s meeting, on Wednesday at 5.30 pm in the staffroom, includes the AGM where a new executive is elected. I encourage you to attend and, if you feel you can contribute, to consider nominating for one of the executive positions. This vital group has done amazing things over many years and I am optimistic about all that will be achieved again this year.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening.

Staff Changes
This week we will farewell Mrs Neilson-Scott as she takes maternity leave. In her place we will welcome Mrs Frances Miles to the staff. When you see her, please extend that warm St. Mark’s welcome to her.

Lost Property
After camps and swimming, there is the inevitable collection of unclaimed property. Please collect this week before it is processed on. Thanks.
**Lent: Make a new beginning for Jesus**

This week, on Ash Wednesday, we gathered together in the Church to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Lent. During this liturgy, each of us was marked with a cross of ashes on our forehead and we heard the words ‘make a new beginning for Jesus’.

Lent is a wonderful gift to us and a reminder that God, who loves us, is the God of second chances, of do-overs and fresh beginnings. Lent is our time to start again, with ourselves, with others and with God. It is the time when we remember Jesus’ great love for us, we allow his love to change us again and share his love with others.

During our Ash Wednesday liturgy, the children shared a song which has fast become a favourite among some of the classes. It’s called ‘I will follow’ by Chris Tomlin. You may like to look it up on YouTube (see below) and share it together with your children. Perhaps you could talk together about some ways that you, as a family, can embrace the season of Lent.

In keeping with our theme of ‘Just do it’, at school we will be using our hearts and hands to embrace the season of Lent. With our hands, we will contribute to the work of Caritas by raising funds Project Compassion. With our hearts, we will pray for all those in need. You will see these prayers being added to our ‘wall of hearts’ outside the office, please join us in praying for these intentions.

“I will follow” by Chris Tomlin (on youtube) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g02mOpdNDtY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g02mOpdNDtY)

**Project Compassion**

During week one of Project Compassion we are presented with the story of Maristely. Maristely, 18, lives in a favela (city slum) in São Paulo, Brazil. Caritas Australia’s partner, Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents (MDF) is working to improve living conditions within her community and other favelas in the city. Through MDF, Maristely’s family, along with thousands of others, now has access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage. Maristely is now a young leader with MDF’s Youth Empowerment Program, working to promote peace, improve access to basic facilities and increase citizens’ awareness of their rights and dignity. Because of our donations Caritas and its partners can continue to make a difference in the lives of young people like Maristely.

**Date Claimers …**

- 6G and 2G will celebrate their buddy class mass on Thursday 13 March at 9:30am in the Church.
- Friday March 14th, 4W will lead us in our Assembly Prayer at 8:45 in Mercy Hall.
- 7G and 3G will celebrate their buddy class mass on Thursday 20 March at 9:30am in the Church.
- Friday 21 March, 3W will lead us in our Assembly Prayer at 8.45 in Mercy Hall.
- All parents and friends are warmly invited to join us for all these events.

**Markus tells us that when we are serving others we are helping to build positive RELATIONSHIPS!!**

**Virtue of the Week: Generosity**

**What Generosity?**

Being generous means that we give willingly of our time, our talents and our treasure. When we are generous we are following the example of Jesus, who always gave generously to others. Lent is a perfect time to practice the virtue of generosity.

**You are practising Generosity when you …**

- Look for opportunities to give to those in need.
- Think of thoughtful things to do for your family.
- Do your part share and make sure others are included.
- Give away things for the love of God.

In particular let’s practice generosity to others by giving to Project Compassion during Lent this year.

Mrs Chantale Wilson  
Acting Assistant Principal Religious Education
Worldwide Marriage Encounter
A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!
Weekend date: 13th – 15th June 2014
Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside)
For bookings/details contact: Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559, stjmen@aapt.net.au
Information website: www.wwme.org.au

OUR THREE FAITH AND MISSION CAPTAINS ATTENDED THE CARITAS LAUNCH AT THE CATHEDRAL.

THE PREP STUDENTS BECAME LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN DESIGNING THEIR NEW PLAYGROUND.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Friday St Mark's competed in the first whole school sporting event of the year with the staging of our Swimming Carnival. It was a day enjoyed by all and supported well by parents, students and teachers. All students conducted themselves in a manner that we have come to expect of them at such events. Congratulations on a job well done Mercy won the carnival with 357 points, McKillop in 2nd place on 324 points and McAuley in the 3rd place on 280 points.
Special thanks to Mrs Oudyn, Miss Coleman and Ms Bonney who co-ordinated the Years 3 and Years 1-2 carnivals respectively.
Moving away from swimming, next week marks the beginning of Inter School sport for Year 6 and 7. St Mark's will compete in Netball and Soccer. Best wishes for these teams and their coaches Mrs Daley, Mr Ferguson and Mrs Oudyn.
Another date claimer is the Inala District Cross Country which will be held at St Mark's on Thursday April 24.
This Wednesday 12th March 5.30pm—St Marks P&F AGM

All positions are available for nominations—President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Each position requires a time commitment to organise events, help with the banking, shopping and event set up.

$3.00 Mothers Day Gift Order Forms went out last week.
The sooner we receive your form and money we can guarantee the gifts you ordered. Please return form and money in an envelope ASAP. Thank you

Brisbane Archdiocesan P&F Council AGM
Monday 17 March 2014 @5.30pm start
St Anthony’s Hall, St Anthony’s School, Kedron
Dinner will be provided
Special Guest Speaker : Carmel Nash
Parent Engagement with Children’s Learning

Monster Easter raffle tickets will come out to families next week. $1.00 per ticket.
Please write your child’s name and class number on the raffle ticket.

In keeping our St Mark’s Easter tradition alive, please bring in Easter eggs, chocolates, baskets or cellophane so we can make up Easter raffle prizes!

2014 Biennial Queensland Catholic Schools Parents Conference
Cairns 25 - 27 April 2014
RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS
Dr Sue Roffey
Sue is the Founder of Wellbeing Australia (www.wellbeingaustralia.com.au/wba), an international authority on behaviour, social and emotional learning, relationships and school climate and a prolific author on these issues.

Susan McLean
Susan is the Director of Cyber Safety Solutions. She is Australia’s foremost expert in the area of cyber safety and young people. Susan has vast knowledge and expertise in cyber safety and regularly provides professional development for those working in education.

Rev Dr Elio Capra sdb
Rev Dr Elio is an engaging speaker who will discuss spiritual relationships and our relationships with church and the sacraments. His presentation style is multi-dimensional and includes music, art and laughter. Cost : $350.00 Plus Airfare refer : www.pandf.org.au