Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Standing where he belongs is the statue of the “Boy Jesus”, at the front of the school. Originally commissioned by Fr Frank Moynihan and bequeathed to the school, the statue stood for a number of years in the overgrown front garden, almost lost from sight at times. Today the statue again takes the prominent position that it should have. As a Catholic school, all that we do is centred on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are all called into a very real and life giving relationship with Jesus, no matter our age or station in life. Do take the time to admire and reflect on this statue.

Month of the Rosary
Each day, throughout October, there is a call to prayer at noon. Classes stop to pray the rosary. Please talk to your children of what they are learning about the rosary and join in this wonderful form of prayer.

Parents and Friends Meeting
October’s P and F meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening in the staffroom at 5.30 pm. All parents and friends of the school are warmly invited to attend. We look to prepare for and meet the opportunities and challenges that come throughout this term. Of note, The P and F “End of Year” Dinner is one not to miss. I do hope that many of you will come and join in a night of celebration and fun on Friday night, 7th November. Full details should have come to you with last week’s newsletter (on the red sheet!). See also the P and F news page for details.

Prep in 2015
Please make application for your child should they be born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June, 2010 if you have not yet done so. At this stage, we will have either two and a half or three prep classes, depending on numbers. Forms are available either on-line or from the office. Also, any students going on holiday early or not returning on the first day back in 2015 please come into the office to sign a form or hand in a signed letter. As mentioned previously, we are full in several year levels and have a waiting list of very keen families.

Student Protection
Student protection is, and rightly so, at the forefront of our thinking and practices here at St. Mark’s. Every child needs to know that they are safe at all times and, if they do not feel safe, know what to do to be safe. To that end all classes will be learning a number of student protection lessons over the next 4 weeks. Again, please discuss with your child and, if you wish, their teacher about what they are learning. It is a very important aspect of school life.

Pupil Free Day
Remember, next Monday is a holiday for all students. Teachers will be moderating with other teachers throughout the district.

World Teachers’ Day
My apologies for any confusion with the dates that went out last week. We will celebrate World Teachers Day next Friday, 24th October. There will be a special whole school assembly and the celebration in the staffroom as mentioned last week. You are very welcome to come and join us if you can.

Practical Matters
By now, you would be aware of the “no standing signs” on Lilac Street. These went in unannounced to us here at school. To avoid fines and to keep us all safe, please take note of, and follow, all signs. Thanks. School fees went out last week. Please attend to these promptly. Should you have any concerns or difficulties, do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Barry or myself here at the school.
RE NEWS

Child Safety Information

This week we will begin our annual focus on Child Safety here at St Mark’s. Once again we are using a program provided by the Queensland Government which runs the students through a series of four lessons which talk about safety issues. At St Mark’s we use these lessons to explain that we are all special, unique individuals created by God and we have the right to be safe at all times. The students will talk about the “early warning signs” that their body gives out that tells them they might be in danger. For example, butterflies in the tummy, sweaty palms, an uneasy feeling or the hairs on the back on the neck stand up. Many children think that being safe refers to practical matters like crossing the road, wearing a bike helmet—many don’t realise that being safe also means being emotionally safe too. The children discuss the importance that their body belongs to them—and that nobody can touch them or make them touch somebody else. Because God has created each of us special—and we are all important—we have a right to protect ourselves from people who may want to hurt us. The children will also be given some very practical, proactive strategies to use against someone who may potentially be dangerous to them. They also take time to specifically name adults that they can trust to talk to if they ever don’t feel safe. These lessons will be conducted by their teacher or myself.

These are very important life lessons for our students. Please take the time to talk to your children about these lessons. Please talk to myself or your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Date Claimers …

We have a VERY BUSY term ahead:

• This Thursday, 16 October, Year 7 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
• This Friday 3G will lead us for our Assembly Prayer on Friday, 17 October.
• International Teachers Day will be celebrated on Assembly on Friday 24 October.
• Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 26 November at 6:30 pm.
• Year 6&7 Graduation will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 3 December.
• Our End of Year Mass is at 10:30 am on Friday 5 December.
• School Finishes for the year at 12 noon on Friday 5 December.

Parents & Friends YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO THESE EVENTS!!

Virtue of the Week: Caring

What is Caring?

Caring is giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you. You can show you care about someone by saying and doing things that help them. Caring about something means giving it your very best. It is a sign of love, respect and concern. Caring about yourself means that you treat yourself with the respect and concern that you deserve as a child of God.

You are practising Caring when you …

• Love others and yourself.
• Let people know that what they say is important to you by looking at them and listening closely.
• Treat your body with respect.
• Protect and nurture anything placed in your care, particularly pets.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght:
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Our Boy Jesus statue has returned to take pride of place in the entrance garden.

**Book Club Reminder**

Book club is due at the end of this week. Please make sure your children hand any orders in to their teacher by **Friday October 17th**. Remember to send money in an envelope with the order clearly marked. **Please make sure your child’s name and grade is on the order form.** Thank you for your support in Book club.

The school receives free resources for our library when we participate in Book Club.

**Don’t miss out. ACT NOW..**

If you have a daughter in Year 3, 4 or 5

Brigidine College, Indooroopilly is accepting enrolments for Year 7 2016, 2017 and 2018

**OFFER YOUR DAUGHTER THE CHANCE** to be a part of a strong academic tradition balanced by the wellbeing philosophy of **Strength and Gentleness.**

Phone 3870 7225 to secure an enrolment pack. Next Visitation Days are Monday 27 or Tuesday 28 October 9.30-10.30am.

Go to www.brigidine.qld.edu.au for more information.

**Tuckshop Reminder**

**Tuckshop will be open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**

Tuckshop will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from Week 1 of Term 4 2014. Tuckshop will **not** operate on Monday.

Thank you for supporting our school tuckshop.

Anna Sinitsky

**Change to Tuckshop in Term 4**

**Free Parenting Workshop**

Feel prepared for the holiday period!

The team from the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program are inviting **separated or divorced** parents to participate in a **free**, half-day parenting workshop.

The workshop targets concerns such as how improve personal coping skills, reduce conflict between parents, improve family relationships, and best support children during this time. Parents accessing the workshop will be asked to complete a study survey. If you are interested please access the study webpage here - [https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/familytransitions](https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/familytransitions).

The first workshop parents may be allocated is on **Saturday the 25th of October**. For further information or any questions, please email familytransitions@uq.edu.au

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**STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST MARK’S IN 2015**

Please complete this section and return it to the school office if you **ARE NOT** returning to St Mark’s in 2015.

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**SIGNED (Parent):**

**PRINT (Parent):**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**NAME OF NEW SCHOOL:**

**REASON FOR LEAVING:**
Your P&F meeting is on this Wed 15th Oct @ 5.30pm
You are all welcome to join us at St Mark’s P&F meeting on this Wednesday night 5.30pm in the staffroom.

World Teachers Day Morning Tea
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Bring your favourite dish to share with your wonderful teachers & staff at morning tea in the staffroom.
Let’s celebrate the important work they do in educating and preparing our children for life.

St Mark’s Teachers are Inspirational

Please email me a paragraph on your favourite teacher to agnes.sio@hotmail.com

This year I have two wonderful teachers, Mr Everett & Mrs de Jesus, they are the best teachers in the world.
I like them because they are supportive, helpful and always ready to share a laugh.
I would love to have them next year but I never know I could find another awesome teacher.
Josef Connolly 4G

This year my favourite teachers are Miss Coleman and Mrs Morrow.
I like them because they are kind and lovely!
Yvonne Connolly 1G

ST MARK’S P&F CHRISTMAS DINNER
FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
RICHLANDS TAVERNS CONFERENCE ROOM

$35 covers Buffet Dinner, Soft drinks, Lucky Door Prizes & DJ MANNY
Send in your completed form with money to RSVP.

Two of our mothers Carrie McCormack and Christine da Costa have been regularly writing a column for the Catholic Leader publication on family life. These are great articles and well worth the read. You can find these articles on the Catholic Leader website (http://catholicleader.com.au/family). Direct links to these articles and video interviews are also available on our school website.

MONSTER XMAS RAFFLE COMING SOON.....

THURSDAY
6TH NOVEMBER
COLLECT AND PAY YOUR FAMILY PORTRAITS.
THANK YOU.

Congratulations to Jacob Richter for becoming state champion point sparring at the National All Styles Tournament for 7 and under. Here he is with his proud family.

Congratulations to Amelia Chadburn who came 3rd in 8-9yrs black sash point Sparring at the Tournament.