Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Welcome back to another term. Like all terms this is one with many opportunities to get involved in the life of the school, to support your child’s on-going learning and build success.

Spirit of St. Mark’s Awards
On the last day of last semester, the first “Spirit of St. Mark’s” awards were presented to one student from each year level. This student was selected by the teachers of that level as one who conducted themselves as exemplary students, a great role model to their peers and one whom we would proudly identify as a girl or boy living the virtues and working to achieve success by being all that they can be. We were very proud to present medals to -

Prep—Chris Mugisha
Year 1—Kyra Amiga
Year 2—Blessings Latu Mulumu
Year 3—Miguel Galarion
Year 4—Ellen McCormack
Year 5—Mi Mi Le Nguyen
Year 6—Sarah Ho
Year 7—Fony Victorio

Congratulations to all, and to their proud parents!

Parent/ Teacher Meetings
Meetings have begun this week to present Semester One Reports to all parents for all students. Please be sure to attend that meeting. It is vital to acknowledge achievements gained, encourage and reinforce good practices and perhaps find out where extra support or effort may be required. Should you have difficulty making your meeting, please contact the teacher as soon as you can to arrange an alternate time.

Winter Appeal
I pass on sincere thanks from Mrs Leesa Horn, co-ordinator of St. Vincent de Paul Centre here in Inala, for the most generous donations delivered on the last day of last term. The response this year was amazing! Our pyjama day was great! In the end, it was more than my ute could handle in one trip and, thanks to the extra support from the Watkins, many will receive that “little bit of support” they will need to help get through this winter.

Winter—Practical Considerations
As the weather is cold, all children need to have warm pullovers, school green and named please. Handkerchiefs or tissues are needed for good hygiene especially at this time. If your child is genuinely sick, do not send them to school. All children need to be at school by 8.30 am ready to start the school day on time. Your assistance please in this matter is needed. Homework Club begins again next week, as does our Breakfast Club.

Lap-a-thon
The major fund raiser for the P and F this year is the lap-a-thon. All money raised will go to up-graded equipment in the school. The next project is the Year 6/7 play area. Please support as much as you can. See the P and F page for more details.

Parents are welcome to come and join us on the actual day, Friday, 15th August. Children can start to get sponsorships and donations as soon as they have the documents and know the “ground rules” to follow. Let’s go St. Mark’s!

July Fees
Please attend to them promptly and, as always, should you need clarification or be experiencing difficulties, contact Ms Barry or myself for assistance.
What is Unity?
Unity is a very powerful Virtue, and it brings great strength. It is a way of seeing the universe as one, designed by God who created us all. You allow yourself to see how everything is connected and depends on one another. Unity brings harmony. It doesn’t mean to be the same. You value what each part brings to the whole. Unity brings peace and balance.

You are practising Unity when you ...
- Treat all people as members of one human family.
- See the gifts in differences.
- Solve conflict through listening, then taking unified action.
- Act like a peacemaker wherever you go.

Virtue of the Week: Unity

Markus says when you work for unity you are caring for RELATIONSHIPS!!

Date Claimers ...

- Next Thursday, 24 July, a number of students from Year 3 and some other classes will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9:30am in the Church. For all of these children this will be an extra special event as it will be the first time they receive this sacrament as they continue their preparation for receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on Sunday 3 August and Sunday 17 August. Please pray for these students at this important time!
- Assembly Prayer on Friday 25 July will be run by 3W at 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- Our first whole School celebration this term will be on Thursday 31 July when we celebrate Catholic Education Week. The theme this year is “Come live life in all its fullness”. During this week we will engage the students in a range of activities.
- There will be an assembly on Friday, 25 July, after which the whole school will be participating in our 800m races. Parents are most welcome to join us down on the Gilly Lyons oval for the morning session.
- Ekka Public Holiday is on Wednesday 13 August.
- Our Lap-a-thon will be on Friday 15 August.
- Book Week runs during Week 6 starting on 18 August.
- St Vinnies Sleepover will be held on Friday night 12 September.
- Holiday start on Friday 19 September. (Only 10 weeks to go!)

Congrats to our Spirit of St Mark’s Winners!

Onesie Wednesday for St Vincent de Paul

On Wednesday, 25 June, lots of us popped on our PJs or Onesie to help raise money for the Winter Appeal.

Mrs Nikki Lysoght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
ACU Creative Writing Workshop

Seven of our students were invited to participate in a Creative Writing Workshop at the Australian Catholic University during the holidays. We were told that our students, Annette Le, Emily Leigh-ton, Jemma Watkins, Lauren Markovics, Zoe Gavarra, Patrick Dodd and Zoe Geddes were a delight to have on campus. Their behaviour and participation were outstanding and a great few days was had by all.

The key purposes of the workshop were to develop an awareness of the university and familiarisation with the campus, and to foster their interest in creative writing. The students were congratulated on the quality of their stories and use of their imaginations. They followed a clear structure and worked furiously over the two days, writing up a storm.

All past students, staff and parents are invited to attend 85th Anniversary celebrations at Brigidine College Indooroopilly Sunday 27 July 2014.

Celebration Mass at 2pm in Holy Family Parish Church Cnr Ward St and Central Avenue, Indooroopilly followed by Afternoon Tea around the Holy Lawn at Brigidine College from 3 – 5pm. Optional tour - Discover all of the latest developments as you enjoy a student guided tour of the College campus. RSVP by Monday 14 July 2014 (for catering purposes) on (07) 3870 7225 or 85thanniversary@brigidine.qld.edu.au. It is anticipated that Mass and High Tea will become an annual event during Brigidine Week as the College moves towards its centenary in 2029.

Winter Appeal

This year’s winter appeal was amazing! The total amount raised was 3867 items! Well done St Mark’s! Thanks very much for your generosity. The winning class with 815 items was SW. Our faith and Mission captain, Gemma Watkins donated 450 items; she increased her goal from 350 items! Regina Chen brought in 510 packets of noodles and a prep student brought in 150 tubes of toothpaste.

Thank you very much St Marks!

TUCKSHOP

The special combo meal for this week is a meat pie, a drink and a paddle pop for only $5!

There is also popcorn for 50c and muffins available for $1

St Mark’s Tuckshop is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday each week. If you can help at any time, please contact the tuckshop.

Thank you…..Anna Sinitsky

OPEN MORNING SETON COLLEGE

Tuesday 5th August starting at 9am in the College Chapel with an Information Session followed by a tour of the College. The Open Morning will conclude at 10:30am.

SETON COLLEGE, MT GRAVATT EAST, a Catholic Co-educational College, is now accepting enrolment applications from students wishing to attend the College in Years 7 and 8 2015, 2016. (Maximum Year 7and 8 enrolment is 65 students, respectively.) The College accepts students of diverse abilities, but seeks to provide opportunities for students who need to ‘pick up the pace’ of their school work in the primary years. This is done through a curriculum in which core subjects are offered at many levels and classes with a very favourable teacher – student ratio. In the Senior years (Years 11-12), the College offers students the opportunity to do QCE subjects and a variety of VET pathways. Please visit the College website at http://www.seton.qld.edu.au or phone 3291 5333 to obtain an enrolment package.
St Mark’s Lap-a-thon on 15th August

Dear Students & Families,

We are holding a Lap-a-thon on 15th August and ask for your valuable support. All money raised will support your child’s learning whether it be by purchasing additional resources or enhancing a learning space.

If you raise $10 you will be entitled to a prize of your choice, however, the more money you raise, the better the prizes. Students have a selection of over 70 prizes to choose from such as Sony, iPod Shuffles, Wahu, Razor, Nerf and more.

You can even mix and match your prizes. Please read your attached sponsorship form for further details.

Final collection date will be 22nd August.

St Mark’s You have Amazing & Talented Children!

Thank you to our students for your commitment in working through the holidays to further your learning.

Congratulations!

To these 7 talented students who represented St Marks at a 2 day Creative Writing Workshop at Australian Catholic University with Dr Laurie Keim.

Dr Keim is an Australian poet, author of fiction and a writing teacher.

Thank you to the staff and parents who encouraged and supported these students.

Winners from the 3 day Tennis Comp at West Brisbane Tennis Centre, Amelia Chadburn, Max Munker & Iverson Rizo

This was the Vikings Under 8 first Ipswich District Soccer Carnival and training paid off as they won 3, drew 1, lost 1.

Amelia Chadburn & Jacob Richter competed in the Touch Football Junior State Cup in Hervey Bay. This 3 day annual event had over 200 teams from across the state competing from ages under 10 to under 18. Both students represented the Brisbane Mustangs in their Under 10 teams. Both teams performed extremely well and were only eliminated in the last round. Amelia’s team won all their 8 games except for the final game with a narrow loss to Gold Coast.

Miguel Galarion enjoying the snowfields in Victoria

If you wish to share your child’s achievements or special adventures please email photos & details to agnes.sio@hotmail.com

The Brisbane Archdiocesan Council of Parents & Friends Dinner

Monday 28 July at The good Samaritan Centre, Lourdes Hill College, 86 Hawthorne Road,