Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday night a large group of children from Years 5, 6 and 7 took part in the Sleep Over experience. With guest speakers, warm milo, cardboard boxes and lots of friends, the children learned a lot of the plight of the homeless. More importantly, they were prepared and able to do something positive for both themselves and the wider community.

My special thanks to our mums and dad who came for the night as well as the inspiring effort and commitment from the teachers. Thanks Mrs Daley for your organization. It was a wonderful experience.

Mission Appeal

We conclude our appeal this week with various activities organized by our student leaders and Vietnamese food for the final time tomorrow. Please support generously.

Choral Festival

Tonight choir members represent St. Mark’s at the annual Choral Festival. I thank Mr Johnstone for his work. Thanks also to choir members and parents who honour their commitment to attend and perform. This is a wonderful experience for them all.

Tuck shop

As previously mentioned, next term the tuck-shop will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Please support this service to our families.

Breakfast Club then will operate on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Holidays

The term ends at 3.00 pm this Friday and resumes on Tuesday, 7th October. (Monday, 6th October, is a public holiday.) I trust it will be a great family time where you can enjoy the company of your children and the activity that comes with that. Assistance from children around the house is a wonderful time to build family bonds and memories. Should your child have school resources, library books and the like, please have them returned to school.

Preparations for 2015

Much preparations has already been done for the end of this year and the start of next year. There are numbers for two prep classes at present and demand will determine whether we will have a third. Enrolment application forms are available from the office. If your child/ren are not returning to St Mark’s in 2015, please complete the slip on page 3. There are waiting lists for a number of year levels.

Projects

Recent damage sustained at school has now been repaired. Security arrangements are being reviewed. Our school needs our care. The 6/7 playground is great— so they tell me. The front garden area is nearly done and it looks great.

Gates and bollards will be installed this week, restricting access to the grounds.

During the holidays, “carpet walls” will go into prep classrooms and those in McAuley building.

Unclaimed Property

There is an embarrassingly large amount of unclaimed property. Please, come and get it! What is not claimed will simply be given away.

Have a safe and happy holiday

2014 TERM DATES:
Term 3: 14 July- 19 Sept
Term 4: 7 Oct - 5 Dec

2015 TERM DATES:
Term 1: 28 Jan - 2 Apr
Term 2: 20 Apr - 26 Jun
Term 3: 13 July - 18 Sept
Term 4: 6 Oct - 4 Dec

For Confidence
PG: Trong Dao

PW: Tumanu Leota
PB: Truc Nguyen
1G: Yvonne Connolly
1W: Sesalina Niu
1B: Francis Anei
2G: Katlyn Lu
2W: Tayzha Timu
2B: Jacob Richter
3G: Madison West
3W: Lily Tran
4G: Sii Paseka
4W: Maddison Smith
5W: Maligi Pulou
5/6B: VyVy Dinh
6G: Tin Pham
6W: Huy Pham
7G: Sharna Aiono

For Helpfulness
5G: Alex Ho

Be in the gate by half past eight!

All students should be at school by 8:30am. If students are late they must report to the school office, to let Mr Montgomery or Mrs Ioannides know the reason why they are late for school. Thank you!
CATHOLIC MISSIONS

This is our last week of fundraising for Catholic Missions. My thanks to the year 6&7 students and their teachers for all the lunchtime activities that have been running to raise money and awareness for Catholic Missions. Thanks also to our Vietnamese parents who have run the tuckshop every Wednesday for 3 weeks. And thank you to all the parents and students for giving so generously, once again, to this appeal.

Prayer is also an important means, in faith, to support our brothers and sisters who not only need material aid but also spiritual support. Please remember to pray for all those for whom we raise the money. When we pray we seek to express our hopes for the children and their families in Jamaica and all those who are affected by lack of opportunities both physically and spiritually. We also affirm God’s love for us, our concern for each other, and our hope and commitment to work in mission towards including everyone in God’s family.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, addresses us with these words for World Mission Month:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission of the Church continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born ‘to go forth’."

Thank you for helping to carry on the mission of the Church during this time of raising money and awareness for Catholic Missions. Student activities will run again this week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

As part of our Catholic Missions fundraising a group of Mums and Dads will also sell Vietnamese food from the tuckshop tomorrow (Wednesday 17 September). I know this will, once again, be popular amongst our students and staff—with all profits going directly to the orphanage we support in Vietnam. Thanks to these parents for their generosity!

**Date Claimers ...**

- This Thursday, 18 September, we celebrate the **Class Mass** for 1G and 4G at 9:30am in the Church. It will be our last class mass for the term.
- This Friday’s **Prayer Assembly** (19 September at 8:45 am in Mercy Hall) will be led by 4W.
- There will be a special presentation for one of our staff members.
- School holidays start on Friday 19 September.
- School starts back on Tuesday 7 October.

**Virtue of the Week: Assertiveness**

**What is Assertiveness?**

Being assertive means to be positive and confident. Assertiveness begins by being aware that you are a worthy person created by God. When you are assertive, you don’t follow others. If someone is trying to hurt you, lead you into trouble, or influence you to do something you feel is wrong, you protect yourself.

**You are practising Assertiveness when you ...**

- Recognise that God created you special and unique.
- Think for yourself.
- Tell people what’s true for you when they ask for your opinion.
- Say no to things that make you feel uneasy, that might hurt you or get you into trouble.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght:
Assistant Principal Religious Education
The sleep out on Friday night was attended by 54 students and 4 teachers. Without the teacher support, the sleep out would not have been experienced by our students. A big thank you goes to Mrs Winterflood, Miss Donato and Mrs Gorman for staying the night at the sleep out to be our security and watch over the children. Thanks to Mrs Ioannides (who volunteers for Rosie’s-Friends on the Street) for sharing her experiences of chatting to the homeless. Also, thanks to Mr Montgomery for sharing his experiences of homelessness. Mr Montgomery cooked our sausages the next morning as well. Thanks also to Mr and Mrs Gavarra for donating the sausages and bread for the sleep out. Joining us in our sleep out was Mrs Markovics, Mrs Watkins and Mr Kennedy. Thanks for sharing in the experience of what it is like to be homeless. One of our dad’s, Mr Roby Curtis, came to talk to the students about his experience of working with Blind Eye. He brought with him Fr Tony and Will who also are connected to Blind Eye. Thanks to the support from Agnes and the P and F. Rikki from St Vincent de Paul challenged us on the night to make sure we go out and share our experiences and not to forget about what we have heard and learnt from sleeping out the night in our undercover area. Thanks goes to the brave students who gave up a night of comfortable sleep to experience sleeping out in the open having to sleep on a cardboard box and listening to the noises around the area at night. Please see our school website for more photos.

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.

STUDENT NAME: ____________________________
DOB____________________     CLASS:_______
STUDENT NAME: ____________________________
DOB____________________     CLASS:_______
STUDENT NAME: ____________________________
DOB____________________     CLASS:_______
SIGNED (Parent): _______________________________________
PRINT (Parent): _______________________________________
PHONE NUMBER _______________________________________  
NAME OF NEW SCHOOL: ____________________________
REASON FOR LEAVING: _______________________________________

Vietnamese Tuckshop

Last day this Wednesday

September 17

All profits go to support the orphanage in Vietnam. The menu is up around the school - the standard price for each item is $2.

Thank you for your support

Change to Tuckshop in Term 4

Tuckshop will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from Week 1 of Term 4 2014. Tuckshop will not operate on Monday. Please find a copy of the tuckshop menu attached to this newsletter. Thank you for supporting our school tuckshop.
Thank you to the families who supported the family portraits!

The children loved the prizes from the Lap-a-thon! Thanks to Anna for organising these.

ST VINNIE’S SLEEPOUT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Kym Daley & team for organising another successful sleep out! They had inspirational speakers like Roby Curtis & Father Tony from Blind Eye Ministries. Roby and his team support and comfort our homeless through weekly and fortnightly outreaches around Brisbane. They perform acts of kindness without judgement and give people spiritual hope.

The students also participated and learnt interesting facts about the homeless from the St Vinnie’s rep on the night.

Thank you to the Gavarra Family for their generous donation of sausages & bread for breakfast at the sleep out.

Thank you to Gemma Watkins who donated a huge jar of change to the sleep out.

Thank you to Jenny McMahon for donating the boxes for this event.

Teirah Green from Grade 1 and Marah Seufale Grade 2B performed at the Forest Lake School Fete last Saturday.

Congratulations to Jacob Richter & Amelia Chadburn who qualified for the state titles at the Kung Fu All Styles Nationals. Jacob won gold and Amelia won bronze in the Black Sash division. We are very proud of their achievements!

P&F are buying the new bell for the front entrance and donating $5000 to the school to support the Yr 6/7 playground upgrade. We will subsidize Christmas dinner, so it will cost $35 for buffet, soft drinks & DJ.