Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Wednesday evening we held the Annual General Meeting for the P and F Association. Executive positions were open for nominations and the office bearers for 2014 were elected. Our congratulations go to -

Agnes Sio—President
Anna Sinitsky—Vice President
Veronica Tierney—Secretary and
Ena Miranda —Treasurer

Later this week we look to set goals for the year ahead and the group, including those who came to the general meeting, are very excited about this year’s possibilities. Already, the school year is off to a great start with the Parent Information evening, Welcoming BBQ, working bee, school leaders shirts and more.

Some proposals I put to the P and F include -

The need to increase the levy for our camps next year by $10 per term. The costs of these continue to rise and the school has not moved on the camp levy for some years now.

Year 4 Instrumental Music
I am very keen for more of our students to gain the experience of learning a musical instrument. To that end I propose our Year 4s get involved in the Creative Kids programme as a whole year level. The teachers and students are very keen, the P and F endorsed the proposal and Creative Kids are ready and able to support this move.

I am hopeful that lessons will begin then in Term 2 this year. The cost would be covered through the levy system with a levy commensurate with the camp levy of Years 5, 6 and 7 i.e. $60 per child per term.

If you would like further details of our plans, or wish to express your opinion, do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Lent
The Lenten journey calls us all to prepare for the joy of Easter. We look at how we live our lives and actively seek to be more like Jesus in all we say and do. Check out the wall of hearts as you come into the office. Please, also encourage the support for Project Compassion. This has started very well.

Monster Easter Raffle
It’s on again and we are calling for donations for prizes. We need chocolate, chocolate and chocolate. Raffle tickets will be sent home today with this newsletter. We are hoping for over 100 prizes again this year. Remember, you have to be in it to win it!

Prep 2015
If you have a child born between 1st July, 2010 and 30th June 2011, please come in and pick up an enrolment application form from the office for 2015. I’m sure the spaces will fill so spread the word to others who may also be considering St. Mark’s for a good Catholic education.

New Staff
Welcome Mrs Fran Miles to St. Mark’s. Fran takes over from Mrs Jess Neilson -Scott. Fran comes with a good deal of experience from other states and territories, and we look forward to all that she will bring to her class and the school.

Sport
A good number of children represent- ed St. Mark’s at inter-school sport last Friday. As worthy representatives, they have presented well in uniform and conducted themselves well. A smaller number have trialled for district teams with some success. Congratulations to our sportspeople. Details inside.

SUPPORT PROJECT COMPASSION

For Generosity
PG: Rose Marie
PW: Chris Mugisha
PB: Obama Tawor
1G: Yvonne Connolly
1B: Diya Reeju
1W: Evie Dorsamy
2G: Wendy Nguyen
2W: Moesia Kali
3G: Kim Nguyen
3W: Amber Brown and Jared Dinh
4G: Siela Ah Ching
4W: Priya Thevar
5G: Fiona Nguyen
5W: Whole Class
5/6B: Chau Nguyen
6W: Fabiola Tumaini
6G: Jemma Watkins
7G: Fony Victorio

For Enthusiasm
2B: Tomy Tran
RE NEWS

Just do it... with our hearts and hands

As a school community, we journey on through the season of Lent, towards Easter. Our ‘wall of hearts’ (just outside the office) continues to fill with the names of those for whom we are praying during these special weeks. Pictured here are just a few of the prayer intentions written by St Mark’s students. Please take a moment to stop by the wall as new ‘hearts’ are going up each day. As I walk by the wall each day I am reminded of just how easy it is to make a difference in our world. A prayer—even the simplest one—invites God’s presence into our world and engages each of us as collaborators in sharing His love with everyone.

Speaking of prayer, one of the ways the staff of St Mark’s pray during the Lenten season is by attending Mass with the Parish community on Wednesday mornings at 8.00am before school starts for the day. You are most welcome to join this celebration together with your children.

Project Compassion continues...

During week two of Project Compassion we are presented with the story of Deng. At the age of six, Deng was left paralysed by an illness. This did not deter him and he embraced life with all its challenges. Sadly, civil war in his home of South Sudan drove Deng and his family away from their village, leaving behind their homes and livestock. “We were unable to be in our village,” says Deng, “life was unbearable and all the time we kept hiding from the militia in the bush... We were always on the move.” In 2005, the civil war ended and they were able to move back home. To assist with resettling, Caritas Australia’s partner, Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) established a food security and rehabilitation program. Deng received two goats, five chickens, fishing nets and a selection of seeds to plant. He now looks forward to a future of hope for his family. Deng is just one of the people we are supporting through Project Compassion.

Date Claimers ...

- 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.
- 1G and 4G will celebrate their buddy class mass on **Thursday 27 March at 9:30am** in the Church.
- Friday March 28th, 5G 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.

Virtue of the Week: Excellence

**What Excellence?**
Excellence is doing your best. It is giving your best to any task you do or any relationship you have. Excellence is a desire for perfection. It is the key to success. You don’t try to be better than anyone else. You are trying to be the best that you can be.

**You are practising Excellence when you ...**
- Give your best to whatever you do.
- Give your best to relationships.
- Remember to plan and practice.
- Develop your own gifts.

Let’s practise Excellence by working towards a goal this week that will help us to become a better person tomorrow than we are today!

Mrs Chantale Wilson
Acting Assistant Principal Religious Education
Students of St Mark's
Prep W students enjoyed doing paintings of the chickens that are hatching in our classroom. The students are also looking after the garden since the wonderful work that went ahead at the working bee and they are, of course, loving the new sand in the sandpit outside the Prep classrooms.

SPORTS—NETBALL SENIOR 6 TEAM
Our first games went well. We played Forest Lake State School and the score was 3 to 15. We also played Grand Avenue, we didn’t win either, it was 4 to 15, but I would like to thank and congratulate the girls for giving 110% in every game. We would also like to thank Mrs Daley for coaching and supporting us and walking us to Inala State School.

Fony Victorio (7G)

SPORTS—SOCCER NEWS
Last Friday two soccer teams made up of year 6 and year 7 boys and girls went to Carole Park to compete in the inter-school competition. St Mark’s A played St Mark’s B (drew 0-0), then Forest Lake A (lost 0-5). St Mark’s B played Inala State School B (lost 1-2) then Forest Lake A (lost 3-5). Everyone played well, especially Bao and Tesfae.

Overall, both teams loved scoring goals, they made some new friends and had fun.

Library News
Book Fair next week – Mon 24th– Fri 28th March - You are Invited!
The Book Fair is an exciting way to promote reading and books. Parents, you are most welcome to join us in the library for the Book Fair. The children will view the books in library time from Monday to Wednesday. It is always a fun time!

Parent Viewing Times Next Week:
Mon (not before school) 3.00 – 3.30   Tues 8.00 – 8.30am  3.00 - 3.30pm
Wed 8.00 – 8.30am  3.00 – 3.30pm   Thurs 8.00 – 8.30am  3.00 - 3.30pm
Fri 8.00 – 8.30am  (last opportunity to purchase, books returned later in the morning)

Children are given the opportunity to fill out a Wish List in order to help them and their parents with the purchasing. It is explained as a Wish List – some wishes come true others don’t! You are not expected to buy everything on this list – please do not let your child convince you of this. You may prefer to select a book with your child. This should ensure that both you and your child are happy with the purchase. You are most welcome to visit the Book Fair. If you are unable to attend but want your child to purchase a book then please send money for purchases by Friday. MANY BOOKS ARE IN THE $4 TO $10 RANGE.

Should you wish to donate a book from the fair to the school, please see Mrs Keaton or Mrs Badke.

Happy reading! ........... Mrs Leesa Keaton and Therese Badke (Teacher-Librarian)
Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Jodie Geddes for her hard work and dedication over the last 3 years as our P&F Treasurer. She created and implemented a detailed accounting system for our P&F and we wish her luck with her business ventures.

Please welcome our new P&F Committee; President-Agnes Sio, Vice President-Anna Sinitsky, Secretary-Veronica Tierney, Treasurer-Ena Miranda, Vietnamese Representative-Nhung Vu, Sudanese Representative—Margaret Cokere, St Mark’s Delegates —Anna Sinitsky & Agnes Sio.

At the general meeting, parents supported the request for a $10 per term increase to the year 5 and 6 excursion levy in 2015 enabling them to attend camp. The request for a similar increase to year 4 student levies this year, so they get access to instrument musical was also supported by the group.

Research shows the positive effective of children undertaking an instrument increases their chance of achieving higher educational goals.

We reviewed and adapted Brisbane Federation P&F Constitution as the St Marks’ P&F Constitution and will ask the school to add a copy onto our school webpage.

One of the parents suggested we hold a”Keeping Kids Safe Talk” for our children and families at a P&F event. Mr Montgomery advised that St Mark’s do this already through various ways; Student Protection Week, Daniel Morecombe Day, Mrs Badke and team run regularly “Online Safety Lessons” for the kids but St Mark’s are open to new ways of Student Safety.


**State of Origin Free Dress Day** (Gold Coin Donation)
**Wednesday 28th May 2014**
Brisbane Catholic Colleges have been ringing Mr Montgomery chasing students for next year, so St Mark’s has proposed to organise an after school "Catholic High School Expo" for our families to attend and speak with staff from various local catholic colleges. This is a work in progress.

$3.00 Mothers Day Gift orders close this Friday
THE BOW COIN PURSES ARE SOLD OUT!

**Monster Easter Raffle Tickets went out to families this today.**
**$1.00 per Ticket**

Please write your child’s name and class on the raffle ticket.

Please bring in easter eggs, chocolates or baskets to make up Easter raffle prizes!