Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Yesterday a number of the staff and students gathered with the family and friends of Cameron Hatchman for his funeral. At this sad time please hold the family in your prayers.

Swimming Block
Thank you for your support in having your child ready to swim on the allocated days. This week our Prep—Year 5s will swim on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This will be the case next week also. (Years 6 and 7 are swimming on Tuesdays.) Thanks for ensuring that swimming gear is ready on each swimming day.

Christmas Concert
The Christmas concert is just around the corner—Wednesday night, 26th November starting at 6.30 pm. All children are involved. Please make sure that you have your child at school by 6.15pm at the latest. The concert is free.

Have you got your tickets in the P and F Christmas raffle? It will be drawn at the concert.

Christmas Appeal
We launch our Christmas Appeal this Thursday. Each year we traditionally look to help those in our community who need some Christmas cheer. Please send along non-perishable goods suitable to go into a Christmas hamper to the class teacher over the next couple of weeks. We will make our presentation at the end of year Mass on Friday, 5th December.

Orientation Days
It was good to welcome families and children who will be in our Prep classes next year. I’m sure we will get the opportunity to meet them early next year at our Parent/ Teacher Evening or Welcoming BBQ.

At this time, classes are full from Years 4 to 6 (waiting lists are there), limited spaces in Years 2 and 3 and more spaces available in the younger years.

All families should have the book lists that went out some weeks ago. Please look to have books ready for the start of next year.

Student Awards
As you might be aware, we have refined our ways of recognizing and acclaiming our model students this year.

Each week, teachers select a student from their class who has lived out the virtues. They are acclaimed each Friday on the whole school assembly, and rightly so.

Twice a term, teachers then select one of those children to come and join me for a principal’s afternoon tea. These have been most enjoyable. Importantly, these children need to know that they are being recognized as those very people who we would hold up as all that is great about what students do/say. This is not an easy selection in many cases.

Once each semester, from those children invited to a principal’s afternoon tea, one is selected by the teachers to receive the Spirit of St. Mark award. It is a most prestigious award for that student and their family.

The second of these awards for the year will be presented on Friday’s assembly, 28th November. Do come along if you can.

Learning Team Assembly and Other Matters
The final learning team assemblies, held each fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon, will be next week.

All are welcome to attend.

Homework Club ends next week. Thanks to those who have supported this so well. I trust all have benefitted from the generous time given by the teachers.

Lost property is there to be collected!

Please let the school know if your child/ren are not returning to St. Mark’s as soon as possible.

On such hot days, hats are essential. Please ensure your child has theirs.

Please do not park in either the school grounds or the parish grounds for the safety of all.

See you at one or more of the end of year functions. Enjoy!

Garry Montgomery
Principal

2014 TERM DATES:
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

Late Students
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!

Important Notice
Do you have a new address or telephone number?
If you or your child’s emergency contacts have changed address or telephone number, please inform the school office. It is very important that we can contact you in the case of an emergency. Thank you!

Term Reminders
Wednesday
November 26:
Christmas Concert

Wednesday December 3:
Year 6 & 7 Graduation Night

Friday December 5:
Last Day of School
School finishes at 12noon
Please ensure ALL students are collected at 12noon.
What is Truthfulness?

Truthfulness means your words and actions are full of truth. Telling the truth means you don’t tell lies, even to protect yourself or anyone else. You don’t live a lie either. You show people who and what you are without exaggerating to impress them or trying to look like something you are not.

You are practising Truthfulness when you...

• Speak only the truth
• Practise justice
• Admit when you have made a mistake
• Know when you are enough.
St Mark’s Uniform Shop

is open every Friday during school term between 8am and 9am.
Also open: 21st, 22nd January 2015: 9am-11am 28th, 29th, 30th January 2015 from 8am

Get in early and avoid the rush! Lay-by is available

Year 6&7 Graduation

Graduation celebrations for Year 6 and Year 7 students:

Wednesday 3rd December

Mercy Hall at 6:30pm

Students to be at the hall by 6pm. No supper (food) this year.
PLEASE EAT BEFORE YOU COME. In this special year, 100 students will graduate.

Thursday 4th December

Year 6 and 7 Wet’n’Wild excursion.
Invitation only.
Please be at school by 8.30am. Bus will return by 3pm.

P&F Christmas Raffle

Prizes:
1st: $100 Gift Card
2nd: $50 Gift Card
3rd: $50 Gift Card

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Great Prizes! Only $1.00 per ticket

Return all books to the Library

All library books and homework readers are due back to the school library now.

If you have any lost library books, please pay at the library for replacement.

The first class to return ALL library books will receive a prize!

Will your family be returning to St Mark’s on the first day of school in 2015?

If your family is not planning to return to St Mark’s on the first day of school for 2015 - Wednesday, January 28, 2015 - please come into the office to let us know. There is a form to be completed to advise the date you will be returning.

2015 Booklist Order Reminder
All orders to be placed by Friday November 28 2014

Order on-line: www.brodiesbookstore.com.au (School code 018754). All Book Packs this year will be home delivered with NO DELIVERY CHARGE. Copies of year level booklists are available on our school website from the Quick Links section of the homepage.

Access all year level Booklists for 2015 from the Quick Links on the St Mark’s website home page.

Slush Puppies have arrived at the tuckshop!
The ‘school approved’ crushed ice cordial drinks are now available for a cool treat.
All flavours are $2.00 per cup.
Tuckshop is open every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Thank you for your support.

Anna Sinitsky
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal starts on Thursday 20 November
Gemma Watkins & family have collected over 300 items already! They will be missed next year!

St Mark’s Christmas Raffle
1st Prize : $100 Gift Card
2nd Prize : $50 Gift Card
3rd Prize : $50 Gift Card
Cost : $1.00 per ticket
This will be drawn at the Christmas Concert 26th Wed Nov.

TALKING FAMILIES is a new Qld Government initiative
We all know that life is getting busier, and pressure on families is growing. Many of us are uncomfortable with asking for help when we need it or just don’t know where to turn to.
But you’re never as alone as you might think. It’s OK to talk about how you feel, or to ask family and friends for the help you need.
One conversation … could make all the difference!

If you want to read more go to this website http://www.talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au/
OR Access this network of services available to you.

Parentline – provides confidential counselling for parents. Phone Parentline on 1300 301 300, from 8am-10pm, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call.

Raising Children Network – a comprehensive website offering resources and information on parenting for children of all ages.

The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) – provides parents with practical information and support to deal with and prevent common emotional and behavioural problems in children.

The Young Parents Program and Young Parents Support Program – offer parenting advice and practical support for young parents.

Lifeline – provides 24 hour crisis support and suicide

All children, families and staff are welcome to join us at the
WELCOME BACK YOU ARE AWESOME BBQ!
Friday 13th February 2015
3pm—4.30pm (All proceeds go to subsidising 2015 leader shirts)

Parents & Guardians, you work hard to give your child a St Mark’s education.
Come and see the opportunities you give your child.
Come and learn about the programs your teachers use to engage your child in learning.
Come and meet their teachers and get tips on how to support your child’s learning from home.
Wednesday 11th February 2015 @ 6.30pm