Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday, your children took up the physical challenge and set about walking and/ or running laps as part of our major fund raiser for the P and F. Each lap was a half a kilometre long and teachers determined for how long the various classes would spend “doing” laps. I have to say I was impressed not only by our students but by the parents who came along and joined in—many teachers too! Many students impressed with their determination and staying power! Congratulations to all who took part and now we look to see how successful the exercise has been. Please send all money to school by this Friday so that “thank-you prizes” can be allocated and we have a total to pass on to the P and F Association. Thank you for your support.

Sacramental Programme

Sunday’s parish celebrations saw the successful completion of the sacramental programme. We thank Miss Cheryl Waites for her work in instructing and preparing the children for this most important aspect of Catholic life and congratulate all who received the sacraments. It is truly a most important milestone in the faith journey of your children.

Faith and Mission

At St. Mark’s, we constantly look to give the children life experiences where they can put faith into action. There are a number of opportunities - We visit Tri-care at Jindalee, weekly to make the older residents’ day a little brighter through our visit. We aim to have each resident we visit the focus of our intention. All reports are that your children excel at this—well done.

We are supporting the homeless again this year with a sleep over here at school on Friday night 12th September. This opportunity is given to students in Years 5, 6 and 7. A good number of teachers and parents have already signed up for the night. It was a wonderful experience last year and I’m sure this year it will be no different. Teachers have been talking to their classes. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the class teacher or myself on any aspect of the sleep over. The $7.00 goes to support St. Vincent de Paul.

Over the last few years, St. Mark’s has supported an orphanage in the Dong Tien parish in Vietnam. We will continue to support the fine work being done. In the final three weeks of the term, on Wednesday’s, we will have our special “Vietnamese” menu on sale. All profits will go directly to the orphanage. Thank you in anticipation for your support. The menu will appear around the school soon. The first special tuckshop day will be 3rd September.

Fathers’ Day BBQ

One of the next big celebrations will be our annual Fathers’ Day BBQ on Friday afternoon, 5th September from 3.00 pm. Mark it in your calendar. It will be a celebration not to be missed!

Farewell to Mrs Hammerton

As you know, after a distinguished teaching career, Mrs Annette Hammerton has announced her retirement. We have a special planned farewell assembly scheduled for next Friday afternoon at 2.30 pm in Mercy Hall. All are invited to come along on this occasion. We thank Annette for her wonderful contribution to school life over many years.

Prep Enrolments

Prep enrolments for 2015 are still open. There are a number of positions available should you have a child born between 1st July, 2009 and 30th June, 2010. Come in and collect an application form from the office.
**Connect with your family through reading and prayer ...**

This week as I sat down to write my RE News page I was struck with a very unusual “writer’s block”. I had no idea what I should write about. So I asked some of the ladies in the front office—who provided a couple of interesting ideas.

“Write about Book Week,” said Mrs Moses. “And how families can connect through reading.”

“Write about prayerfulness,” said Mrs Ioannides. “It is the virtue for the week.”

So I thought about one of my favourite children’s books, “Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge” by Mem Fox and my favourite illustrator Julie Vivas. And then I found a beautiful little prayer in my new book “God of the Sandpit” by Rachele and Gabby Tullio which I’d like to share with you ...

**Irreplaceable Children’s Memories.**

There are many memories that stay in the minds of children:

- the snuggling up to a loved pet
- the colour of beach sand
- the texture of Grandma’s hair
- the smell of home-cooking
- a favourite book
- a favourite part of the playground
- a favourite outfit
- a favourite toy
- a special birthday (aren’t they all special?)
- a special look
- a special word
- a special prayer.

God shares each moment with children.
God delights in these moments with children.
For God, these moments and memories with children are irreplaceable.

**Prayer:**

Loving God, we thank you for our lives. We were made to grow in wisdom and to understand how much You love us.
We pray that we will experience this understanding of Your love more and more each day. Help us to remember Your love in our lives each day. Amen.

**Date Claimers ...**

- **Book Week** runs this week! Plenty to see and do in the Library.
- This week’s **Buddy Class Mass**, with 6W and 2W, will be on Thursday 21 August at 9:30am in the Church.
- **Book Week Parade at Assembly** on Friday 22 August at 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- Next week **Year 5 students** will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on Thursday 28 August at 9:30am in the Church.
- **Prep W** will lead our **Assembly Prayer** on Friday 29 August at 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- **St Vinnies Sleepover** will be held on Friday night 12 September for Year 5, 6 and 7 students.
- **Holidays** start on Friday 19 September.

**Virtue of the Week: Prayerfulness**

**What is Prayerfulness?**

Prayerfulness can be practised in many ways. Prayer is talking with God. You can pray in silence or out loud. You can sing or dance your prayer. You can use any language. God always hears your thoughts and understands your heart. It is quiet reflection. It is allowing God to speak to you. You can turn to God in prayer at any time.

**You are practising Prayerfulness when you ...**

- Take time every day to pray and reflect.
- Talk to God as a friend.
- Trust, listen and watch for God’s answer.
- Dedicate some of your actions to God.

**Mrs Nikki Lysaght**
Assistant Principal Religious Education
From the Library

BOOK WEEK IS HERE!!!...“Connect to Reading!”
The children’s art displays and technology displays look great. These are on display in the library for the rest of the week - Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd August. **ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO VIEW DISPLAYS IN BOOK WEEK.** After Assembly on Friday, before or after school are good times to see the children’s work. **To help with dressing up** for Book Week Assembly, we have helped Prep to Yr 3 in dressing up by making masks, hats etc which they can wear. **However if they would prefer to dress up as a book character** and use costumes/dress ups from home, then that will be fabulous!

**Connect to Reading with Buddies:** The children will be reading with a buddy on Wednesday afternoon. Please encourage your Yr 4-7 to practise at home so they are well prepared to read to the Prep-Yr3.

**Author visit:** on Friday after the assembly, Yr 2 – 7 will be doing a Workshop with Phil Kettle an author (we have over 50 of his books in the library). This is a great opportunity for the children to **Connect with literature and an author.**

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**Book Week Assembly  Friday 22nd August**
All parents are welcome.
8.50am Dress-Up Parade in Hall
Prep to Yr 3 are expected to come dressed up. (see above)
Yr 4-7 are also welcome to dress up if they wish.
Winning books will be announced. **Prizes** for library competitions will be presented and best book trailer and e-book will be shown.

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**CHILD Protection Week Family Fun Day**
Date: 1st October, 2014
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Venue: Ngutana-Lui
(100 Lilac St, Inala QLD 4077)

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**Metro South Oral Health Services**
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH METRO SOUTH HEALTH SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE PHONE 1300 300 850
(Monday to Friday – 7:30 to 4:00).
Have your Medicare Card and Health Care Card (if you have one) with you when you call. More details in flyer coming soon.
For further information, please visit

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**Past Student Success – Vivienne Ngu**
Vivienne Ngu last year’s school captain is doing well at Brigidine College, Indooroopilly. She received an Academic Award for her Semester 1 report. She has been selected to go to the Met West Maths Team Challenge, the Optiminds - Science and Engineering Challenge (voted Team Captain) and the Queensland Maths Year 8 Quiz at Brisbane Boys College.
**Well done Vivienne!**
Thank you for your support.

Thank you to the families that have sent in their lap-a-thon money already! Can everyone else please send in their money this Friday so the prizes can be ordered? Thank you to Anna Sinitsky for her work in organising this event.

Thank you to Evie Dorsamy for connecting us with her musical family! “DJ Manny” will provide the music for our Family/Fathers Day BBQ on Friday 5th Sept 3pm—4.30pm

Thank you to the Watkins Family for their generous donation of a prize towards the Fathers Day BBQ

Thank you to Annastacia Palaszczuk for her generous donation of a hamper prize towards the Fathers Day BBQ raffle

Thank you to the Gavarra Family for their generous donation of sausages & bread towards the St Vinnies Sleepout

Thank you to the Hon Bernie Ripoll MP for his generous donation of a hamper prize towards the Fathers Day BBQ

Please keep Sunday 14th Sept free for your family portrait!

$20 Family Portraits especially for St Marks families and staff!

Thank you to the parents who have contacted me already to reserve their time.

Please email agnes.sio@hotmail.com OR call 045 744 606 to check a time slot. To confirm your booking, please send $20 in an envelope with your name, phone number and child's name and class.

Our children grow so quickly and photos are precious memories to treasure!

Happy 1st Birthday Beautiful Emily!

Welcome to the St Marks Family!
Chris (Tombe) Daniel brother of Fony, Juan & Victorio