Dear Parents/ Carers,

Last week saw the start of our swimming block. Thank you for your assistance with having your child/ren "ready to go". This week we swim on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. All has started well. Importantly, we will make the call on the weather, if needed. Please assume that the lessons are on. Our aim is to have as many children as possible water safe for the Summer.

Booklists
All parents should now have a list of the books required for 2014. Remember, you buy the books—no book packs are being provided by the school. Brodies can assist you, if you choose them. Please ensure that your child is ready to learn with all books purchased for the start of the school year.

P & F Meeting And Dinner
Last Wednesday’s P and F meeting was the final one for the year. At that meeting, I thanked our officer bearers for their work throughout the year. A lot has happened and there is much to celebrate. The P and F dinner was a great success. It was a night with lots of fun and laughter, sharing our story and meeting others—staff and parents. My thanks to all involved in its organisation and running. Already, we are looking forward to the initiatives of our P and F for next year.

End of Year Activities
It is a busy yet very enjoyable time of year. Last night, we were treated to a Creative Kids concert, a time when the children who learn a musical instrument performed. They were fabulous! Thanks for your support of this programme and our budding musicians. Please look out for information on Creative Kids with this newsletter. The choir, under the direction of Mr Johnstone sang. It was great to hear them perform again. We really do have some wonderful voices in our school. I would encourage you to support your child with an interest in music. Music does allow the spirit to soar!

Christmas Concert
Our traditional Christmas Concert will be held next Wednesday night, starting at 6.30 pm in Mercy hall. All children are involved. Do come along and enjoy their performances. It’s free! Raffle tickets will be on sale soon for the Christmas hampers and will be drawn at the concert. Please support this - $1 a ticket. Some snack food will be on sale beforehand but remember, the hall is a food and drink free zone!

Year 7 Graduation
The evening on Wednesday 4th December, begins with Mass at 6.30 pm in the church. Formalities and supper will follow in and around Mercy Hall.

Philippines Appeal
We will sell Vietnamese food on Tuesday and Wednesday of the last week of school. All profits will go to assist those affected by the storm that hit the Philippines a few weeks ago. This will be part of our Christmas appeal that runs in the last 2 weeks of the term. Please support this with donations of goods suitable for Christmas hampers.

School Fees
Final monthly school fees have all gone out. Thank you for your prompt attention in this regard. Should you have concerns, as always, do not hesitate to contact Ms Barry or myself here at school.

Last week
There are a number of excursions planned for the last week of the term. These are by invitation. Please ensure that permission forms have been sent back so that your child does not miss out.

Last Day
School finishes at 12 noon on Friday, 6th December and resumes on Wednesday, 29th January, 2014.
Is it THAT time already?

A walk around the shopping centres is enough to realise that already Christmas time is quickly approaching! And any time now Mrs Barry and Mrs Moses will pull out the Christmas decorations to start making our own St Mark’s Office festive!!!! It’s hard to believe that soon school will be finished for another year and we will start preparing for the birth of Jesus. This time of preparation is called Advent. It is such a beautiful season. It is a time for renewal; it is especially a time for forgiveness because God brings forgiveness to us in the shape of his Son. Over the next few weeks we will once again travel the road that leads to Bethlehem. We will follow the cautious young couple along their arduous journey and remember their disappointment over being kept out of the inn. We will once more enter the stable, smell the odours and watch the manger being prepared. And along with the people of the village, the shepherds of the field, the angels, and the magi, we will focus our eyes of adoration upon the child in the crib and the star in the sky.

Advent is also a countdown. We see shopping centres, television advertisements and supermarkets reminding us how many shopping days until Christmas. Children count down until the great day of ‘presents’ dawns. We, as Christians, prepare for Christmas by counting down the weeks until we celebrate the birth of Christ with advent candles. This Christmas try something different—shop with your heart! Instead of buying material presents, draw up a shopping list of “Christmas gifts from the heart”. A gift of listening to a parent. A gift of time playing with your child. A gift of romance with your spouse. A gift of praise for your teenager. Choose a unique gift for the person you love, write it down on a card or scroll and tie it on the Christmas tree.

And once again I’m calling on you to dig deep and give to those in need. Our Christmas Appeal begins on Monday and will run until the end of our school year. We are looking for non-perishable items that could be packaged into Christmas hampers that will be delivered to local families in need. Please bring in any items to your classroom teacher. These items will be collected by St Vincent De Paul’s during our Thanksgiving Mass on the last day of school.

Date Claimers ...

- This week 1B and 3W will join together for their Class Eucharist on Thursday 21 November at 9:30 in the Church.
- 3G will lead us for our Assembly Prayer this Friday 22 November.
- We will begin collecting for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal on Monday 25 November. I know you will, once again, give generously!
- Our special end of year assembly prayer led by the Preps on Friday 29 Nov.
- Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 27 November at 6:30 pm.
- Year 7 Graduation will be at 6:30pm on Wednesday 4 December.
- Our End of Year Mass is at 10:30am on Friday 6 December.

PARENTS & FRIENDS YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO THESE EVENTS!!

Virtue of the Week: Truthfulness

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.

Markus says when you are Truthful you are being RESPONSIBLE!!

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
YEAR 5 CAMP

On the 6th of November 2013 all of the year 5 students from St Mark’s went to camp at Tunnel Ridge Ranch near the Sunshine Coast. Every year, our school sends grade fives to camp so we can socialise with people from our grade, learn new skills and experience living away from home.

On the first day my group went swimming. I particularly liked the rope at the swimming pool. After that we did archery. It was hard but still enjoyable. I shot the red, black and white space on the target. Our last activity for the day was canoeing. This was my favourite activity. We canoed to another island and capsized the boat.

Overall, we had a great time at camp. The activities were really fun, the food was good quality and the staff members were really nice to us.

I can’t wait to go on camp again!

By Sarah Ho, 5 Green

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

If you are intending for your child to be away from school before the Christmas holidays or if your child will not be attending on the first day school resumes on January 29th 2014, you must advise the school office. Please come into the school office to sign a form to advise us of your family holiday dates.

This is important in order for us to keep a place for your child for 2014.

Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS

PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY THIS WEEK.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PLEASE SEE THE LIBRARY STAFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thank you!

UNIFORM SHOP

St Mark’s Uniform Shop is open every Friday between 8am and 9am, for all your uniform needs.

PLEASE ORDER EARLY FOR 2014 TO AVOID QUEUES Thank you!

SPECIAL OPENING DATES IN JANUARY 2014

ARE AS FOLLOWS:-
22 and 23 January (9am-11am)
29, 30 & 31 January (open 8am)
LAY-BY IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT UNIFORM SHOP ASAP.

DENTAL TREATMENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT DENTAL TREATMENT WILL NOW BE CARRIED OUT AT
SERVICETON SOUTH SCHOOL, DENTAL CLINIC
SERVICETON SOUTH STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LORIKEET STREET, INALA
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE PHONE 3278 7041 Thank you!

DENTAL TREATMENT

The Iona Passion Play - AUDITIONS

Easter 2014 – back in Brisbane

Experience Easter as part of the cast or crew of The Iona Passion Play. All are welcome – you can involve the whole family! Plenty of speaking, non-speaking and support roles available.

Sunday Dec 1st @ 2pm and Sunday Jan 19th @ 1pm

If interested please contact Veronica on 3333 1993 or info@ipp.org.au

The Iona Passion Play greatly appreciates your community’s support and please keep the play in your prayers.

FAVOURITE BOOKS

The students from year 5 have recommended some of their favourite books.

- Harry Potter: J.K. Rowling
- The Hunger Games: Suzanne Collins
- The BFG: Roald Dahl
- The Chronicles of Narnia: C.S. Lewis
- Percy Jackson: Rick Riordan

Thank you!
Friday was a SUCCESS because of the people that attended and got involved, allowing others to relax and enjoy the fantastic atmosphere.

Thank you to the lovely ladies who organised the event Ena, Anna, Narelle and Cheryl.

Thank you to Mrs Lysaght our MC for the night and her talented friends who decorated the room.

Thank You to the Richter Family for the Karaoke Machine that helped us discover our talented singers, teachers and parents!