Christmas Appeal
Please give generously to the Christmas Appeal, now in its final week. Being able to appreciate where people are, and not having enough, calls us to a response of the heart. Thanks for your support. Send donations along to classroom teachers.

Semester Two Reports
Children in attendance received their Semester Two Report cards on Friday. As children attend, the report card will be issued. Should you wish to discuss the report with your child’s teacher, please make contact and a suitable time will be arranged. If you have not received the report card, please check with your son/daughter then contact the school. Keep the report in a safe place at home for reference.

Children will know who their teacher is for 2015 on the first day back, 28th January, next year.

The Uniform shop is open in the week before school starts, 21st and 22nd January, 9.00 am—11.00 am.

Practical Matters
Please collect unclaimed property. What remains will be processed early next week.

Every day this week is an important one. Please have your child/ren at school as much as possible.

The special farewell by our Preps for our Year 6 and 7 students took place this morning. Sadly, we farewelled Fr Gerard today too at his funeral from St. Mark’s Church. He was a great friend of the school and parish and we will miss him. Remember him in your prayers please.

Thank you for your wonderful support of the school and the teachers throughout the year. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, a happy new year, and look forward to all that will come in 2015. Enjoy the holiday time with your children.

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

November never ceases to produce “unusual” weather events and this year is certainly no different. Friday saw us without power for most of the day yet, surprisingly, a lot was accomplished here at school. To families who have sustained damage and loses, we hope and trust that you are being well supported. The school has come through remarkable well with only some minor damage and a few trees down.

Celebrations
Last week’s school concert was a wonderful occasion with many impressed with the talent of your children. My congratulations have already gone to the teachers and, in particular, Mr Johnstone.

Last night we were treated to the talents of our students who are involved with the Creative Kids instrumental music programme. My congratulations to all, and the choir, for an inspiring and most enjoyable concert.

Tomorrow evening we celebrate the graduation of our senior students, Years 6 and 7, as they complete their time in a primary school setting. We are proud of the 101 students and their contributions throughout the year. It is fitting that we farewell them with Mass in Mercy Hall from 6.30 pm and formalities after that.

Awards for Dux of each level, sports awards and citizenship awards will be presented. I’m sure all who have been invited will enjoy a day at Wet n Wild on Thursday!

We wish all graduates every success as they move into secondary education next year.

The school year concludes at 12 noon this Friday, 5th December. Our end-of-year Mass begins at 10.30 am and all parents and friends are invited to join us for this special celebration.

Here we will farewell some members of staff—Mrs Lerenfeldt, Miss Coleman, Mrs Singh, Mrs Bortolussi and Mrs Eddy. I thank them sincerely for their wonderful contributions over their time here and wish them well in their future endeavours.

We will also announce our new student leaders for 2015 as well as make our presentation to a representative from the St. Vincent de Paul Society with our Christmas donations.

Have a happy and holy Christmas
**Anna Sinitsky**

**Get in early and avoid the rush!**

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**TIguniWWJDES**

Open every Friday during school term between 8am and 9am.

Lay-by is available.

**21st, 22nd January 2015: 9am-11am**

**28th, 29th, 30th January 2015 from 9am**

**St Mark’s Uniform Shop**

Open every Friday during school term between 8am and 9am.

Lay-by is available.

**Also open:**

21st, 22nd January 2015: 9am-11am
28th, 29th, 30th January 2015 from 9am

Get in early and avoid the rush!

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**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.

Congratulations to **Year 1G** who received a prize for being the first class to return all books!

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**REMINDER:**

**12noon finish to school on Friday**

School finishes at 12noon this Friday December 5th, 2014.

Please ensure **ALL** children are collected at 12noon on Friday.

All 2014 school fees should now be finalised.

Please advise Ms Barry in the office of any issues regarding payment.

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**RE NEWS**

As we draw to the end of another school year we take time to thank our God for all the blessings we have received this year. We also take time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves. Therefore, remembering that this is a time of thanksgiving, as well as giving to others, here is how **YOU** can join as the St Mark’s community to share the Christmas spirit ...

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal:**

We are still looking for non-perishable items that could be packaged into Christmas hampers that will be delivered to local families in need. So please let’s give generously one more time this year and bring in any suitable items to your classroom.

**Whole School Celebrations:**

All parents, families and friends are invited to help us celebrate the end of another fantastic year at St Mark’s at the following events:

**Yr 6&7 Graduation Mass:** Wednesday 3 November @ 6:30pm
- Let’s gather to honour and farewell our 2014 school leaders.

**End of Year Thanksgiving Mass:** Friday 5 December @ 10:30am
- Join together as a community to thank God for another excellent year.

We hope to see you all at one of our school celebrations. And, from all of us here at St Mark’s School, we wish you a happy and holy Christmas that is filled with the peace and joy of the baby Jesus!

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**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.

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**January 2015**

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January 28, 2015 is the first day of the new school year. Please let the office know if you will not be returning to St Mark’s on this date.

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**St Mark’s’s Uniform Shop**

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**Also open:**

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28th, 29th, 30th January 2015 from 9am

Get in early and avoid the rush!

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Tuckshop is now closed for 2014

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

Anna Sinitsky