Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday we were able to farewell Mrs Hammerton after more than twenty years of service to the St. Mark’s school community. We wish her all the best for the future and look forward to when she comes and visits us!

**Catholic Mission Appeal**

Tomorrow and for the remaining Wednesdays of the term we have a “Vietnamese tuck shop” happening. All profits will support the orphanage in Vietnam. Please support this initiative.

In the final two weeks of the term our school leaders are running a series of activities to raise awareness and money for the missions. There are many posters around the school. For your child to enjoy and support, a few dollars is all that is needed.

The St. Mark’s sleep over, open to students in Years 5, 6 and 7 will be held on Friday night, 12th September. I commend this initiative to you and, for $7, will be a great way to raise awareness, show support and have fun! Parents are welcome to come and join in too!

**Fathers’ Day BBQ**

It’s that time of year again and we would like to acknowledge our Dads and make them feel special! Do come along to the Fathers’ Day BBQ this Friday starting at 3.00 pm in the amphitheatre. There will be the normal range of fun activities to enjoy. Our P and F workers always do such a great job and this will be no different.

**Tuck Shop**

From next term, the tuck shop will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. This comes after a review of the tuck shop’s operations. Again, it is only with your support that we can deliver this important service for your children.

Breakfast Club will operate then on Monday and Tuesday mornings for those who would like to buy a basic breakfast for $1.00.

**Projects**

At last week’s assembly, five children were presented with “a prize” for their ideas towards the plan of the area at the front of the school. These are now on display near the office door. Have a look if you get the chance. Already the area is looking good.

Other projects include -

* Year 6/7 playground area
* Carpet walls in the lower grade classrooms
* Developing the land between Ngutana-lui and the school.

These will commence soon.

**Practical Matters**

* Please update your contact details with the office. We have had a number of recent incidents where parents have not been able to be contacted to advise of sick/injured children. This adds a lot of stress to your children.
* We are getting lots of “late” children. In the morning, please have your child at school ready for the official 8.40 am start. My strong suggestion is that they be here by 8.30 am.
* Please pick up before 3.30pm Thanks.
* The weather is changing and the amount of lost property is big! Please check that your child has their pullover and, once it is warm enough, it is with you ready for next year! Come and collect before the end of the term.

**P and F**

The P & F photo opportunity has been well supported. Please complete the form on the back P & F page for family photos on Sunday 14th September, only $20 and only a limited number of spaces left.

**Prayers Please**

Hold in your prayers please, Fr Gerard. There are also a number of others in our extended community that need our prayers at this time. Thank you.

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**Projects**

- Carpet walls in the lower grade classrooms
- Developing the land between Ngutana-lui and the school

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**Week 7: Flexibility**

- PG: Kyle Abasolo
- PW: Davania Chadwick
- PB: Z Truong
- 1G: Khiem Chau
- 1W: Joshua Jirima
- 1B: Adong Bak
- 2G: Shayla Nguyen
- 2W: Tina Nguyen
- 2B: Agnes Sio
- 3G: Justin Lupu
- 3W: Pele Mau
- 4G: Lual Tong
- 4W: Ever Maring
- 5G: Matthew Nguyen
- 5W: Melissa Nguyen
- 5/6B: Agor Bak
- 6G: Bao Bui
- 6W: John Dhel
- 7G: Caleb Esera
FATHER’S DAY

“The day you become a father will live with you forever. Your baby son or daughter transforms your view of the world, delivering you to an unfamiliar place and demanding that you learn a difficult but richly fulfilling role. Perhaps as you hold your newborn baby, you will consider the movement of generations in a family—and view your father with fresh eyes as you contemplate occupying the position he took for you. When you become a father, there is no going back. You cannot flee, but there is a fierce joy in that. You may not feel ready for the responsibility but your heart is bursting with love.” (Men’s Wisdom: Fatherhood, by Charles Phillips.)

Father’s Day is a special day when we take time out to tell our dads that they are special to us and that we love them. Often we might forget to let Dad know this information because we get busy and assume they know ... but everyone, even Dads, need to know they are loved!!! Take some time out to spend time with Dad. Dad take some time out to spend with your children. Your time, your presence to each is the best present you could ever have.

We’re raising money again this year in support of Catholic Missions with a particular emphasis on an orphanage in Vietnam. Our student leaders will run activities next week (and the week after) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. And a group of Mums and Dads will also be selling Vietnamese food from the tuckshop for the next 3 Wednesdays (3, 10, & 17 September). I know this will, once again, be popular amongst our students and staff, with all profits going directly to the Vietnamese orphanage.

Date Claimers ...

- This Thursday, 4 September, we celebrate the Buddy Class Mass for 6G and 2G at 9:30am in the Church.
- This Friday’s Prayer Assembly (5 September at 8:45 am in Mercy Hall) will be led by Prep G—and will be a time to honour our father’s. I know Miss Coleman and her class are working on something special. All parents, especially DADS, GRANDDADS, UNCLEs, GODFATHERs, are most welcome!!
- Next Thursday, 11 September, Prep B and 2B celebrate their Buddy Mass.
- Next Friday, 12 September, 5W will lead us in our Assembly Prayer.

Virtue of the Week: Helpfulness

What is Helpfulness?
Helpfulness is being of service to someone. It is doing something useful for or with them. When you are being helpful you do things that have a positive effect – that make a difference. You can also be helpful to yourself by being sure you have what you need and praying to God.

You are practising Helpfulness when you ...

- Think about what people need (including yourself).
- Learn to tell the difference between what people want and what they need.
- Do a service for someone.
- Ask God for help when you need it.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght:
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Experience what it is like to be homeless!

**Friday 12th September**

**Forms due this Friday!**

The St Mark’s St Vincent de Paul Sleep-out is open to students and parents of Year 5, 6 and 7 students. The $7.00 fee will be donated to St Vincent de Paul. Boxes will be provided to sleep on. **Money and permission form needs to be to your teacher this Friday for ordering.** Breakfast will be available the next morning. St Mark’s tuckshop will serve a couple of hot drinks on the night, similar to a charity van. We will have guest speakers on the night. Pam Betts, director of Catholic Education, will be attending the breakfast on Saturday the 13th of September.
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