Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

The big focus of school life last week was NAPLAN testing in Years 3, 5 and 7. As mentioned, this gives one part of the picture of student progress. 50% of a child’s chances of success, researchers tell us, comes with the child and the family. The next biggest factor is the teacher—30%. When these are working well, the chances of success are higher. It is the reason why good communication and support between home and school is critical for on-going success and the reason why our vision for your child’s learning is “Building Success Together.”

Very soon, teachers will be writing reports and interviews will be scheduled for the start of next term. With more pressing concerns, make an appointment to see the relevant teacher as soon as practicable.

P and F Meeting
To support the P and F, there is a school disco scheduled for Friday, 6th June from 6.00—8.00 pm. These events have been very popular and again, I’m sure it will be a lot of fun. More details as we get closer to the time.

The major fund raiser for the P and F this year is a “lap-a-thon” scheduled for Friday, 15th August. We have not held a lap-a-thon for some years now but it was popular, a good fund raiser and beneficial for promoting general fitness. Please support this initiative as the money goes towards the new and refurbished playground equipment in the school.

Sport and Fitness
We have come to the end of another successful sports season with teams gaining much from the experience. I thank all teachers who gave so generously to coach teams and “cover classes”. Traditional pizza and presentations will happen soon. Congratulations to all involved.

Mr Biddulph is keen to have our children fit and is running a Touch Competition on Friday mornings from 8.00—8.30 am for our older children. Come along, enjoy the fun and get fit!

Tuck Shop
Our tuck shop provides a wonderful service for the families here at St. Mark’s. It needs your support to continue. While patronage has been good at times, it needs continuous support. Please take advantage of the “specials” on offer, as well as the normal fare, to assist. Thank you.

See page 3 for this week’s special deal!

### Spirit of St. Mark’s Awards

This Thursday, I will again host my Principal’s Afternoon Tea for those “students of the week” selected by the teachers as their choice. Our classes and our school have many, many children living and learning the virtues. Each week of the school year is “shaped” within a nominated virtue. Lessons are taught of that virtue and we look to learn from, and live, those virtues. Many of your children do this so well. Hence our Students of the Week awards.

So important is this aspect of school life and learning, we are instituting a Spirit of St. Mark’s Award, a medal, that will be presented to that girl or boy who is the outstanding student in each year level for the semester. The first time this prestigious award will be presented will occur on the last Friday of this term at our Friday assembly. It will be a very fitting way in which to recognize and acclaim one who is a “model” to their peers and an example of all that we aspire to and hold in high regard at St. Mark’s.

### Prep Enrolments

The response to the initial calls for Prep enrolments has been slower this year to date. I have a good number of vacancies available and am looking to offer positions to our Catholic families and others supportive of the school’s aim and values. If you have, or know of, children born between 01/7/2009 and 30/6/2010, please collect an enrolment application form from the office. Interviews for families new to St. Mark’s have begun.

### Practical Matters

More children are arriving on time—thank you. If late, come via the office please. Should you need to collect your child during school hours, again, come via the office.

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**For Trust**
Prep G: Emma Nguyen
Prep W: Matthew Nguyen
1G: Tiara Tran-Nguyen
1W: Kenzie Jakavicius
1B: Kealan Chadburn
2G: Ruby Evercutt
2W: Lachlan Menefeta
3G: Miguel Galanion
4W: Helen Pham
5G: Joana Suka
5W: Sandy Ngo
5/6B: Andy Nguyen
7G: Joseph Nguyen

**For Trust and Relationships**
3W: Queendy Tran

**For Being Organised**
2B: John Ceballos

**For Co-operation**
Prep B: Bailey Alano

**For the greatest oral presentation in year 4**
4G: Zara Gavarra

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**TOUCH FOOTBALL**

During Term 2 on a Friday Morning from 8-8:30 I will be running a game of Touch football for Students in Grades 5-7. This is an excellent opportunity to develop skills in key areas while at the same time increase fitness levels. If students wish to bring running shoes for the game they can pack them in their bag and change back into their black shoes before School starts.

The game will take place on the Junior Oval outside the library.

Regards……Mr Biddulph
May is the month of Mary

This month we honour Mary, the mother of God. If you go back into the history of the Church after the crucifixion, the apostles, the followers of Christ who were scattered, scared and a fragmented group, met in an upper room in Jerusalem totally demoralized, completely in the dark as to what their future course of life would be. There was one woman present who really took over and that was Mary, the mother of Christ. She encouraged them, she motivated them, she soothed them, she comforted them, she empowered them in such a way that they left that upper room in Jerusalem and went to the ends of the world preaching not only about the teachings of Jesus Christ, but about his mother, Mary. There is no question that Mary, the mother of Christ, had this dynamic and profound influence on the Church that enabled the Church to grow and prosper. One way to remember and honour Mary is by praying some of the prayers especially dedicated to her:

Hail Mary
Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Hail Holy Queen
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn thou, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O meriful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

Memories
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who asked to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother, to thee do I come, before thee fall, and stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

The Angelus
The Angelus will be sung at 6am and 6:30pm.


The Lord has sent me His servant Mary. And Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord.” (Luke 1:26-27)

May the Virgin Mary, who always listened to the voice of the Lord and did His will, bring her protection and favour to you. Amen.

Date Claimers ...
- There will be no Class Mass this week.
- Assembly Prayer this Friday, 23 May, will be led by 6G.
- Our next Class Mass is on Thursday 29 May at 9:30am with Prep G and 5G in St Mark’s Church.
- State of Origin free dress day is on Wednesday 28 May. Bring along a gold coin donation.
- School Disco starts at 6pm on Friday 6 June.
- Public Holiday is on Monday 9 June.
- St Mark’s annual Harmony Week runs from 10-13 June.
- Year 6&7 retreat days with NET Ministries and Real Talk run from Tuesday 17 June—Thursday 19 June.

Virtue of the Week: Faithfulness

What is Faithfulness?
Faithfulness is being true to someone or something. It is holding to what you believe is important no matter what happens. Faithfulness is belief that stands up to the test of time. It is starting out on a path and staying on it no matter how many times you stop or get distracted. If you are faithful to your beliefs, such as belief in God, honesty, or friendship, people will see those things reflected in your actions. When you are faithful, you make your ideals real.

You are practising Faithfulness when you …
- Learn what you believe.
- Question your own beliefs and gets answers to your questions.
- Make sure your words and actions match.
- Are loyal to your friends, family and God.

Markus says when you are faithful you builds positive RELATIONSHIPS!!

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
**Wellbeing Program—Grandparents, other relatives and friends—all welcome.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6th May 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Mental Health</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Latin Dancing</td>
<td>Anna</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>13th May 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Natural Ways of Self-Care</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Yoga</td>
<td>Kristin Leora</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>20th May 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Self-Esteem</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Latin Dancing</td>
<td>Anna</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>27th May 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Happiness</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00am – 11:00am Tai Chi</td>
<td>Rex</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3rd June 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Positive Thinking</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Nia Dance</td>
<td>Carmen</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10th June 14</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am Recovery from Hard Times</td>
<td>Amanda</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Relaxation</td>
<td>Kristin</td>
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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

Tuckshop Special Paddle pops - $1.20 All Week!!

St Mark’s Tuckshop is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday each week.

Please support our tuckshop.

Thank you

**NETBALL:** I have enjoyed working with the 30 girls in the netball squad this year. Each girl has improved her skills and knowledge of the game. It has been a pleasure to watch. The girls have been enthusiastic about helping out with collecting bibs, writing up for the newsletter and turning up for training. This year, making the decision as to who to give the medals to for the end of the season, has been an extremely difficult decision. I would like to highlight the Red team. The girls in the Red team are Melody Alo, Fony Victoria, Marchilina Awag, Vy Nguyen, Loretta Tu, Charlotte Vo, Nhi Do, Emily Leighton, Florence Seumanutafa, and Treza Rajab. A lot of the girls were playing last year, they played very confidently and were familiar with each other’s, positioning and skill set. The Year Six girls (playing their first year of netball), stepped up and played to the level of the more experienced Year 7 girls. It was the best games of netball I have seen of St Mark’s students in years. Well done girls, on an excellent season.

Regards….Mrs Daly

**ROLE M**

Two weeks ago St Mark’s were privileged to have a group of state school teachers and school officers from Bamaga and Lockhart River State School in far North Queensland visit our school. The group invited by Eva De Vries from Australian Catholic University came to observe a Role M maths lesson and group activities in Mrs Oudyn’s classroom.

The group were suitably impressed!!! Thank you to Mrs Oudyn and Mrs Morrow and the wonderful, enthusiastic well behaved children in 3G.
St Mark’s Disco

Date: Friday 6th June
Time: 6pm – 8pm
Mercy Hall

Gold coin entry - St Mark’s students only
Resident DJ Waites & Co.

$1.00 Poppers
$1.00 Packet of chips
$2.00 Soft drink can OR bottled water

Parents & carers please join us on the night

Wear your Colours to Support your TEAM!

Wednesday 28th May  STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH—MAROON vs BLUES!
Gold Coin Donation to wear your Team Colours.

Next TUESDAY 27th MAY  9am
at Mercy Hall Meeting Room

Happiness—How to choose happiness in your life?
Followed by an hour of Tai-Chi.

FAMILY & FRIENDS WELCOME!

Courtesy of HARMONY PLACE, 3848 1600, 30 Shottery St, Yeronga