Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday, Mr Kevin Twomey, Deputy Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, was our special guest at assembly. He came to re-present Mr Biddulph with his Excellence in Teaching Award and pass on the winner’s cheque. Part of his presentation and Mr Biddulph’s response highlighted that this significant award recognizes one of a great many caring and committed teachers here at St. Mark’s, working with, and for, your children. I am certainly proud of the teaching and support staff and the work they do.

Parent/ Teacher meetings have been going on last week and should conclude this week. I hope you have received the “good news” so well deserved from so many of your children and perhaps the need for a greater focus and effort from some others. I expect all parents will have had those meetings by this week. Please ensure that you have the Semester One report and do keep it in a safe place.

Catholic Education Week
We celebrate all that is good about Catholic education with a number of activities next week. This year’s theme is “Come Live Life in all its Fullness”. We are celebrating with a whole school Mass on Thursday, 31st July at 9.30 am in the church. All parents and friends are warmly invited to come and join us on this occasion.

Athletics Carnival
Our annual athletics carnival will take place next Friday, 1st August, on the Fr Gilly Lyon’s Oval. This is always a great day and, again, one to which you are warmly invited. Come and give support and encouragement to your child/ren. There is, therefore, no assembly scheduled for that Friday.

Development Cup
Last Wednesday, Mr Biddulph and Mrs Tauasosi took away teams to compete in the annual Rugby League Development Cup. Congratulations to all concerned. Our boys were very successful and will go on to represent this district at the next level of competition. We wish them every success and look forward to the news.

Lap-a-thon
All children should have their sponsorship form now and be looking to collect donations and/or sponsors for this school-wide fundraiser. The prizes are a wonderful incentive. Please encourage and support this P and F sponsored event. We are hoping to complete a number of projects in and around the school that will enhance the learning opportunities for your children. These all need money! Some children are off to a flying start and classes are working on increasing their fitness level in readiness for the actual laps being walked or run on Friday, 15th August. Parents, of course, are welcome to join as well. Perhaps you could get some sponsorship too!

School Support
Homework Club and Breakfast Club are up and running again this week. The tuckshop is again providing a valuable service to families. Please support these where you can. Many children have now had their name written on their jumpers. In this weather, jumpers should be worn. Please ensure all items of the uniform are of the correct type and named.

Sacramental Programme
Please hold in your prayers those girls and boys, along with their families, who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Thursday morning.
What is Perseverance?

Perseverance is being purposeful and steadfast. It is sticking to something, staying committed, no matter how long it takes or what obstacles appear to stop you. A good example is the story of the tortoise and the hare. Even though the tortoise was slower than the hare, he won the race because he preserved—he didn’t let anything stop him or distract him. He kept on going.

You are practising Perseverance when you …

• Commit to something or someone and stick with it.
• Pace yourself and be persistent, doing things step by step.
• Don’t let yourself become battered or blown off course. Just ride the waves.

Virtue of the Week: Perseverance
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