Dear Parent/ Caregiver,

Last week we conducted two camps simultaneously. From all accounts, they were very successful. I hope that you have heard the stories if you have a child in Years 5, 6 or 7. These are the school memories that last all year and, for many, much longer. My thanks go to the many teachers, and school officer, who gave generously of their time. Without them, these camps just simply would not happen. We look forward to what our school leaders will bring to whole school in the weeks and months ahead.

Swimming

This week we begin swimming lessons in preparation for our annual swimming carnival which will be held on Friday, 7th March at Dunlop Pool, Oxley Road, Corinda. All parents and friends are welcome to come and join in the day. Our Prep children are not involved with any swimming this term. Swimming lessons are on Thursday and Friday this week. Permission forms should have been returned to classroom teachers by now.

Please have your child “ready to go” with names on all of their gear—togs, sun shirt, sun screen, swimming cap, towel etc.

With the right preparation, the children will have a very positive water experience.

Working Bee

We need your help! This Saturday, we will be changing the sand in the Prep sand pit. Bring your wheelbarrow, spade and muscles. The school garden beds need a spruce up so bring your garden tools. This is a great way to come together as a school community and have the gardens in the right state for your children. I do hope there will be a big roll up—many hands make light work.

Start: 8.00 am
Finish: 10.00 am.
Morning tea will be provided. See you then!

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season, that period of preparation as we travel towards Easter. We will make this journey with the support of Mrs Wilson, who will be Acting Assistant Principal –Religious Education while Mrs Lysaght takes leave for the rest of the term. We wish her well and look forward to her stories and pictures from her travels! Mrs Randolph will be taking Mrs Wilson’s place for three days a week while she fulfils that role. Project Compassion will again be a wonderful opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Your support, as always, is vital to this work.

Prep Playground

We are getting a little excited as the new Prep playground is getting closer—2 more weeks I am told. We look forward to this most welcomed addition to our playground, just beside the presbytery.

No Hats—No Play

Again this year we are enforcing a “no hat, no play” policy. This sun safe rule applies in all schools and I ask for your support as some of our younger children learn about taking responsibility for their property.

Road Safety

Be aware that the police and council are looking at the roads around the school. I am expecting a report soon that will bring some changes to what is currently displayed. This is to keep everyone safe and allow for the efficient arrival and departure of all. Please take particular note of all signage. More details as they come.
What Resilience?

Being resilient means that you have the ability to overcome odds and demonstrate the personal strengths needed to cope with different kinds of hardship. Resilience is the ability to bounce back after encountering difficulties, negative events, and hard times and to return to almost the same level of emotional wellbeing.

You are practising Resilience when you ...

- Find ways to solve your problems.
- Exercise control over negative thoughts and take responsibility for choosing how to act and feel.
- Persist with a task and persevere.
- Possess a sense of fun.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Parish News: Farewell & Welcome!

On Sunday, 23 February, our African community celebrated a special Mass that was filled with lots of joyful song and prayer. It was a wonderful time for the community to gather together.

There are some big changes ahead for St Mark’s. Fr Truc and Fr Michael will complete their interim assignment at St Mark’s on the 1st March. The Archbishop of Brisbane and the Divine Word Order have appointed Fr Stephen Pilly SVD as parish priest, and Fr Joseph Vu SVD as assistant priest and chaplain to the Vietnamese. Fr Stephen is currently assistant priest at a multicultural parish in Melbourne. Fr Joseph visited our parish in 2013 and some of you may remember him. Fr Gerard continues to struggle with poor health, so please keep him in your prayers.

This Friday, on our school assembly, and again on the weekend, we farewell Fr Michael and Fr Truc (and hopefully Fr Gerard if he is well enough to attend) and to welcome our new priests, Fr Stephen and Fr Joseph. On Saturday, 1st March, after the 7.30pm Vietnamese language Mass, there will be refreshments served, and on Sunday after the 9.30am Mass, there will be a parish morning tea. I know that Maureen, the Hospitality Team Coordinator, would welcome donations of finger food for the Sunday morning tea.

Here at St Mark’s School, we greatly thank Fr Gerard, Fr Michael and Fr Truc for all they have done for us during their time here! We wish them all the best in the future and will continue to pray for them!

Date Claimers ...

- This Friday, 28 February, 3G will lead us in our assembly prayer at 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- We will begin our weekly class liturgies with 6W and 2W this Thursday, 27 February.
- Ash Wednesday, which signifies the beginning of Lent, is on Wednesday 5 March. Every class will participate in a liturgy on that day.
- There will be no assembly on Friday 7 March due to our school swimming carnival.
- All parents and friends are warmly invited to join us for all these events.

Markus says when you “just do it” you are being RESILIENT!!

Virtue of the Week: Resilience

What Resilience?

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- Possess a sense of fun.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Dear Parents,

On Monday March 10 & Thursday March 13 the ARL (Australian Rugby League) will be holding a coaching clinic free of charge for school students in the Inala district. The Monday session will be held at St Mark’s from 3:30pm until 4:30pm and the Thursday session will be held at Wests Inala club on Freeman Road from 5:30-6:30. If you are interested, please see me for a Registration form.

On other matters to do with sport, a reminder that our school swimming carnival will be held at Dunlop Park swimming centre, Corinda, on Friday March 7 from 9-1pm. Thank you.....Mr Biddulph

SPORTS NEWS

Year 5 and 6/7 Camps

Last week the Year 6 and 7s went to Apex Camp at Mudjimba for 2 nights. A great time was had by all as the students turned their hand to time at the beach, volleyball, swimming and high ropes. I’m sure they have lots of stories to share with you!

Also, last week the Year 5s went to Tunnel Ridge for 2 nights. There were many activities to keep these children busy such as horse riding, archery, swimming, canoeing and leather work. There was also lot of great food and again many stories to be told!

St Peter Claver College, 10 Old Ipswich Road, Riverview
2014 Principal Twilight Tours

Mr Diarmuid O’Riordan, Principal of St Peter Claver College, extends an invitation to parents and families to attend a personalized tour of the College during a Principal’s Twilight Tour. Please register your interest by contacting the College Enrolment Secretary on 3810 5907 or mhunt@bne.catholic.edu.au

Tours will commence at 5.00pm and 5.30pm on selected evenings. We will contact you to arrange a suitable time once you register your interest. Tours go for approximately 1 hour with an opportunity to ask questions over a cup of tea/coffee and light refreshments.

There are 12 good reasons for you to consider enrolling your child at St Peter Claver College. It is a place:
Where students’ learning needs are central to all we do.
Committed to Catholic education – where all students are valued and nurtured.
Where our first Australians have a home and where their elders past and present are respected.
Where we welcome and celebrate cultural diversity. With a dynamic curriculum – lots of choice and catering for all learners.
With heaps of extra-curricular opportunities.
Where your child can excel in a number of sporting programs including Rugby League, Dance, Netball, Futsal and Soccer to name a few.
With a pastoral care system that promotes belonging and well-being.
Offering student leadership pathways and opportunities.
With a deliberate focus on social justice and outreach in our region.
Located amongst beautiful grounds with new facilities and close to major roads and railway.
With a sponsored bus system to ease parents’ concerns about transport.

OUR LADY’S COLLEGE ANNERLEY

Inspiring Young Women
Celebrating 50 years of Educating Girls in the Tradition of St Mary Mackillop

Our Open Day is
17 May from 10am—1pm

Enrolling now for 2016 and 2017
Limited places for Years 7 and 8 in 2015
For further details contact 3848 7492
Or visit our website
www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au
Working Bee on this Saturday Morning  8am-10am
Please help us clean out the sandpit area and other little jobs around the school. This will run for 2 hours only and morning tea will be provided.
- Everyone Welcome -

Wednesday 12th March 5.30pm—St Marks P&F AGM
All positions will be available for nominations—President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
Each position requires a time commitment to organise events, help with the banking, shopping
and event set up.

Brisbane Archdiocesan P&F Council AGM
Monday 17 March 2014 @5.30pm start
St Anthony’s Hall, St Anthony’s School, Kedron
Dinner will be provided
Special Guest Speaker : Carmel Nash
Parent Engagement with Children’s Learning
RSVP Wednesday 12 March
info@pandf.org.au or call 3336 9242

New leader shirts were ordered today.
We are looking forward to receiving these soon.

Celebrate 2014 International Womens Day
at the Pasifika Women’s Forum
“Pasifika Women Inspiring Change”

Date: Saturday 8 March, 2014
Time: 9:00am-4:30pm
Venue: Rotuman Qld Community Inc. Hall, 425 Earnshaw st, Banyo, North Brisbane.
Morning tea & lunch, raffles (Great prizes) & entertainment
RSVP by 3 March 2014 (catering purpose): pasfika_womens@yahoo.com
Contact: Salome Swan - 0439536289