**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Christmas Concert: 27/11
- Yr 7 Graduation: 4/12
- Last Day: Friday, 6/12 at 12 noon

**Term 4:**
8 October to 6 December

**Dear Parents/ Caregivers,**

Yesterday we officially launched this year’s Christmas Appeal. Please support our final appeal of the year with donations that will go into Christmas hampers—non-perishable goods. There are many in our community “doing it tough” at this time of the year. We will hand over our donations to St. Vincent de Paul at our final Mass, next Friday. Thanks for your contribution.

**Christmas Concert**
The big event for the week is our annual Christmas concert, performed for your enjoyment tomorrow evening in Mercy Hall. All children are performing. Please have them at school by 6.15 pm so they have time to get into costumes and get to be ready.

This is a free concert and Mercy Hall provides a most splendid venue for just such an occasion. I hope you have been invited by your son/ daughter! Yesterday, you should have received a book of raffle tickets, with the prizes drawn at the concert. Tickets are $1.00 each. Good luck.

Some light refreshments will also be on sale before the concert but remember, no food or drink goes into the hall.

**Swimming**
This week we conclude our swimming lessons. My thanks to you, and the teachers, for ensuring this has been a successful experience for all.

**Booklists**
All would have received booklists for next year. Remember, you must buy the items yourself. Do not return the list to the office.

**Lost Property**
Please check the lost property and collect. It will all be processed and removed at the end of the term.

**Semester 2 Reports**
Much good work has gone on this semester. Much progress has been noted and successes need to be acknowledged. Semester 2 reports come home to you later this week. Please look for them.

Should you wish to see the teacher to discuss the reports, please make contact through the office and a suitable meeting time will be arranged.

**Graduation**
Much preparation has already gone into this year’s graduation ceremony. It will be a truly fitting conclusion to the school year, and primary education, for our Year 7 students. They have enjoyed leadership opportunities and, in many cases, excelled. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them, and acclaiming them, and their families, at the Graduation Mass next Wednesday night beginning at 6.30 pm in the church.

**Holiday Projects**
During the holidays, a number of projects will get underway.

Both sets of toilets will be repainted. The soft fall, under the present Prep/ Year 1 and Year 2 and 3 playgrounds will be repaired and re-covered. New furniture will appear in various places around the school.

The annual cleaning of classrooms, windows and the like, takes place.

The school will be officially closed from Friday, 13th December.

**Web Site**
Our new website is now “live”. Check us out at www.stmarksinala.qld.edu.au
Thanks Mrs Lysaght for your fabulous work!
RE NEWS

‘Tis the season to be jolly ...

The season of Advent (which starts this Sunday on 1 December) heralds the start of a new liturgical year in the Catholic Church. This past year in the Church has been the Year of Luke. In Luke we see Jesus as “compassionate Saviour”. Luke’s image of Jesus is presented as the compassionate Saviour of the world, with love and compassion for all people, whether rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. He reaches out especially to the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, the women and the outcasts of society. Luke emphasizes divine mercy, depicting God as the Father who forgives his prodigal children with unbounded love. Meeting Jesus as the compassionate Saviour draws us to imitate the Lord by approaching the Father in confident prayer.

As Jesus and his followers were empowered in the Gospel of Luke, too, are called to continue his mission in the world by being compassionate to others, called to care for the poor and lowly, the outcast, sinner and afflicted. St Mark’s students have certainly answered that call this year. Time and time again families in our community have sacrificed in order to give to others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Your generosity is recognised and we humbly thank you for giving so freely.

Christmas time is supposed to be a joyful time, a time for family and friends gathering to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. However, for some families this isn’t a joyful time—it can be a stressful time when there is worry about how to provide children with presents, and family with food.

That’s where we can help again!!!!

St Mark’s, I’m calling on you once again to dig deep and give to those in need. Our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will run between now and the end of our school year.

We are looking for non-perishable items that could be packaged into Christmas hampers that will be delivered to local families in need. Please bring in any items to your classroom teacher. These items will be collected by St Vincent De Paul during our Thanksgiving Mass on the last day of school.

As we enter this time of Advent let’s stop and think about what Jesus, Our Compassionate Saviour is asking of us: that we give what we can to help others.

‘Tis the season to be jolly ...

Date Claimers ...

• St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is on NOW! I know you will, once again, give generously!
• Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 27 November at 6:30 pm.
• Our special end of year assembly prayer to farewell the Year 7s will be led by the Prep on Friday 29 Nov from 8:45am. Come along and hear the Preps present the song they have written and recorded!
• Year 7 Graduation will be at 6:30pm on Wednesday 4 December.
• Our End of Year Mass is at 10:30am on Friday 6 December.
• School finishes at 12pm on Friday 6 December.

PARENTS & FRIENDS YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO THESE EVENTS!!

Virtue of the Week: Responsibility

What is Responsibility?

Being responsible means that others can depend on you. Being responsible means to do something well and to the best of your ability. When you are responsible, you keep your agreements. If you agree to do something – make sure it gets done. When you make a mistake, you take responsibility for it. When you are responsible others know they can count on you.

You are practising Truthfulness when you ...

• Take your agreements seriously.
• Do things to the best of your ability.
• Accept credit or correction for what you do and how you do it.
• If you make a mistake, explain what happened without making excuses. Make it right if you can.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
UNIFORM SHOP
St Mark’s Uniform Shop is open every before the end of term.
Friday between 8am and 9am, for all your uniform needs.
PLEASE ORDER EARLY FOR 2014 TO AVOID QUEUES

SPECIAL OPENING DATES IN JANUARY 2014
ARE AS follows:-
22 and 23 January (9am-11am)
29, 30 & 31 January (open 8am)
Lay-by is available; please enquire
at uniform shop asap.

TUCKSHOP
Please note that the tuckshop will
have limited food until the end of term
and the tuckshop will be
closed next Thursday and Friday.

Also remember there will be sale of Vietnamese food
on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. All profits
will go to assist those affected by the storm
that hit the Philippines recently.
Please support! Thank you!

FAMILY HOLIDAYS
If your child will not be attending on the first day
school resumes on January 29th 2014, you must
advise the school office.
Please come into the school office to sign a form
to advise us of your family holiday dates.
This is important in order for us to keep a place for
your child for 2014.
Thank you.

RSPCA CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS,
139 Wacol Road, Wacol

MOVIE NIGHT:- Friday 29th, Movie—
"Planet Earth"—screening 7pm and BBQ starts at
6pm

XMAS MARKETS:- Saturday, 30th 8am—2pm

For further information please phone
3426 9948 or visit events@rspcaqld.org.au

CONGRATULATIONS
Best wishes to the Lokadir family on the birth
of their new, beautiful baby boy.

LIBRARY
PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS
TO THE LIBRARY THIS WEEK, IF
YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY
DONE SO.
IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS
ABOUT THIS PLEASE SEE THE
LIBRARY STAFF AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.
Thank you!

YEAR 1 EXCURSION

Last Wednesday Year 1 students went on an excursion to the city. The bus dropped us off at Roma Street
Parklands where the children had morning tea and played at the park. We then walked down to City Hall
where the students had the opportunity to experience, watch and take part in a live Christmas Concert.
Now we are ready to embrace the Spirit of Christmas. The students all had an amazing day.
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
$1.00 RAFFLE TICKET
DRAWN AT THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
TOMORROW NIGHT
PRIZES - 4 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS TO CHOOSE FROM
(Thank you to Ena Miranda, Anna Sinitsky & Diane Bortolussi for organising this)

CHEAP CHRISTMAS PRESENT IDEAS!

Beautiful Snow Globes
Only $5.00 each at the Concert

OR

St Mark’s 50th Celebration GIFT BAG
Only $10 each at the Concert

MARK TIMES SCHOOL MAGAZINE.
Thank you to Mrs Tina Winterflood, Mrs Wai Kwok, Miss Cheryl Waites, Mrs Jess Oliveri for their hard work and dedication in creating another fantastic school magazine this year.
We are very grateful for their time and skills.
They will be issued to all children next week.

Proposed First Event for 2014
Welcome Sausage Sizzle on Friday 14th February 2014
Face Painting and Live Music

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you St Mark’s families and teachers for your support making this a fantastic year!
Enjoy your holidays and keep safe.

Kind Regards

Agnes Sio, Anna Sinitsky, Ena Miranda, Jodie Geddes.
ST MARK’S P&F COMMITTEE