



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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2 February 2015
Week 2 Term 1

Welcome to the 2015 school year

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,
Welcome to the first full week of the school year. We are a smaller school, numbers wise, than last year with Year 7 students now attending high school. Currently, there is close to 470 children attending St. Mark's and it has been good to welcome them all, familiar faces and new faces.

On Friday, I introduced our new teachers and student leaders to the school body. I congratulated -

School Captains: Daniel Tran and Ngan Nguyen
Faith and Mission Captains: Joana Suka and Kynan Tran

Sports Captains: Emily Dodd and Matthew Nguyen

Culture/ Arts Captains: Mi Mi Le Nguyen and Maligi Pulou

Stewardship Captains: Quyen Chu and Ryan Nguyen.

They, along with all other Year 6 students, will be commissioned as student leaders at our Opening Mass this Friday at 9.30 am in the church. All parents are invited to join us at this very special celebration.

Parent Invitations

I trust all families have marked in your calendars the two dates for next week as mentioned in my letter last week.

The **Parent Information** evening on Wednesday starts at 6.30 pm and is scheduled to finish around 8.00 pm. A parent from each family is expected to attend. This is a particularly important opportunity to meet with your child/ren's teachers and learn a little of their focus for the year and how you can support your child. We begin in Mercy Hall.

On Friday, we have our P and F sponsored **Welcome BBQ**—always a great occasion and a way to meet other parents at the school. Do come along and get involved in the life of the school. We look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Support

We have a number of strategies/ initiatives in place at school to support you and your children. Please support them where you can.

Tuck shop operates every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for your children.

A **Breakfast Club** operates on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 8.00 am—one cost \$1.00 for toast and a drink.

The **Uniform Shop** operates every Friday morning 8.00—9.00 am.

Homework Club operates every Tuesday afternoon, 3.00—3.45 pm in the library. Please see page 3 for further details. (Students need to register to take advantage of this support, so popular has it proved to be.)

Student Protection

All staff are completing the mandatory training undertaken each year at school. Your child's safety is our priority and there are a number of processes and practices that are in place to ensure this. I outlined some of them in last week's letter to you.

Having children at school on time, notifying the school when they are absent, completing a medical permission form for all medication, keeping medicines up to date, attending to any special needs with school, and specialist, meetings and the like are all very important. Please ensure that you follow these.

When children are genuinely sick, do not send them to school. For healthy children, an attendance rate of over 95% is normal.

Please keep your contact details current by letting us know when there are changes.

School Projects

Due to a number of factors beyond our control, a number of projects scheduled for completion during the holidays did not happen. They are set to be done in the next few weeks. My apologies for any inconvenience. Crumbling paths will be re-set, playground equipment installed and lines marked for games. The grass is growing as you look at it! Children are moving back into play areas as each section is made ready.

Garry Montgomery
Principal



2015 TERM DATES:

Term 1: 28 Jan - 2 Apr
Term 2: 20 Apr - 26 Jun
Term 3: 13 July-18 Sept
Term 4: 6 Oct - 4 Dec

Late Students

Be in the gate by half past eight!



All students should be at school by 8:30am. If students are late they must report to the school office, to let Mr Montgomery or Mrs Ioannides know the reason why they are late for school. **Thank you!**

Important Notice

Do you have a new address or telephone number?

If you or your child's emergency contacts have changed address or telephone number, please inform the school office. It is very important that we can contact you in the case of an emergency.

Thank you!



Term Reminders

Wednesday February 11:
Parent Information Evening

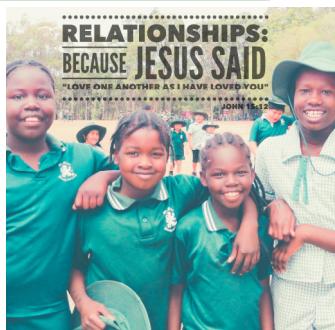
Friday February 13:
P&F Welcome BBQ

Welcome Back for 2015

2015: Because of Jesus



Last week's virtue
was relationships.



Welcome to 2015! We are pleased everyone had a safe Christmas and has returned to St Mark's refreshed and re-energised, ready for another year where we set about making St Mark's a better place to be.

A warm welcome to new families who are joining the St Mark's community for the first time this year. 2015 brings with it many exciting challenges as we encourage our students and staff (and parents) to identify with the message of Jesus in all we say and do.

Our theme for the year is: "**Because of Jesus ...**" at St Mark's Catholic School Jesus is the centre of all we do and the foundation on which we build our educational and spiritual activities. Everything we do, the way we treat others, the activities we choose to participate in, and the ethos of the school are all inherently linked to the person of Jesus and his words and actions.

This year we will recognise Jesus' message throughout our daily interactions with others. We will learn more about the mission Jesus has left us by regularly reading scripture and relating it to our lives.

St Mark's is a community that strives to share the Good News of Jesus in all we do by living Clearly and Boldly. We invite you and your children to embrace this theme with us by looking for opportunities to contribute to our school. There will be many ways in 2015 for you to get involved.

This year each class will again be writing a class covenant—which is an agreement, written by the students, that describes what kind of people they want to be this year. It is a promise by the students (& staff) to acknowledge and live out "because of Jesus" in all they are asked to do and be this year.

I look forward to catching up with you at some events over the term.

Date Claimers ...

Our Welcoming and Commissioning Mass for 2015 will on **Friday 6 February** at **9:30am** in St Mark's Church. It will be a special time when we commit ourselves to "just doing it" in 2015. Our **Year 6 leaders** will also be presented to the community and they will be commissioned as they promise to lead St Mark's to the best of their ability. Once again it promises to be a joyous occasion to start our school year. **All parents and friends are most welcome.**



Our Parent information Night will be on Wednesday night, 11 February at 6:30pm. It is most important that at least one parent from each family attends this meeting. We will start in Mercy Hall, before heading to your child's classroom.

Next Friday, 13 February, 3W will lead us for our **Assembly Prayer**. You are most welcome to join us in Mercy Hall at 8:40.

Our P&F Welcome BBQ is also on **Friday 13 February at 3pm**. See you there!



Virtue of the Week: Reverence

What is Reverence?

Reverence is behaving with an awareness that you are always in the presence of the Creator and that all life is very precious. Reverence can be experienced in moments of prayer or reflection. It is treating Holy books and other sacred things as very, very special.

You are practising reverence when you ...

- Have an attitude of deep respect toward all living things.
- Have a regular practise of reflection or prayer.
- Treat sacred things with special care.
- Act as if you are in the presence of the earth.
- Spend time in the beauty of nature.

St Mark's Uniform Shop

is open every Friday
during school term
between
8am and 9am.

OPEN
EVERY
FRIDAY

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop
will be open
Wednesday,
Thursday &
Friday

Tuckshop will operate on
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Tuckshop will not operate on
Monday or Tuesday.
Thank you for supporting our
school tuckshop.

Anna Sinitsky

BREAKFAST CLUB

Available to students every
Monday and Tuesday
Cost is \$1.00 for toast
and a drink.

Coffee and morning tea will be provided for you at the **Mothers Group** every Wednesday morning 9.30am - 11.30am at Lobelia House.

For further details, please call Carrie McCormack 043 429 0540
or
Christine DaCosta 043 458 1406.

This ministry is sponsored by St Mark's Parish and School.



St Mark's
Wednesday
Mothers Group



Note: Please find the tuckshop menu with this newsletter.

Slush Puppies are available at the tuckshop!

The 'school approved' crushed ice cordial drinks are now available for a cool treat.

All flavours are \$2.00 per cup.

Thank you.

Anna Sinitsky

LIBRARY—BOOK CLUB

Homework Club

Homework club is run on a **Tuesday** in the **library** (**NOT the 1st and last week of term**) from **3-3.45pm**. It is a time when two teachers are present to assist the students in completing their weekly homework.

Parents need to register their whole family using the form below. ALL family members are to remain in the library during this time.

Afterwards, the students will be walked up to the office to be collected by the parents. This procedure is for the students' safety.



Homework Club Family Registration

Please complete this section and return it to the school office if you wish your children to attend homework club.

Family Name:

Parent Telephone Number

Student: Class:

Student: Class:

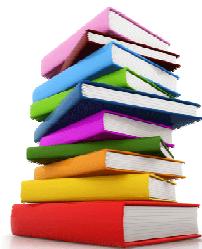
Student: Class:

Student: Class:

Book Club Issue 1 was handed out to the students today. It will be due at the end of next week.

Please make sure your children hand any orders into their teacher by **Friday, 13th February**.

Remember to send money in an envelope with the order clearly marked. **Please make sure your child's name and grade is on the order form.**



Because of the change in the system of Book Club, just for Issue 1, we ask that you **only send cash NOT credit card details**. Hopefully that will be up and running in Term 2.

Thank you for your support of Book Club. The school receives free resources for our library when we participate in Book Club.

BOOK FAIR

Book Fair has been booked for the second last week of term. Because of this, we will not run Issue 2 of Book Club as it really is too close to the **Book Fair which will start on Monday 23rd March**.

Thank you.

Mrs Badke and Mrs Keaton (Teacher Librarians)



Join us at the Welcoming Sausage Sizzle

Friday 13th February 2014

3.00pm to 4.30pm

At St Mark's Catholic Primary School

DJ JOSH, FREE FACE PAINTING,

1 FREE RAFFLE TICKET PER FAMILY

RAFFLE PRIZES; Boys Scooter plus Helmet

Girls Scooter plus Helmet, 5cup Rice Cooker, Small Juicer Red

COMPLIMENTARY PRIZES: 1 Boys Pack, 1 Girls Pack



RAFFLE TICKETS \$1.00 each

DRINKS \$2.00 each

SAUSAGE ON BREAD \$2.00 each

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED for the day. If you can help, please speak to Anna in the tuckshop.

All funds raised subsidise our Year 6 leader shirts!

Apply for \$150 Voucher towards registration of your child at a club sport

This great Government initiative makes club sports more affordable for families.



First check if your club is registered for this scheme before applying for the voucher.

All children are entitled to these vouchers and it is easy to apply online

**St Mark's BBQ at Bunnings OXLEY
Saturday 14th February**



**Come and visit our BBQ at Bunnings Oxley
On Saturday 14th February 2014**

Thank you to Simone Everett for getting us this opportunity.

Thank you to Anna, Simone, Veronica & Ena for helping organise this event.

Thank you to the volunteers who will give up a Saturday to help out. **Funds raised will be re-invested in resources or activities to benefit our students!**

WED 11TH FEB 6.30PM @ MERCY HALL

Dear Parents & Carers

Please attend this important night so you are aware of what your child is learning at school.

Thank you to Bernie Ripoll MP and his wonderful staff for donating scooters for prizes in our Welcome Back raffle .

