Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

This week, the focus here at school is on reading, and the greater appreciation of how reading can open up all sorts of possibilities. Book Week is a great way to celebrate this and Mrs Badke and Mrs Keaton have put together a host of fabulous activities for all children to enjoy. Please encourage and support your young readers—it is a vital key to academic success. See elsewhere for details of what’s on this week. The Book Week parade on Friday will be special!

Year 5 Camp
Our Year 5s, and their teachers, leave for Tunnel Ridge, tomorrow. I know they are all excited and some are just a little nervous. I’m sure they will come back with great stories to share. Children come to school at the normal time, dressed in “camp” attire!

Prep Orientation
The second of our orientation mornings happens tomorrow morning at 9.00 am. This is for those children who have siblings here at St. Mark’s. Come to the Prep classrooms with your child to meet the teachers and become familiar with the processes that will in place for next year. I look forward to seeing you then. Of note, lay-by arrangements are available from the uniform shop. Please order early to avoid huge queues in January.

Booklists
As mentioned previously, no book packs are being ordered for classes in 2014. Once the booklist comes, it is your responsibility to purchase the necessary books and stationery. Broadies is again able to assist with your school booklist needs.

Dental forms
Please return any outstanding dental forms a.s.a.p. This service is available, free, to all primary aged children throughout Queensland. I commend it to you.

Vietnamese Food
Today and tomorrow, Vietnamese food is on sale through the tuck shop. Most items are $2 and menus have been around the school for the last week. Please support our parents who are raising money for Catholic Missions.

P and F Meeting
This will be held in St Mark’s staffroom on Wednesday 13th November at 9am. All welcome.

P and F Dinner
I hope to see a good number at our P and F Dinner at Richlands Hotel on Friday night, 15th November. It will be a great occasion to celebrate our 50 years. Bookings need to be by this week so act now to secure your place!

Creative Kids Concert
As a celebration of learning, students involved in the Creative Kids instrumental music programme are performing in a concert on Monday, 18th November, at 6.30 pm. Our choir will also be singing. Mark it in your calendar.

Remembrance Day
Poppies are currently on sale to commemorate Remembrance Day—11th November. They are $1 with proceeds going to Legacy Australia. Prayers are also being said for those whose names are recorded on our Remembrance Scrolls.
**RE NEWS**

**Remembrance Day**

The 11th Day of the 11th Month (November) is the day when Australians take time to remember the servicemen and women who have fought and died in wars around the world. Originally it was called *Armistice Day*, the day when the First World War ended after four years of fighting. Close to 62,000 Australians, men and women lost their lives during the First World War. Together with the United Kingdom, the government of Australia decided to rename Armistice Day, Remembrance Day after the end of the second World War. New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom and Australia all commemorate Remembrance Day. Red poppies are a symbol of Remembrance Day. They were the first flowers to grow after the war in the fields that had seen battle in France and Belgium.

Remembrance Day has become a day to remember all those who have died in any war fighting for their country. Traditionally at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month people all around the world stop for one minute silence. **At St Mark’s we will stop at 10:30 on Monday 11.11.13 to remember all who have given their lives in the cause of peace.**

**Date Claimers ...**

We have a VERY BUSY term ahead:

- Buy some Spring Rolls on Tuesday and Wednesday this week to support Catholic Missions!
- This week Year 6 will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 7 November at 9:30 in the Church.
- 4W will lead us for our Assembly Prayer this Friday 8 November as part of our Book Week Celebrations.
- 1W will lead us for our Assembly Prayer next Friday 15 November.
- Our P&F 50 year celebration dinner is on Friday 15 November @ 6pm at Richlands Tavern. RSVP to the office now.
- We will begin collecting for our *St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal* on Monday 25 November. Thanks for what you’ll give!
- Our *Christmas Concert* will be on Wednesday 27 November at 6:30 pm.
- 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.

**Virtue of the Week: Honour**

**What is Honour?**

Being honourable is to live with a sense of respect for what you believe to be right. It is living by the virtues, living up to the gifts that God placed within you. You set a good example and don’t feel ashamed of who you are or what you are doing.

**You are practising Honour when you ...**

- Practise the virtues whenever you get a chance.
- Speak respectfully to others.
- Do what you believe is right no matter what.
- Ask God to help you do what’s right.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
\section*{UNIFORM SHOP}
St Mark’s Uniform Shop is open every Friday between 8am and 9am, for all your uniform needs. PLEASE ORDER EARLY FOR 2014 TO AVOID QUEUES Thank you!

\section*{AFRICAN MASS}
An African Mass will be held by Father Michael on Sunday 10th November at 1pm at St Mark’s Parish. Enquires…….please phone 3372 5658

\section*{A Deanery “Year of Faith” event:}
\textbf{Tuesday 12th November, 10am}
St Mark’s Church
Kathleen Evans
\textit{(the second miracle for the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop)}.

\textbf{Gold coin donation. Morning tea to follow.}

\textbf{Can you help?} St Mark’s Parish will be providing hospitality after this event for many visitors to our parish. Plates of food for morning tea would be most welcome. The Hospitality Group would also appreciate help with the setting up of tables and serving of tea and coffee. Call Joy at the parish office (3372 5658) if you can help.

\section*{The Rosary}
On Friday 18\textsuperscript{th} October Mrs Da Costa came to visit Prep W, Prep G and One W. Mrs Da Costa shared with us The Joyful Mysteries. It was very special because we got to listen to and watch the scripture stories. Thank you so very much Mrs Da Costa, you are amazing!

\section*{LIBRARY NEWS}
\textbf{BOOK WEEK} is this week. “Read Across the Universe!” is our theme.
Parents you are very welcome to come and see the displays for Book Week before or after school this week.
\textbf{AFTER ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY} is also a very good time to come and view our art work and electronic displays.
\textbf{WATCH} the dress up parade in the hall this Friday at 8.50am (Prep to Yr 3 have been asked to come in costume) then move onto the Library to see the children’s work!!!!

\textbf{Book Week Trivia for Yr 4-7} will be in the Hall on Tuesday 5\textsuperscript{th} November
\textbf{Book Week Assembly Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} November}
All parents are welcome.

\textbf{8.50} \textbf{Dress-Up Parade in Hall} – Prep to Yr 3 can dress up as a Space character to follow our theme ‘Read Across the Universe’ OR come dressed up as a favourite book character.
Yr 4-7 are also welcome to dress up if they wish.

\textbf{Winning books} will be announced.
\textbf{Prizes} for library competitions will be presented and best Book Trailor and E-book will be shown.
You are invited to join us for Christmas Dinner
next Friday 15th November @ 6pm
in a private function room at Richlands Tavern

$35.00 (includes buffet dinner and unlimited soft drinks)

**Buffet Dinner Includes**

**Salads and Starters** - Mixed Fresh Bread Rolls, Garlic Bread, Fresh Homemade Soup,
Salad bar including: Coleslaw, Potato Salad & Cold Cuts

**Seafood Selection** – Baked Fish, Crumbed Fish, Salt & Pepper Calamari

**Hot Buffet**—Potato Bake, Steamed Vegetables, Beef Lasagne, Roasted Root Vegetable,
BBQ Pork Ribs, Selection of Pasta and Sauces, Roasts, Pizza, Honey Sesame Chicken,
Hokkien Noodle Stir Fry, Singapore Noodles, Marinated Chicken Wings,
Fried & Steamed Rice, Prawn Crackers, Stir Fry Vegetables

**Dessert Bar**—Pavlova, Cheesecake, Caramel Tart, Cherry Slice and Fresh Fruits

**RSVP BY THIS FRIDAY 8th NOV**
Please hand your red form and money into the school office.

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**P&F MEETING—everyone welcome!**
Wednesday 13th November 9am in the school staff room

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**National Voice for Parents in Catholic Schools**

An organisation aiming to give Catholic school parents a strong and united voice at national level was launched this week. Catholic School Parents Australia will play a leading role in representing the views of parents to the Federal government as well as provide a forum for state Catholic School parent bodies to consider issues and share ideas. The inaugural Annual General Meeting of Catholic School Parents Australia, including election of office bears was held yesterday. Newly elected Independent Chair, Mr Tony O’Byrne, says “Catholic schools educate 1 in 5 Australian children and parent engagement is a very strong element of the ethos of Catholic education.” “Catholic schools have a distinctive ethos and are therefore often faced with a unique range of policy issues.” “We believe it is vital that our parents have a forum through which their specific views can be expressed at a national level,” Mr O’Byrne said. The organisation has the support of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Catholic Education Commission. The organisation has the support of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Catholic Education Commission.

An inaugural council consisting of two nominees from each State Catholic School Parent Association and the ACT Catholic School Parent Council has been appointed.

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