Dear Parents/Carers,

It is good to be back! My sabbatical leave to the Holy Land and particularly at Easter time was a fabulous experience and I look forward to sharing parts of it with you in the weeks ahead. I know I will never be able to listen to, or read, Bible stories and accounts in the same way ever again. I felt particularly privileged to be on the land in Galilee where Jesus walked some 2000 years ago. In much of the region around the Sea of Galilee very little has changed in the country areas.

I wish to thank Mrs Ioannides, Mrs Lysaght and Mr Biddulph very much for looking after the running of the school while I was away. The teachers and support staff have continued with the great work of educating your children. I look forward to all that will come through our combined efforts throughout the term.

Some things have changed, my, how the children have grown and Janssen Building looks great for being repainted, while others stay the same, the genuine friendly welcome from all in the school.

District Cross Country

Last Friday, we again hosted the district championships in cross country successfully. Many thanks to Mr Biddulph, in his capacity as sports co-ordinator here at St. Mark’s, Mr Everett and Mr Ebzery as coaches and a team of teachers and support staff who worked to make it a success. Our small team of runners did their best against strong opposition and two boys, Silesh and Roni, are reserves in their respective age groups. Congratulations.

This Thursday we will send out a representative Rugby League team and look forward to hearing of their endeavours and success.

St. Mark’s Day

St. Mark is the patron saint of our school. We will celebrate this special day on Thursday this week with a whole school Mass at 9.30 am followed by a session of fun activities for all children from 11.30—1.30 pm. Parents are very welcome to join us in these celebrations.

They are $1 per sheet and no one will have time to use more than two or three sheets. It is a time for some fun.

The day is especially significant for us as it gives us the opportunity to appreciate again just who makes up our school community and what each brings to that community. When we can look at each other with eyes of appreciation, we can then build the strong, life-giving community we all want and deserve.

School Photos

As mentioned last week, school photos will be taken throughout the day next Tuesday, 5th May. All children need to be presented well, in full school uniforms, checks, with white socks and black shoes. Thank you for your efforts to ensure that your son/daughter is ready. Please be sure to follow all directions that you received with the envelopes so that all are happy with the photos that come.

Mothers’ Day Celebrations

It’s that time of year again and we want to let all mothers know how special they are and how much we love and value them. Come along to our special, P and F sponsored, Mothers’ Day BBQ next Friday afternoon in the amphitheatre. As usual, there will be music, raffles, face painting, cake and a few surprises. I look forward to seeing many of you here at that time. Stay for a little, or a long time, as we treat our Mums to this special time. (That’s the invitation Dads and children!!)

Thanks to our P and F who have also undertaken a Mothers’ Day stall. Please take advantage of this to again make Mum feel special on her day.

Homework Club

This wonderful support started again this afternoon. All registered children can take advantage of the assistance generously given by teachers. Children attending need to be collected at 3.45 pm from the front office. Thanks.

Don’t forget, Breakfast Club operates on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Teachers have been busy preparing these activities and, to cover minimal costs, children will need some “marks” to be able to buy/participate.

PG: Elliot Connolly
PW: Jamie Nguyen
PB: Vincent Pham
1G: Venus Louis
1W: Jamieiyah Tran
1B: Katrina Nguyen
2G: Alina Favier
2W: Vy Le
3G: Mai Trinh
3W: Wendy Nguyen
3B: Emily Tran
4G: Phuong Anh Le
5G: Maddison Smith
5W: Priya Thevar
6G: Vy Vy Dinh
6W: Diem Tran

For Resilience:
2B: Taylor Tufele

For Effort:
4W: Queendy Tran

For Love:
‘Because God so loved the world he sent his only son.’
John 3:16

28 April 2015
Week 2 Term 2
St Mark’s Day this Thursday

For Love:
‘Because God so loved the world he sent his only son.’
John 3:16
Who was St Mark?

St Mark was an evangelist—someone who set out to tell people the Good News of Jesus. He was not one of the chosen 12 Apostles, but appears in the Scriptures as a travelling companion of St Paul and St Peter.

Mark accompanied Paul to many places until Paul was martyred. Mark was also associated closely with Peter as sort of an interpreter. Much of what Mark wrote down was as a result of Peter’s testimony and reflects his thoughts on Jesus’ activities.

The symbol of St Mark is a lion— which represents St Mark’s strength and bravery when preaching the Good News of Jesus.

This Thursday, 30 April, we remember St Mark’s Day. Our Eucharist will kick off a day of celebration at 9:30am in St Mark’s Church. The students will then participate in fun activities for the remainder of the day. To participate in these the children will need to bring $1 or $2 to buy Mark’s Marks for entry into their chosen activities. Please join us as a community to remember the faithful saint who is our school’s patron.

Because of Jesus and His impact on the world, when St Mark was a boy he was inspired to proclaim Jesus to all he met—may we also do the same.

Our Global community needs our prayers ...

Mercy- it knows no borders or politics; it is simply about humans & their capacity to change, underpinned by forgiveness. You are invited to attend a Candlelight Vigil for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran at Christ the King Catholic Church, Graceville on Tuesday 28 April at 7pm.

#standformercy #forgiveness #love

Date Claimers ...

- This Friday, 1 May, 4W will lead us in Assembly Prayer at 8:45 am in Mercy Hall.
- School Photos are on Tuesday 5 May.
- Next week 5G and 2B will celebrate their buddy Class Eucharist on Thursday 7 May at 9:30 in St Mark’s Church. All parents and friends are welcome!
- Our Mother’s Day Assembly will be run by 5G on Friday 8 May.
- Mother’s Day BBQ will be on Friday 8 May at 3:00.
- NAPLAN runs from Tuesday 12 May—Thursday 14 May.

Virtue of the Week: Courage

What is Courage?

Courage is personal bravery in the face of fear. It is doing what needs to be done even when it is really hard or scary. Courage is going ahead even when you feel like giving up and quitting. It doesn’t mean taking unnecessary chances just to look brave.

You are practising courage when you ...

- Do what you know is right even when it is hard or scary.
- Are willing to try new things.
- Remember to ask God and others for help when you need it.
- Find courage in your heart even if others laugh at you or call you names.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
High School Expo

On Wednesday May 20, St Mark’s will be holding a ‘High School Expo’ in Mercy Hall from 6-8 pm.

This expo is an opportunity for Catholic High Schools within our catchment area to display, demonstrate and communicate what their school has to offer. As High School selection for your child is an important decision in their educational journey, we would encourage you to attend.

You, as parents know your child best and an expo such as this will make you aware of the schools that can best cater for your child’s learning and educational needs. Closer to the time we will be able to give you a list of the schools that will be attending the night. Please note, that many high schools request enrolments for students from as early as Year 3-4.

Year 7 2016 Enrolments

Enrolment interviews have commenced for Year 7 in 2016. To be eligible for a first round enrolment interview, applications must be submitted prior to the 9th May 2015. Download an application from our website www.stc.qld.edu.au or phone the College on 3814 8300.

OPEN MORNING: SETON COLLEGE
Tuesday 5th May starting at 9am in the College Chapel with an Information Session followed by a tour of the College. The Open Morning will conclude at 10.30am

SETON COLLEGE, MT GRAVATT EAST, is a Catholic Co-educational College, is now accepting enrolment applications from students wishing to attend the College in Year 7 2016 and 2017 (maximum Year 7 enrolment is 65 students). The College accepts students of diverse abilities, but seeks to provide opportunities for students who need to ‘pick up the pace’ of their school work in the primary school years. This is done through a curriculum in which core subjects are offered at many levels and classes with a very favourable teacher – student ratio. In the Senior years, (Years 11 – 12) the College offers students the opportunity to do QCE subjects and a variety of VET pathways. Please visit the College website at http://www.seton.qld.edu.au or phone 3291 5333 to obtain an enrolment package.

Congratulations to the Agoth family (Jemyma 1G) who welcomed baby Samuel last week. Jemyma started at St Mark’s last Wednesday, so it was a big week of new beginnings for the family!

St Mark’s Uniform Shop

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

St Mark’s Day Celebrations
Thursday April 30
Mass at 9:30am
All Welcome

Breakfast Club

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

Brigidine College
Indooroopilly OPEN DAY

Have fun and learn more about the options for your daughter’s secondary education. Enjoy free face painting, free sausage sizzle, many creative performances and lots of hands-on workshops as well as guided tours, over 20 displays and much more on Sunday 17 May 10am – 1pm. More information at www.brigidine.qld.edu.au

High School Expo

Book club is due at the end of this week. Please make sure your children hand any orders in to their teacher by Friday May 1st. 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.

Thank you for your support in Book Club. The school receives free resources for our library when we participate in Book Club.
Dear School Leaders,
It is great to see you wearing your School Leader shirts with pride. Please pay $10 to your teacher as soon as possible.
Kind regards,
Agnes, Anna, Ena & Veronica. (Your P&F team)

NAPLAN PREPARATION

Thank you to Mrs Ioannides & Miss Waites for their NAPLAN SESSION last Wednesday. St Mark’s students are introduced early to numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar. They practice techniques during class and become familiarise with different styles of questions.

Families can support their child by ensuring the child gets a good nights sleep before the exam, has a hearty healthy breakfast and is relaxed for school. As long as we reassure our child to give it their best shot and not pressure them, this will help them greatly.

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<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
<th>Language conventions 40 minutes</th>
<th>Writing 40 minutes</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May</th>
<th>Reading 45 minutes</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May</th>
<th>Numeracy 45 minutes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language conventions 40 minutes</td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 May</td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
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