Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Last week’s Christmas Concert was a great occasion for the whole school. The swimming block is now complete and the processing of report cards was completed. Now, the last week of the school year brings to a conclusion our work for 2015.

Many thanks for your continued support of your children on their “learning journey”, the teachers and staff at the school, and the initiatives and approaches that have been undertaken through the P and F.

End of Year
We will give thanks for the blessings of the year, its challenges and successes, it’s call to grow as individuals and community, at the Mass of Thanksgiving, 10.30 am on Friday morning. All are warmly invited to this celebration. We will farewell our Year 6 classes, announce next year’s student leaders and pass on our donations to St. Vincent de Paul society.

The school year finishes at 12 noon. Please ensure that you have made arrangements to collect your child/ren at that time. The 2016 school year starts on Wednesday, 27th January.

Semester 2 Reports
By now, you should have received your child’s Semester 2 report. Many of them tell a story of wonderful application, academic and social success. Some will highlight areas for growth next year. As mentioned last week, should you want to talk with teachers, please contact the school.

Graduation
Tomorrow night, we celebrate the graduation of our Year 6 classes, starting with Mass in the church at 6.30 pm. This celebration is for the whole community, the culmination of many years of work. It is a very fitting way to acknowledge the growth and success of these young people. We are proud of them and wish them every success for the future.

Mark Times
Every family will receive a copy of this year’s Mark Times tomorrow. Please ask for it from your child/ren. I thank the teachers for their efforts in “putting together” their page, and Mrs Tina Winterflood and her committee for a fabulous edition – quite stunning in full colour. I hope you value it and share it with family and friends.

Christmas Appeal
Please send in your contributions of non-perishable goods for this year’s appeal. As mentioned, these will be passed over at our End of Year Mass on Friday.

Practical Matters
* All fees should be paid. Contact Ms Barry or myself if you have difficulties.
* Lost property needs to be collected now. Anything remaining will be processed or given away.
* The Uniform shop will operate this Friday morning, 8.00 – 9.00 am, and then on Wednesday 20th January, 9.00 – 11.00 am.

Merry Christmas to you and your family. Thank you for your wonderful support over the years and well wishes on my retirement. I wish you all the best and look forward to when our paths next cross.

Thank you for your support in 2015

Student Awards

Spirit of St Mark’s:
Prep:
Amity Mellon

Year 1:
Kim Bui

Year 2:
Hayden Reyes

Year 3:
Brendan Connolly

Year 4:
Bo Tran

Year 5:
Vi Ngo

Year 6:
Oanh Tran

Upcoming Events

Friday December 4:
Last Day of School

School Finishes at 12 noon

www.stmarksinala.qld.edu.au
RE NEWS

As we draw to the end of another school year we take time to thank our God for all the blessings we have received this year. We also take time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves. Therefore, remembering that this is a time of thanksgiving, as well as giving to others, here is how YOU can join as the St Mark’s community to share the Christmas spirit ...

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal:
We are still looking for non-perishable items that could be packaged into Christmas hampers that will be delivered to local families in need. So please let’s give generously one more time this year and bring in any suitable items to your classroom.

Whole School Celebrations:
All parents, families and friends are invited to help us celebrate the end of another fantastic year at St Mark’s at the following events:

Yr 6 Graduation Mass: Wednesday 2 December @ 6:30pm
• Let’s gather to honour and farewell our 2015 school leaders.

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass: Friday 4 December @ 10:30am
• Join together as a community to thank God for another excellent year.

St Mark’s Parish Christmas Mass Times:

Reconciliation:
Wednesday 9th December 6:30pm (Vietnamese Language)
Thursday 10th December 6:30pm (Vietnamese Language)
Tuesday 22nd December 6:30pm (English Language)

Christmas Eve: Thursday 24th December
6pm (English Language)
9:30pm (English Language)
7pm at VCC (Vietnamese Language)

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December
7:30am (Vietnamese Language)
9.30am (English Language)

We hope to see you all at one of our school celebrations. And from all of us here at St Mark’s School we wish you a happy and holy Christmas that is filled with the peace and joy of the baby Jesus!

**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!*

**STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST MARK’S IN 2016**

Please complete this section and return it to the school office if you **ARE NOT** returning to St Mark’s in 2016.

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SIGNED (Parent): ____________________________

NAME OF NEW SCHOOL: ____________________________

REASON FOR LEAVING: ____________________________

*Thanks for letting us know.*

**Christmas Eve Family Mass**

Children of all ages are most welcome to be part of the parish Christmas Eve celebration. From Sunday 15th November 8.30am to 9.30am in the Fr Frank meeting room (back of the church) rehearsals will begin for the Children’s Choir, and plans made for the Nativity Play. Kay Hartwig, the parish musical director, will teach the children the Christmas hymns. Rehearsals will be on every Sunday 8.30am to 9.30am leading up to Christmas.

**Our Lady’s College - Annerley**

Accepting enrolments now for Year 7 in 2019 (Currently Year 3) Interviews commencing January 2016. Limited places available for 2017 & 2018. Phone 3426 8000 for an Enrolment Pack or download from our website

... *Inspiring Young Women*
Writing competition for all students—Closing date is Friday 4th December
Enter the competition online via http://www.bigthankyou.com.au

We hold in our prayers Mr Everett whose mother passed away last Friday.

Poem of Life
Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things but never meant to stay...

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know,
For some the journey's quicker, for some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace together with the Lord.