Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday we celebrated our opening Mass and commissioned our student leaders. My thanks to parents who came along to join us on this special occasion. With God’s blessings, we look forward optimistically to all that will come throughout the year.

This week, we have two very important opportunities to build our school community. I do hope you will come.

Parent Information Evening—Wednesday, starting at 6.30 pm in Mercy Hall. This is a particularly important meeting for all parents. Please ensure that you have signed the attendance register in classes. Meeting your child’s teacher is a highlight of the evening.

Welcome BBQ—Please come and join in with other families at our Welcome BBQ on Friday afternoon, 3.00-4.30 pm in the amphitheatre. There will be the usual food and drinks, along with music, raffles and good fun.

Swimming

Please ensure that all permission forms for swimming have been completed and sent in to your child’s teacher this week. Years 1—6 will swim 3 times this term, culminating in our annual swimming carnival on Thursday, 26th February. Practice days are next week, 19th and 20th February. Again, please see that your child is ready to swim.

I have only recently received the adjusted costs from Dunlop Pool for pool entry and instructors. With bus costs as well, the school can no longer meet these costs at $5 a session as currently charged. In fact this has not been increased for many years now. This year, the swimming levy will rise to $7 per month to cover these increased charges. Should you wish to review these costings, I, or Ms Barry, would be happy to go through them with you.

Thanks for your support with this.

School Grounds

Slowly, our grounds are looking more like how we would like them to be. Many thanks to a number of parents who have volunteered to assist in this work. Certainly the grass is growing quickly at this time of year.

A working bee is planned for Saturday, 18th February, 8.00—10.00 am to have the place looking good so that all activities can happen throughout the school. I ask for your help please. Please mark it on your calendar. More details will come next week.

Parking and Other Matters

By now, most parents and children are adjusting to school processes and practices that, when followed, keep all safe and allows for the smooth functioning of the school.

- Children arrive between 8.00—8.30 am. Late arrivals need to come to the office and be registered there. All children wait in the amphitheatre until teachers are on duty from 8.20 am.

- After school, children go to meet parents, or collect siblings. It is not a play time! Many of you, with us, are working to have all children meet you on time and in the “agreed” place!

- Please use the pick-up/ drop off zone correctly and observe all traffic signs.

Unfortunately, I had to call the police last week to ensure safe practices. I trust all will run more smoothly from now on.

- Please do not use the parish car park for pick-ups.

- I ask all parents to wait off the verandahs in the afternoons. Please allow teachers to complete the day’s work and give your child the opportunity to develop their independence by meeting you at an “agreed” place. In no way does this stop you meeting with teachers should you have the need.

Homework Club

This valued support commenced this afternoon. There are still a number of places available so simply return your expression of interest (page 3) to the office.
What is resilience?

Being resilient means that you have the ability to overcome odds and demonstrate the personal strengths needed to cope with different kinds of hardship. Resilience is the ability to bounce back after encountering difficulties, negative events, and hard times and to return to almost the same level of emotional wellbeing.

You are practising resilience when you ...

- Find ways to solve your problems.
- Exercise control over negative thoughts and take responsibility for choosing how to act and feel.
- Persist with a task and persevere.
- Possess a sense of fun.
- Spend time in the beauty of nature.

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Date Claimers ...

- Our Parent Information Night is this Wednesday, 11 February @ 6:30pm in Mercy Hall—before heading to classrooms. It is important that at least one parent from each family attends.
- 3W will lead us in our prayer assembly this Friday, 13 February @ 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- Our Welcome BBQ will also be on Friday 13 February at 3pm in the Amphitheatre. We’d love to see you here!
- Ash Wednesday celebrations will be at 9:30am and 10:15am on 18 February in the Church.
- Next Friday, 20 February, 3G will lead us in our Assembly prayer at 8:45am in Mercy Hall.
- We will begin our weekly class liturgies with 4W and 1B on Thursday 5 March.

Virtue of the Week: Resilience

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
St Mark’s Uniform Shop

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

**Available to students every Monday and Tuesday**

Cost is $1.00 for toast and a drink.

Please make sure you read the notice attached with this newsletter about road safety procedures around our school. The safety of your child is always our priority.

**District Sport Trials**

St Mark’s is associated with Met West District Sports. This enables our students to trial for places in district teams for any of the following sports:

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<tr>
<th>AFL</th>
<th>Hockey</th>
<th>Tennis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Triathlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>Touch</td>
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<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
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If your child actively participates in any of these sports outside of school time and you feel they may be eligible to participate at district level, please contact Mr Biddulph in Year 2B to ensure attendance at trials can be arranged.

**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: ........

**Wildlife friendly school**

St Mark’s is a “wildlife friendly” school. An information afternoon will be held on the 2nd of March at 3.15pm. All are welcome to attend in the Mercy Hall meeting room. The Brisbane City Council will be delivering a presentation.

**There will be a butterfly garden on our school grounds!**

**Book Club Reminder**

Book Club Issue 1 was handed out to the students last week. It will be due at the end of next week. Please make sure your children hand any orders into their teacher by this **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 Welcome Back Sausage Sizzle
This Friday 13th February 2014
3.00pm to 4.30pm
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,
5 cup rice cooker, small juicer (red): Raffle tickets - $1.00 each

Complimentary prizes: 1 boys pack, 1 girls pack

Sausage on bread $2.00
Cans of soft drink $2.00
Poppers $1.50

Volunteers required for the day—please speak to Anna in the tuck shop

All funds raised subsidize our Year 6 leaders’ shirts!

Parents information night
Wed 11th Feb 6.30pm @ Mercy Hall
Hear about your child’s learning opportunities & meet their amazing teachers!

St Mark’s AGM meeting
Wednesday 11th March 5.30pm in the staffroom
Your opinion counts!

Brisbane Archdiocesan Catholic P&F AGM/EXPO Meeting
Thursday 19th March @5.30pm
Mt Carmel College, Mitchelton.
Speakers: Kids Matters & Michelle Mitchell

Thank you to Bernie Ripoll MP and his wonderful staff for donating
the scooters towards our “Welcome Back” raffle prizes.