Dear Parents/Carers,
Many children in Years 5 and 6 enjoyed GALA day last Friday. It was an opportunity to experience a team sport, representing St. Mark’s and enjoying inter-school competition. From all accounts, congratulations to students and teachers on a very successful day.
I’m sure our Years 3 and 4 students will enjoy their opportunity when it comes soon. For many of them it will be their very first chance to represent St. Mark’s in any way. We wish them well.

Winter Appeal
Each year we support the local St. Vincent de Paul conference through your donations towards a Winter Appeal. Again, this year, they are asking for our support. Details are on the next page. Please give generously over the next three weeks. The ability to see the needs of another and respond with compassion has long been a hallmark of a caring community. It is often best taught from the family perspective and we here at school certainly encourage you. Thank you for your donations to those less well off in our area who will “do it tough” this Winter. This appeal is being conducted through the efforts of our Faith and Mission student leadership team.

RE Validation
Mrs Lyons, Miss Waite and Miss Donato will present our programme this Thursday. I have seen the copy and I am impressed. The teaching of a comprehensive Religious Education programme, well resourced and complemented by a vibrant religious life in the school has been a feature of St. Mark’s and continues through the dedicated work of teachers and support staff. We wish them well.

P and F
Tomorrow night, starting at 6.00 pm in the staffroom, is this month’s P and F meeting. All are welcome. Of the agenda items, preparations for this year’s fiesta feature. Your support is important and needed, whether in the lead up phase or on the day. Get involved and make this year’s Fiesta the best that we have ever had!
This Friday, 6.00—8.00 pm in Mercy Hall, is our disco. All students, and families, from St. Mark’s are invited. For a gold coin, this is a great night of fun for all. See the P and F page for more details. I look forward to seeing you on Friday!

Athletics
It’s that time of year again. Students have been working to improve their fitness levels! Our annual sports day takes place on Friday, 19th June.

A week of competition and “fun” events have been planned. All parents are welcome to come along and support your child and join in the fun of the day which begins at 9.00 am. There are other events scheduled in the lead up to Friday—800 m races on Tuesday, 16th June, and 200 m races on Thursday, 18th June. All children take part in this whole school event.
From our sports day, selected children in the older age groups will be invited to represent St. Mark’s at the district athletics. All the best to our sporting teams!

Furniture
We have a surplus of desks and chairs in the school from previous years. Most are in reasonable condition. If you would like to have one, or some, simply contact either Mrs Ioannides or myself here at school. What we don’t give away in the next week or so, we will simply dump. I hope they might be of use to your family.

Fees
This month’s fees go out this week. As always, thank you for your prompt attention to these. Should you be experiencing difficulties, please contact Ms Barry or myself here at the school.

Practical Matters
Teachers have put many names on school pullovers! All items of clothing should be named. Please assist by checking that your child’s property is named. Only school pullovers are to be worn! As the weather cools and colds and flu become more prevalent, children need to be taught how to keep themselves healthy. The use of tissues/ handkerchiefs, the washing of hands, the covering of a sneeze or cough are all important.
Should your child be late for school, remember, you are to bring them to the office. To have them walk in alone is not a safe practice.

Semester 1 Reports
All should have received the interview form where Semester 1 Reports will be presented to you at the start of next term. Please ensure that these have been returned to class teachers so that a suitable time can be arranged.
Much progress has been made with so many of your children. You should be proud of them. You must attend this very important meeting to speak with the teachers so that you can acknowledge achievements, encourage efforts made and support your child’s learning.

For Unity:
Because the Bible says ‘Live in harmony with one another’
Romans 12:6

For Effort:
PW: PJ Tenise
PB: Jairus Jeyakumar
1W: Ayal Awag
2B: Annvanah Pulou
3W: Wendy Nguyen
3G: Alex Hoang
4W: Wendy Nguyen
4G: Jonathan Jirima
6W: Emma Lu

For Helpfulness:
1B: Manuela Lado

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

Student Awards

http://www.stmarksinaala.qld.edu.au
**St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal**

Starting today our Year 5 and 6 Leaders will again run our **Winter Appeal for the next 3 weeks**. During this time **YOU** can help by donating money and goods which will go directly to those who will be severely affected by the cold and uncomfortable months of winter in our area. St Vinnies have asked for certain items for their Family Packs. Items include: Tin corn beef, Deodorant, Pasta shells, band aids, Pasta sauce, laundry powder, scotch finger biscuits, nappies all sizes, coffee, razors, tea, shampoo, baked beans, toilet rolls, spaghetti, soap, tin potatoes, noodles, sugar, soup, cereal, long life milk, toothpaste, and jam. Donations are to be handed in to your class.

**Year 5&6 Personal Development Information Session**

In the last week of term our Year 5 and 6 students will participate in our annual Personal Development 3 day retreat. This retreat is focused on providing them with the skills and knowledge they need as they continue to grow and face new challenges. The students will be invited to explore their relationship with Jesus, especially as they start to experience changes in their world, particularly as some of them will leave the safety of St Mark’s that they’ve known for the past 6 or 7 years. Tuesday (23 June) will be facilitated by NET Ministries and will focus on the importance of God in their lives and how relying on God can help in times of difficulty. On Wednesday Real Talk and NET Ministries will be talking to the children about the importance of making good choices and the role God can play in those decisions. Thursday will be run by St Mark’s staff as they explore some of the physical changes the students will experience as they continue to journey through puberty. This is the four year we have run a similar experience for the students and I know that they have found it helpful.

On Monday 15 June at 3pm we will hold a Parent Information session in the Mercy Hall meeting room with Kym Keady, Real Talk founding director and presenter, and St Mark’s staff. Parents of students from all year levels are invited to come along to hear a little more about issues of sexuality and identity. In a society where these issues confront young people daily, it is difficult (particularly as a parent) to know how to broach this topic in an engaging and confident way. In this presentation parents will hear personal stories, as well as be motivated and equipped on how to speak to children and teenagers on some of the most important topics they will ever share with their children: love and life. Children who need to accompany their parents will be supervised in Mercy Hall.

We will cover topics such as: What we are up against: the stats; What the Church teaches about the role of parents; The Language of the Body: What the Church really says about sex; Development 101: Boys and Girls: What’s the difference?; Tips on talking about sex and staying engaged with your kids; Resources.

For more information: [www.realtalkaustralia.com](http://www.realtalkaustralia.com)

**Date Claimers ...**

- **St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** starts today and runs until the end of term.
- Our Assembly Prayer this week is led by Prep B—it’s bound to be cute!
- **School Disco** is on Friday 12 June from 6-8pm.
- **Year 5&6 Personal Development Workshop** is on **Tuesday 23 June—Thursday 25 June**. A Parent Information Session will be run on Monday, 15 June, at 3pm in the Mercy Hall Meeting Room.

**Virtue of the Week: Confidence**

**What is Confidence?**

Confidence is being certain and feeling assurance. It comes from knowing and trusting someone. Self-confidence means you trust yourself. You can do things without doubts holding you back. You know your own strengths and weaknesses. When you are confident is others, you rely on them and trust them. Confidence in God is a sense of trust that your Creator loves you and over you as you go through life.

**You are practising Confidence when you ...**

- Remember that you are worthwhile whether you succeed or fail.
- Try new things.
- Think positively.
- Trust in God and ask for God’s help.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght  
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Prep 2016 Enrolments

We are now accepting applications for enrolments from all our school families and the wider community for Prep 2016.

A child born from 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011 will be eligible for Prep in 2016.

Please come to the office to collect an application form.

GALA Sports Day

Last Friday, the 5th of June all Year 5 and 6 students attended the district’s Term 2 Gala day. They had the choice of attending Tennis, AFL or Soccer. On Wednesday June 10, students from Year 3 & 4 have the opportunity to attend the NRL Gala Day to be held at St Brendan’s JRLC, Rocklea. These Gala Days are great opportunities for students to experience the Sport with an emphasis on skill development and some competitive elements.

Special thanks to Mr Fergusson, Mrs de Jesus, Miss Donato, Miss Pilar, Miss Waites & Mr Ebzery for supporting the students throughout the day.

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

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.

Late Students

Be in the gate by half past eight!

All students should be at school by 8:30am. If students are late, bring them in to the school office, to let Mr Montgomery or Mrs Ioannides know the reason why they are late for school. All late arrivals and early departures are logged in our Attendance Receipting System.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living.

Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: : 4th – 6th September 2015

Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside)

For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy

Phone: (07) 3342 1456

Email: dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au

Information website: www.wwme.org.au
St Mark’s Primary School Disco

Date: This Friday 12th June, Time: 6pm – 8pm at Mercy Hall

Gold Coin Entry
$1.00 Packets of Chips
$2.00 Soft drink Cans
$3.00 LED Candles and
$2.00 LED Glow Sticks

P&F Meeting on Wednesday 10th June 6pm
St Mark’s staffroom
Everyone Welcome!

On behalf of St Mark’s parents and students, I would like to thank Mr Biddulph, Mr Fergusson, Miss Donato, Mr Johnson, Mr Montgomery and staff for organising our student participation in Gala days, the Ipswich Eisteddfod and Choral Festival. These life experiences give our students a taste of achievable aspirations.

Thank you to the team at MALOUF Pharmacy at Forest Lake Village for the impressive raffle basket they donated towards the MONSTER RAFFLE to be drawn at the Multicultural Fiesta in September!

Thank you to Anna Sinitsky & Christiel for organising the raffle prizes.

St Marks Multicultural Fiesta
Sunday 13 Sept

If you are a business owner and want to donate a raffle prize to the Fiesta please speak to Anna at the tuckshop.

If you wish to hold a stall at the Fiesta please speak to Mr Montgomery (Principal)

To make the Fiesta a more affordable day for our community, we will send out special Prepaid Envelopes next term for UNLIMITED Rides. You can save $10 per armband if you pre-pay for 3 or more armbands. Read of this, and more, in your newsletter.