Dear Parents/Carers,

Next Five Weeks
Mr Montgomery will have reached Jerusalem by now. We wish him all the best for this spiritual journey, particularly over Easter, such a special time in the Church year. Mrs Lysaght and I welcome Mr Biddulph into the leadership team over this five week period.

Term 2 Change in Staffing – Mrs Daley
Brisbane Catholic Education has been invited by the Australian Government to provide educational support for Nauruan, refugee and asylum-seeker students on the island of Nauru. Teachers in all BCE schools were invited to volunteer to work for a term on Nauru. Following an extensive selection process conducted by staff from the Brisbane Catholic Education office, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Daley has been invited to participate in a one term deployment to Nauru, commencing on 18th April. This is a unique opportunity for Mrs Daley to demonstrate her flexible approach to teaching and learning and to work patiently and compassionately with people from other cultures in a spirit of Christian humility and collaboration.

We wish Mrs Daley all the best as she engages in this challenging yet I am sure rewarding deployment to Nauru and look forward to the insights she can share with us when they return. Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that there is no disruption to the learning program in 4G while she is in Nauru. We are currently advertising this position and will notify the community as soon as we have appointed a replacement teacher for term 2.

Dance Cart Performance
This culmination to our dance program is always an eagerly anticipated event by all of our community members. This year’s theme is “Time warp” – looking at dance through the ages. I’ve looked at the run sheet for the evening so I know that the 1920’s, 1940-2000, 2010’s and into the future have all been covered. Please walk your children to their classroom at 5.30 and be seated in Mercy Hall for a 6pm start. The performance should be concluded by 7.30 so please stay and enjoy it as a family, rather than drop off and pick up.

Free Dental Appointments
These are available during the coming school holidays with Metro South Oral Health’s School Dental Service. To make an appointment please PHONE 1300 300 850 (Monday to Friday – 7:30 to 4:00).

Easter Raffle/Vietnamese Tuckshop
Thank you for all the generous donations that are flowing into the office for our Easter Egg Raffle. Mrs Sinitsky has worked tirelessly at beautifully wrapping the prizes which will be drawn on the final day of term.

Thank you also to our Vietnamese parents who have successfully run another Vietnamese tuckshop today. Next week there will be two Vietnamese Tuckshop days – Tuesday AND Wednesday. Caritas always benefits from this well-supported project. Thank you parents.

Book Fair
While we are thanking people, the library staff have worked diligently on preparing for our Book Fair this week. Please support this venture as it benefits your children’s reading as well as bringing funds into the school. I know that I always purchase some wonderful books for grandchildren to read over the holidays. What an exciting week for Mrs Badke to re-join us.

Christine Ioannides
Acting Principal
RE NEWS

Project Compassion: Harvesting Food for Life

5th Week of Lent: Cristian from Peru

This week Project Compassion focuses on Peru. Cristian is a farmer who lives in a remote Andean village in Peru. The community lives a traditional life, and without irrigation, farmers have always relied on the rains to water crops.

“When there were no rains we suffered a lot, because sometimes the fields would not produce,” says Cristian.

In 2012, Cristian and 14 other young farmers in his community participated in the Rural Development Program run by Caritas Australia’s local partner, Caritas Huacho. The program offers materials, capital and training that helps farmers in rural areas establish sustainable farms that will produce reliable, profitable and long-term crops.

The program helped the young men secure land to farm, and provided them with seedlings and agricultural training so that they could grow and harvest sustainable, high-value orchard crops, including peaches, custard apples and avocados.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps people like Cristian. Please give generously by encouraging your children to bring along a dollar or two for their classroom box during Lent. Last week we raised over $409—keep up the good work! And bring along some money next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Date Claimers …

• This week our Year 6 students will be raising some extra money for Project Compassion—if you are able please provide your child with a little money for these opportunities this week.
• Our Vietnamese tuckshop run again on Tuesday this week and Tuesday and Wednesday next week.
• This Friday, 27 March, 2W will lead us for our Assembly Prayer. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us in Mercy Hall at 8:40.
• Our Dance Cart performance is on Friday this week. Children need to be at their classrooms by 5:30.
• On Monday—Wednesday next week buddy classes will be rostered on to pray the Stations of the Cross. This year we are thrilled that we have been given the opportunity to pray our Stations in the grounds of the Vietnamese Centre over the road. We know that the beautiful statues there will help focus our students on this most important week in the Church’s season.
• Next Thursday, 2 April, we will gather as a whole school at 9:30am in the Church to remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Parents and friends you are welcome to join us.
• Holidays start next Thursday, 2 April, at 3pm.
• School starts back on Monday 20 April.

Virtue of the Week: Generosity

What is Generosity?

Generosity is sharing. Generosity is giving to someone else something that is meaningful to you. It is giving freely without thought of a reward, recognition, or a gift in return. It means giving fully, giving a person or group that deserves your help, all the help that you can possible give them.

You are practising generosity when you …

• Donate money to Project Compassion.
• Give all that you can.
• Enjoy giving freely.
• Think of a way to help or give something that means something to you.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Classroom News from Year 2B

During the first 6 weeks of School, 2B has been working hard to develop 'Learning Goals'. As a class we have looked at learning and how the students learn best for their learning style. Below are examples of one learning goal that each student has nominated for Semester 1.

Abel: Be organised.
Semi: be respectful to your mum and Dad.
Sophie: be respectful to all people like Jesus.
Mikal: have good relationships with everyone.
Christina: Respectful to others
Lachlan: Concentrate on my relationships.
Carmelita: Make my family happy, be organised and helpful.
Jordan: Making good choices in the classroom.
Carl: I like to read.
Jamai: help my mum with her jobs.
Ryan: I am going to be a good learner.
Teirah: I am going to listen better to learn.
Madison: To love everyone every day.

KC: I am going to do my best.
Howard: Speak to teacher immediately.
Annvanah: to love everyone everyday.
Blaise: be respectful to everyone.
Khiem: work with friends.
Alkii: love people.
Daniel: play with friends.
Nathan: write my best.
Nicholas: I want to get better with my writing.
Taylor: play better with my family.
Mrs Schaff: learn more technology.
Mrs Neilson-Scott: communicate with team.
Mr Biddulph: to learn how students learn.
Ms Pillar: to help year 2 students learn.

St Mark’s Sacramental Program 2015
Confirmation and First Holy Communion for children in Year 3 and above.

An enrolment form with payment of $50 per child or $75 per family and a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate must be lodged by Friday 24th April at the parish office.
Parents must also attend a Parents Information Session on Wednesday 29th April at 7pm in the church.
For the children, the program commences on Saturday 2nd May.

Enrolment forms can be collected from...
• The table at the church entrance
• The school office
• The parish office
(Office hours are Mon-Fri, 9am to 3pm)
Or by...
Contacting the Parish Secretary:
Email: stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au;
Phone: 3372 5658

Downloading from parish web page: www.stmarksinala.com

Viennese Tuckshop
Next week on Tuesday and Wednesday
All profits go to support Project Compassion.
Menu includes:
Spring rolls : 3 for $2
Fried rice: $2 / container
Chicken-chips: $2
Stir fried noodles: $3/container
Thank you for your support

Dance Cart Concert
Friday March 27

This term in dance the students have been working on dances from different periods of time. We would like to invite you to join us for an evening of dance as we present for you

TIMEWARP
When: Friday 27 March at 6.00pm
Where: School Hall

All students are to meet in their classroom at 5.30pm and will be taken over to the hall in their class group. Students can be collected from the hall at the end of the performance.
All students with the exception of Prep W and 2G are to wear the following:
Girls: Black T shirt and knee length black leggings/tights
Boys: Black T shirt and long black/dark pants
Prep W and 2G please ask their class teacher for costume requirements.

Book Fair this week
Mon 23rd March - Fri 27th March
You are Invited!
The Book Fair is coming!!! The children will be making their Wish Lists next week when they go with their class to view the books. It will be explained as a Wish List – some wishes come true others don’t! You are not expected to buy everything on this list – please do not let your child convince you of this. You may prefer to select a book with your child. This should ensure that both you and your child are happy with the purchase. You are most welcome to visit the Book Fair. If you are unable to attend but want your child to purchase a book then please send money for purchases by Friday.

Many books are in the $4 to $10 range. Should you wish to donate a book from the fair to the school, please see Mrs Keaton or Mrs Badke.

Class Viewing Timetable for Wednesday
9:30am -10:00am: Prep G
10:00am—10:30am: Prep W
11:40am—12:10pm: 4G
12:20pm—12:50pm: 1B
2:00pm—2:30pm: 1G

Parent Viewing Times:
Tuesday: 3.00 - 3.30pm
Wednesday: 8.00 – 8.30am & 3.00 – 3.30pm
Thursday: 8.00 – 8.30am & 3.00 - 3.30pm
Friday: 8.00 – 8.30am (Last opportunity to purchase. Books returned later in the morning.)

Happy reading!
Leesa & Therese - Teacher Librarians
Congratulations to Year 5 & 6 students who played in the AFL Gala last week. These talented students played 6 x 20 minute games on the Thursday (hottest day) last week and not one complaint was raised. They did a fantastic job of representing St Mark’s in the wider community.

Come & enjoy your child’s performance at Dance Cart on this Friday 6pm

Volunteers needed on Friday. Please come to Mercy Hall 5.30pm

Please eat dinner at home. Only $1.00 packets of Chips & $2.00 Soft drinks available for sale. Thank you for consuming your food and drinks outside the hall.

St Mark’s P&F Meeting
Wednesday 22nd April @ 6pm

Guest speaker on NAPLAN

What is NAPLAN? This test assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Our teachers work with the students to familiarise them with test formats and provide them with appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. The best way you can help your children prepare for NAPLAN is to: Reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program. Make them feel calm and not feel worried or stressed. Encourage them to simply do the best they can and ensure they are well rested and eat a healthy breakfast on the day.

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!

Can you please bring in Easter Eggs, Chocolates, Baskets and things to make up Easter Hampers for prizes.

$1.00 Easter Raffle tickets on sale at Dance Cart. Drawn on Tuesday 31st March

Thank you for your support.

Happy 6th Birthday to Aria Chadburn and God bless you.