



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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19 May 2015
Week 4 Term 2

★ **High Schools Expo tomorrow night** ★

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week the students in Years 3 and 5 sat for the annual NAPLAN tests. Most seemed happy with their efforts and are confident that they have done their best. This is a good response. We look forward now to when results come.

Prep 2016

I have interviewed many parents with their children, seeking a place in next year's Prep classes. These interviews continue this week. By early June I will make offers to many of these families. As a parent who might already have a child at St. Mark's, there is a position for your child once you have made application for enrolment (and providing we can meet their educational needs). To avoid any disappointment, now is the time to lodge that application. Please collect the form from the school office. Children eligible for Prep in 2016 are born between 1st July, 2010 and 30th June, 2011.

High School Expo

You are invited to the High School Expo tomorrow night, Wednesday, 20th May in Mercy Hall where 9 Catholic high schools will be present to answer your questions about secondary schooling. All parents reserve the right/responsibility to ensure your child attends the high school of your choice.

Having this opportunity to find out information was greatly received last year and we are happy to have Catholic high schools and colleges again give of their time. Do take up the invitation.

Principal's Afternoon Tea

This Thursday, we will acknowledge and celebrate with students selected by their teachers from our student of the week awards. Invitations have gone home with them and we congratulate them on the way they are conducting themselves as St. Mark's students, engaging fully in school life. At the end of term we will celebrate Spirit of St. Mark's recipients.

Fiesta

The much loved and anticipated multi-cultural fiesta is scheduled for Sunday, 13th September. Much preparation has already taken place and the first combined parish/school/ P and F steering committee meeting will be held next Friday. If any parent would like to make a contribution with a stall, please contact me at school before next Friday, so that we can co-ordinate our efforts. We are looking forward to a fiesta that will be bigger than any so far! Please mark the date in your calendar.

Eisteddfod

Again this year, a number of students from our older classes will be performing in the annual Ipswich Eisteddfod. St. Mark's has done very well over recent years and we look forward to similar successes this year. We offer teachers and students best wishes as they put in final preparations and perform later this week and next week. Details will be given in due course.

Practical Concerns

The state of student toilets came up for discussion at the P and F Meeting last week. Since then, all children have been made aware of their responsibilities in the expected and careful use of these facilities. A follow up from home would be appreciated. (Damaged doors will be repaired soon.)

All children need to be at school by 8.30 am please for the start of the school day at 8.40 am. Thanks for your support in this very important aspect of school life.

Garry Montgomery
Principal



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

For Trust:

**Because the Bible says
'To pray is to let go
and let God take
over.'**

Philippians 4:6-7

PG: Vy Bui Pham

PW: Theresa Vu

PB: Vicky Ly

1G: Duy Pham

1W: Lily Jakavicius

1B: Quynh Nguyen

2G: Adlia Bol

2W: Chung Nguyen

2B: Sophie Leighton

3G: Steven Pham

3W: Cruze Connors

3B: Tomy Tran

4G: Kevin Trinh

4W: Catherine Huynh

5G: Hang Tran

5W: Desdemona Menefata

6G: Fiona Nguyen

6W: Ashleigh Kennedy

Over the next week we celebrate 2 feast days in the Church. Here's some information about these special

Feast of the Ascension

17 May

Jesus' disciples spent three years following Him. They heard Him teach about God's Kingdom and witnessed Him perform many miracles. When they saw the Son of God nailed to a cross and die they may have experienced feelings of abandonment. They believed Jesus was God's Promised Messiah and now He was dead and His body had been placed in a sealed tomb.

Feelings are not always the truth of what is really happening in a situation. If the disciples had felt abandoned when Jesus died it was not the truth. Jesus told them very clearly before He was nailed to the cross that He was going to suffer and would rise again. "But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." (Matthew 26:32)

Three days after Jesus was buried in a sealed tomb God raised Him from the dead! He did exactly what He told the disciples He would do. To prove that Jesus was really alive and not a figment of the disciples' imaginations, Jesus stayed on the earth for 40 days after His resurrection. God's plan was for Jesus to return to heaven. Jesus had chosen His apostles to be messengers for Him after He left. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) When Jesus finished instructing the apostles, His feet lifted off the ground and He began to ascend or go up into the sky. As He went up into the sky a cloud hid Him from the apostles' sight.

Pentecost

24 May

The Feast of Pentecost is often celebrated as the birthday of the Church. Pentecost once stood as a Jewish festival that was celebrated fifty days after the Passover to commemorate the giving of the Torah to the Israelites on Mount Sinai. But following Jesus' Ascension, a great experience changed the Feast of Pentecost. It was the day where the Holy Spirit was sent down upon the Apostles and they were enlivened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that they could go out into the world and proclaim the Good News of the Lord.

On that day, two thousand years ago, the disciples of Jesus were granted the ability to speak in any language so anyone could understand what they were saying. This was the first occasion where the disciples knew their mission and began their ministry in proclaiming the Word of God. Every year on Pentecost, we too are enlivened with the Holy Spirit so we are able to proclaim God's love to the world.

The Hebrews used the word, 'ruah', meaning breath or wind, to describe the Spirit of God as a force that gives life and help to creation. It saves, creates and gives inspiration to human beings. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is the power of God that inspired or gives good ideas to Jesus and his followers. The Holy Spirit is the love shared between Jesus and His Father. Jesus wants his followers to share in this personal Spirit of love with him and His Father. The Spirit sanctifies Christians and helps them to live according to the teachings of Jesus, to pray, and to be united to God. In Christian theology, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

Date Claimers ...

- **High School Expo** for students in Yr 3 –7 (and their parents) will be on **Wednesday, 20 May from 6:30—8:00 PM**.
- This Friday 1B will lead us in our National Reconciliation Week Assembly Prayer on Friday 22 May.
- Next Thursday, 28 May, **3G and Prep G**, will celebrate their **Buddy Mass**.
- Next Friday, 29 May, **6W** will lead us in our **Assembly Prayer**.
- **Year 5&6 Personal Development** Workshop is on **Tuesday 23 June—Thursday 25 June**. Once again **NET Ministries** and **Real Talk** will be joining us to facilitate these days. More information coming soon.



Virtue of the Week: Faithfulness

What is Faithfulness?

Faithfulness is being true to someone or something. It is holding to what you believe is important no matter what happens. Faithfulness is belief that stands up to the test of time. It is starting out on a path and staying on it no matter how many times you stop or get distracted. If you are faithful to your beliefs, such as belief in God, honesty, or friendship, people will see those things reflected in your actions. When you are faithful, you make your ideals real.

You are practising Faithfulness when you ...

- Learn what you believe.
- Question your own beliefs and gets answers to your questions.
- Make sure your words and actions match.
- Are loyal to your friends, family and God.

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.

Year 2 visit Wivenhoe Dam

Last Tuesday and Wednesday Year 2 visited Wivenhoe Dam and the water treatment plant at Mt Crosby as part of our Term 2 Science unit on water.

Students were shown Wivenhoe Dam and the importance it plays in both supplying and conserving water for the greater Brisbane area. They were given nets where they were able to identify and observe what lives in our water supply and how it affects the quality of our water. Finally students witnessed first hand the processes involved in treating our water and converting it into a usable form.

A day enjoyed by all. Mr Biddulph



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TRAVEL REBATE Semester 1, 2015



Does your child have a **verified disability** that requires **transport assistance** to and from school?

Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's **travel capability rating** as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and

apply at www.schooltransport.com.au

by 31 May 2015.

Late applications can
not be accepted.



Please come along to our

High Schools Expo

Mercy Hall
TOMORROW
6-8pm

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. *Please note, that many high schools request enrolments for students from as early as Year 3-4.*

Schools exhibiting at our High School Expo – St Mary's, St Edmund's, Our Lady's, St Augustine's, St Peter Claver, Ambrose Tracey, St Thomas More, St Lawrence's, St James

Online ordering for Book Club

Outlined below is the new processes for credit card ordering of Book Club.

Introducing



Book Clubs LOOP for Parents



NOW
AVAILABLE
AS AN APP!

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

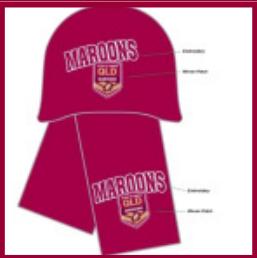
Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child's class
- Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date
- There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.

Visit www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or





Wear your colours to support your TEAM!

**Wednesday 27th May
STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH—MAROONS vs BLUES!**



Gold coin donation to wear your team colours.

Thank you to Miss Donato & Mr Fergusson for their work in organising the Year 6 Leadership Shirts.

Thank you to Heath from 3D Physics for his assistance.

St Mark's "Students Only" Disco



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



Gold Coin Entry

packets of chips, soft drink cans, LED candles and glow sticks are the only items on sale on the night

Parents & Carers Come and Join Us Please!

Tips from the Council of Catholic Schools parents conference I attended last weekend.
Speakers were Michael Grose & Bruce Sullivan

- **Be GRATEFUL to God for your blessings:** family, roof over your head, food and most importantly EDUCATION! This is a great privilege.
- **If you choose to act with a positive attitude your children will follow.**
- **Teach your child independence and responsibility,** by not doing things that they are capable of doing, like making their own bed, preparing cereal for breakfast etc.
- **Manners** is respect in motion, **these are vital for everyone to practice!**
- Turn the TV off and **enjoy dinner conversations with your children as a regular routine.**

