Dear Parents/Carers,

Last Wednesday, it was heartening to see a good number of parents take up the opportunity to gain information about what the various Catholic secondary schools offer for your son/daughter as you come to decide on the best “fit” for their higher education. All secondary school representatives expressed their appreciation of being able to speak with you and all have said that, should you need further information, to contact them at the relevant schools. I wish you well in your deliberations.

Eisteddfod

Last Friday, our choir competed for the first time in the Ipswich Eisteddfod and are better for the experience. My thanks to Mr Johnstone for preparing and leading the choir. This week, Verse speaking choirs and selected individuals will perform. We wish them all the best. Results will be published next week.

Fiesta

If you would like to assist at the fiesta, please pass your name along to the P and F, or simply contact me here at the school. The first combined steering committee meeting takes place this Friday afternoon in the staffroom.

Free Dress Day

Tomorrow, Wednesday, is “free dress” day where all children get to come to school in clothes of their choice. Our theme follows that of a particular game of football being played that night, maroon or blue will no doubt be in great numbers here at school but other colours are welcome. Please ensure that your child brings a gold coin. This goes to help our P and F and the work they do.

Disco

The much anticipated and loved school disco is set for Friday evening, 12th June, 6.00—8.00 pm for children who are currently enrolled at St. Mark’s. Admission is a gold coin and a great night’s fun is all but guaranteed! Mark it on your calendar!

Prep 2016

I have all but finished interviews with prospective new families for Prep in 2016. Offers will be made soon.

Should you have a child of Prep age, born between 1st July, 2010, and 30th June, 2011, be sure to have submitted your application form as a matter of importance now to avoid disappointment. Provided the school can meet their educational needs, and we have space, there is a position for them if you have your application in.

Contact Information

Have your contact details changed?

For any number of reasons, we may need to contact you, and perhaps quite urgently. Please update changes of phone numbers or other contact details as a matter of priority. There are also a number of children absent from school on any given day for many reasons. Please be sure to let the class teacher/school know if your child is away. Unexplained absences are noted.

For your child to succeed, attendance is essential. Interestingly, good attendance means your child is at school at least 95% of the time. That’s an absence of 2 or 3 days a term on average.

Student Leadership

It was with delight that I met with Year 6 student leaders last week as they put forward proposals from their groups for what they would like to action throughout the rest of the year. With teachers, much thinking and planning goes into leadership opportunities. I look forward to the various initiatives that will come.

Semester One Reports

Teachers and students have been working on gaining the data needed to give you a comprehensive record of gains made for the first half of the year. I am certainly impressed with the skills and initiatives that teachers are providing in classrooms and the way so many children are responding. The learning cycle needs your input too. To that end, reports will be issued in the first week of next term when interviews will be conducted.

Winter Appeal and Caring

Our annual Winter Appeal supporting the vital work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be launched in a couple of weeks. As with each appeal, 1 ask that you support generously. Non-perishable foods are again the focus for this appeal. More details as we get closer to the time.

Year 6 students will begin next week to visit the residents at Tri-Care Mt Ommaney. It is a wonderful experience in being able to make someone feel very special if but for a short time. My thanks to Mrs Lysaght and the teachers for again undertaking this initiative.

Mrs Oudyn

Through a hospital adjustment, we have Mrs Oudyn with us for a couple of weeks before Mrs Randolph comes in to care for the class. Sometimes plans just don’t work!!

For Faithfulness:

Because the Bible says ‘Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.’

Hebrews 11:1

PG: Bella Nguyen
PW: Rebecca Konneh
PB: Harley Ikin
1G: Eken Dang
1W: Louis Nguyen
1B: Kiana Merino
2G: Eleanor Nguyen
2W: Tiara Tran
2B: Carmelita Da Costa
3G: Sharlene Nguyen
3B: Nicholas Tran
4G: Darra Loia
5G: Rebecca Matapula
5W: Leanne Vo
6G: Ngan Nguyen
6W: Tam Phan

For Respect:

3W: Cathy Nguyen

For Effort:

4W: Daniel Kiriakous
Date Claimers ...

- This Thursday, 28 May, 3G and Prep G, will celebrate their Buddy Mass at 9:30 in the Church.
- This Friday, 29 May, 2G will lead us in our Assembly Prayer.
- Please join us this Sunday, 31 May, for the school/parish mass at 9:30am.
- 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. A Parent Information Session will run on Monday, 15 June, at 3pm in the Mercy Hall Meeting Room.

Virtue of the Week: Forgiveness

What is Forgiveness?
Everyone makes mistakes. Being forgiving is overlooking the mistakes others make and loving them just as much as before. Forgiving does not mean that all of a sudden you do not feel hurt or that the wrong choice someone made was right. It means that you find it in your heart to give the person another chance. You can even forgive yourself. You sometimes do things that you are sorry for and wish you hadn’t done. It’s moving ahead, ready to do things differently, with compassion for yourself and faith that you can change.

You are practising Forgiveness when you ...

- Remember that everyone sometimes makes bad choices.
- Honour your feelings without taking revenge.
- Decide to correct your mistakes instead of punishing yourself.
- Learn from your mistakes.

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.

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!

Late Students
Be in the gate by half past eight!
All students should be at school by 8:30am. If students are late they must report 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. Thank you!

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 cannot be accepted.

Ipswich Eisteddfod
Last Friday St Mark’s school choir competed for the first time at the Ipswich Eisteddfod.

The choir, comprised of year 5 and 6 students, sang beautifully and Mr Johnstone was very proud of their efforts.

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

Introducing Scholastic Book Clubs LOOP for Parents

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 (as 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
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.

Wear your colours to support your TEAM!

TOMMORROW—Wednesday 27th May
STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH—MAROON vs BLUES!

Gold coin donation to wear your team colours.

Congratulations to Mr Johnstone & the St Mark’s Choir.
This is the first year St Mark’s entered a choir into the Ipswich Eisteddfod and they were amazing. They were 1 point off a High Commendation!

Congratulations to the St Mark’s tennis team
The students performed their best in their first Metro West regional trials and represented St Mark’s with pride.
We are very proud of Iverson Rizzo pictured on the left with his parents. He made the Inala representative team and will be competing at the next level at the Queensland Tennis Centre in June. Watch this space.