Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday, it was great to have a very good roll up of parents, staff and friends of the school come together and celebrate at our P and F dinner. A good time was had by all. Importantly, it gives expression to the wonderful community that exists here at St. Mark’s. Thank you to our organizers, especially our P and F executive, Agnes, Anna, Ena and Veronica as well as a number of teachers who gave generously of their time and effort.

P and F Meeting
Our final P and F meeting of the year is scheduled for tomorrow evening, 11th November, starting at 6.00 pm in the staffroom. All are invited to come and join us for this meeting. There are a number of important events in the last weeks of school that need to be organized. I look forward to seeing you then, if you can possibly make it.

Swimming
As mentioned, the nine lessons that make up our swimming block begin tomorrow and continue for the next three weeks. All children are involved. Please have your child ready with named swimming gear, ready to go. Should there be a medical reason why your child is not to swim, please send the doctor’s certificate along to the class teacher. Children will still travel with the class on those days. To avoid loss of property, please have all items named. After each swimming day, gear will need to be washed. Our aim is to have your child “water safe”. I thank you for your continued support of this and other programs that operate in the school.

Remembrance Day
Tomorrow, we pause at 10.30 am to remember all those that gave so much in the defence of this country with a simply commemoration. Please talk to your child about the significance of this tradition. Lest we forget!

Similarly, we pray for all those near and dear to us who have died throughout this month. Names can still be added to class scrolls.

School Happenings
There are a number of happenings taking place over the next four weeks that will be both important and enjoyable.

* A number of class excursions/ incursions are planned. Thank you for your prompt return of permission forms. This greatly assists classroom teachers.
* Next Monday, 16th November, starting at 6.00 pm in Mercy Hall is our annual Creative Kids Performance evening. All are invited to attend. Our choir will perform as well as all those who have had Creative Kids lessons this year. This includes all Year 4 children. I’m looking forward to a great night.
* Our school Christmas Concert, always a great favourite, will be held in Mercy Hall on Wednesday night, 25th November, starting at 6.30 pm. Mark it on your calendar! Have you got your raffle tickets yet?
* Graduation Mass and presentations will take place on Wednesday, 2nd December in the church. Again, we will start at 6.30 pm. This will be a most important celebration for all Year 6 children and their families.

Christmas Appeal
Our annual Christmas Appeal to support St. Vincent de Paul here in Inala begins next week. We will again look to make a donation at our end-of-year mass to a representative from the society. Please send along non-perishable items suitable to go into a Christmas hamper. In anticipation, thank you.

Reporting
At school, class reports are currently being written and processed. Report cards will be issued at the beginning of the last week of school. There is then an opportunity to speak with the teachers about your child’s progress should you wish to do so. As I often find myself saying, enjoy the activity. There is much that we need to be thankful for as we move towards the end of another great school year.
Remembrance Day

The 11th Day of the 11th Month (November) is the day when Australians take time to remember the servicemen and women who have fought and died in wars around the world. Originally called Armistice Day, the day when the First World War ended after four years of fighting. Close to 62,000 Australians, men and women lost their lives during the First World War. Together with the United Kingdom, the government of Australia decided to rename Armistice Day, Remembrance Day after the end of the second World War. New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom and Australia all commemorate Remembrance Day. Red poppies are a symbol of Remembrance Day. They were the first flowers to grow after the war in the fields that had seen battle in France and Belgium.

Remembrance Day has become a day to remember all those who have died in any war fighting for their country. Traditionally at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month people all around the world stop for one minute silence. At St Mark’s we will stop at 10:30 on Wednesday 11.11.15 to remember all who have given their lives in the name of War.

Date Claimers ...

We have a VERY BUSY term ahead:
- Tomorrow we will gather as a school community at 10:30 in the Amphitheatre for a special Remembrance Day ceremony.
- This Friday, 13 November, Prep W will led us in our assembly prayer.
- Next Thursday, 18 November, Yr 5 & 6 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Next Friday, 20 November, 5W will lead us in our assembly prayer at 8:45 in Mercy Hall.
- We will formally farewell Mr Montgomery on Friday 20 November starting with a whole school assembly from 2:00pm. Please join us for this special assembly.
- Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 25 November at 6:30 pm.
- Year 6&7 Graduation will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 2 December.
- Our End of Year Mass is at 10:30am on Friday 4 December.
- School finishes for the year at 12 noon on Friday 5 December.
- PARENTS & FRIENDS YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ALL THESE EVENTS!!

Virtue of the Week: Honour

What is Honour?

Being honourable is to live with a sense of respect for what you believe to be right. It is living by the virtues, living up to the gifts that God placed within you. You set a good example and don’t feel ashamed of who you are or what you are doing.

You are practising Determination when you ...

- Practise the virtues whenever you get a chance.
- Speak respectfully to others.
- Do what you believe is right no matter what.
- Ask God to help you do what’s right.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Please join us for
Garry Montgomery’s Retirement Farewell Assembly
November 20 2015
Mercy Hall at 2:00pm
All Welcome!

All Schools Touch Football
Last weekend, St Mark’s nominated a mixed 12 Years Touch team to compete in the All Schools Touch Championship at Cleveland. On Saturday the team played 3 games, winning 1 and losing 2 in close contests. From these results, teams were then pooled for Sunday games with St Mark’s competing in the Cup competition. In this competition, St Mark’s advanced through to the semi final stage where they were defeated 7-4 by the eventual winners of the Cup, Sacred Heart, Booval.

Regardless of the results, this competition proved to be a learning experience for all of the players as they were competing against teams that were of a high standard. Cruz Taputoa received the players’ award. Well done to Cruz and the entire team for their efforts.

My sincere thanks to Mr Jason Chadburn (Amelia’s Dad) who has been preparing the team for the last 8 weeks, Mr Adam Richter (Jacob’s Dad) who assisted over the weekend, Mrs Eaton and Mrs Williams for acting as Team Managers on Saturday and Sunday, the players who showed excellent application and the many Parent and Friends who made the trip to Cleveland to support the team.

The full team was Amelia Chadburn (c), Daniel Tran, Quynh Chu, Sally Do, James McKee, Mishona Sau, Cruz Taputoa, Andrew Mitchell, Emily Dodd, Rony Adria, Patriss Tower, Nia Taulangi, Jacob Richter and Oanh Tran.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST MARK’S IN 2016
Please complete this section and return it to the school office if you ARE NOT returning to St Mark’s in 2016.

STUDENT NAME: _______________________________
DOB_______________   CLASS:______

STUDENT NAME: _______________________________
DOB_______________   CLASS:______

STUDENT NAME: _______________________________
DOB_______________   CLASS:______

SIGNED (Parent): ___________________________________________
NAME OF NEW SCHOOL:  ___________________________________________
REASON FOR LEAVING:  __________________________

Please support our annual
P&F Christmas Raffle
Prizes:
1st:  $300 School fee credit
2nd: $200 School fee or Uniform credit
3rd: $100 Gift Card
4th: $50 Tuckshop Credit

Great Prizes! Only $2.00 per ticket

Christmas Eve Family Mass
Children of all ages are most welcome to be part of the parish Christmas Eve celebration. From Sunday 15th November 8.30am to 9.30am in the Fr Frank meeting room (back of the church) rehearsals will begin for the Children’s Choir, and plans made for the Nativity Play. Kay Hartwig, the parish musical director, will teach the children the Christmas hymns. Rehearsals will be on every Sunday 8.30am to 9.30am leading up to Christmas.

Will your family be returning to St Mark’s on the FIRST day of school in 2016?
If your family is not planning to return to St Mark’s on the first day of school for 2015 - Wednesday, January 27, 2016 - please come into the office to let us know. There is a form to be completed to advise the date you will be returning.

January 2016

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January 27, 2016 is the first day of the new school year. Please let the office know if you will not be returning to St Mark’s on this date.
Students this online writing competition is for you — bigthankyou.com.au
Write about how your favourite teacher inspired you to love books and become a great reader!

Congratulations to Mr Biddulph, Jason Chadburn & the St Mark’s Touch Team.
After 7 weeks of training in their own time, they made it to the semi final in their first touch carnival. This is an amazing achievement considering they played against experienced teams.

We are very proud of your success—Thank you for representing St Mark’s.

Thank you to the parents, teachers and parish members who made our P&F dinner a success! Thank you to DJ MANNY and Anna Sinitsky for her work in organising this event.