



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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17 November 2015
Week 7 Term 4

★ Join us at Mr Montgomery's farewell on Friday ★

**Student
Awards**

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last week was busy in the school and this week promises to be just as busy!

We are now well into our swimming block. Thanks for your support and encouragement of your child/ren. These lessons will give them the skills and confidence to handle themselves in the water over the coming months. This week our swimming days are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Should your child not be fit to swim, send the doctor's certificate along to their teacher as a matter of courtesy.

Creative Kids Performance Evening

Last night we were well entertained by the growing skills and undoubted talent of a good number of children who are involved in our school's instrumental music programme. I am appreciative of your support and the work of the teachers from Creative Kids so that your child/ren can experience the joy that comes from being able to make music. I hope that if you are not yet involved, you will consider it for next year.

Christmas Concert

This annual end of year event is now just over a week away! I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening, 25th November at 6.30 pm in Mercy Hall. Doors will open at 6.15 pm. The children have been practising and the excitement is growing. Mr Johnstone and the teachers are putting on the final touches! Entry is free. I'm sure it will be another wonderful concert in the rich tradition of our Christmas concerts.

Graduation

In the same way, Wednesday, 2nd December, will be a wonderful night for our graduating Year 6 students. Again, I know that excitement is growing. Preparations are well in hand. My thanks goes to the teachers for the work that they have done to make this the fitting occasion that your children deserve at the end of their primary years of school.

Mass begins at 6.30 pm in the church, followed by the formalities and celebrations in the hall afterwards.

Christmas Appeal

Our annual Christmas appeal for non-perishable goods suitable for a hamper is on. We are hoping again for your generous response that will help make someone's Christmas a little brighter. Donations can be sent to the classrooms please. We will hand over the donations at our end of year Mass on the final Friday.

Book Lists

All should now have received the book lists for next year. Brodies is again offering a service should you wish to take advantage of it. No money comes through the school—you deal directly with Brodies.

Uniform Shop

Please note that the Uniform shop, opened every Friday morning, 8.00—9.00 am, is also opened on Wednesday, 20th January, 9.00—11.00 am and then again in the week that school starts from 8.00—9.00 am on each of those mornings.

Enrolments in 2016

Please let us know if you will not be returning next year. There is quite a demand for places throughout the school. Numbers have grown and we will be a school of over 490 children next year.

My Farewell

My thanks to the wonderful farewell wishes that I received at the recent P and F dinner. The school has organized a special afternoon assembly this Friday from 2.00 pm. Should you wish to join us at that time, you would be most welcome.

Sad News

Please hold in your prayers, Mrs Hammerton and her family. On Friday, we received news that her husband, Brian, after a long illness, died. The funeral will be held on Friday this week. May he rest in peace.

2015 TERM DATES:
Term 4: 6 Oct - 4 Dec
2016 TERM DATES:
Term 1: 27 Jan - 24 Mar
Term 2: 11 Apr—24 Jun
Term 3: 11 Jul—16 Sep
Term 4: 4 Oct—2 Dec

For Honour:
PG: Sandy Nguyen
PW: Lillienne Flanagan
PB: Arul Croos
1G: Chris Mugisha
1W: Matthew Nguyen
1B: Emma Nguyen
2G: Yvonne Connolly
2W: Shacanna Leon
2B: Christina Tran
3W: Phone Lenguyen
3B: Sean Miranda
4G: Elaine Pham Nguyen
4W: Josephine Kalaja
5G: Ding Lowal
5G: Lual Tong
5W: Misiona Sau
6G: Andrew Mitchell
6W: David Ngo
For Effort:
3G: Endrew Irankunda
For Relationships
3G: Ester Mwanza

Upcoming Events



Friday November 20:
Farewell Assembly for
Mr Montgomery's Retirement
Mercy Hall @ 2:00pm
Wednesday November 25:
Christmas Concert
Wednesday December 2:
Year 6 Graduation Mass
Friday December 4:
Last Day of School

PLEASE NOTE



**School Fees are included
with the newsletter this
week.**

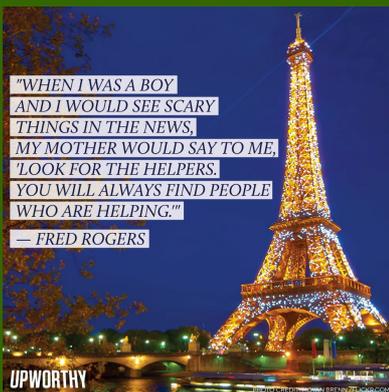
Garry Montgomery
Garry Montgomery
Principal

Is it **THAT** time already?

Watching and waiting



Our thoughts and prayers go out all those who have lost their lives in Paris, Beirut and Bagdad over the past week of terror attacks. And prayers and condolences to the loved ones left behind to mourn!



I love the hope in this quote! Hope for peace to come to our troubled world. And gratitude for all those who put their lives on the line to help others. "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for their friends." (John 15:13)
#Pray for Peace



A walk around the shopping centres is enough to realise that already Christmas time is quickly approaching! Any time now Ms Barry, Mrs Baldwin and Mrs Savage will pull out the Christmas decorations to start making our own St Mark's Office festive!!!! It's hard to believe that soon school will be finished for another year and we will start preparing for the birth of Jesus.

This time of preparation is called Advent. It is such a beautiful season. It is a time for renewal; it is especially a time for forgiveness because God brings forgiveness to us in the shape of his Son. Over the next few weeks we will once again travel the road that leads to Bethlehem. We will follow the cautious young couple along their arduous journey and remember their disappointment over being kept out of the inn. We will once more enter the stable, smell the odours and watch the manger being prepared. And along with the people of the village, the shepherds of the field, the angels, and the magi, we will focus our eyes of adoration upon the child in the crib and the star in the sky.

Advent is also a countdown. We see shopping centres, television advertisements and supermarkets

reminding us how many shopping days until Christmas. Children count down until the great day of 'presents' dawns. We, as Christians, prepare for Christmas by counting down the weeks until we celebrate the birth of Christ with advent candles.

This Christmas try something different—shop with your heart! Instead of buying material presents, draw up a shopping list of "Christmas gifts from the heart". A gift of listening to a parent. A gift of time playing with your child. A gift of romance with your spouse. A gift of praise for your teenager. Choose a unique gift for the person you love, write it down on a card or scroll and tie it on the Christmas tree.

And once again I'm calling on you to dig deep and give to those in need. Our **Christmas Appeal** begins next week and will run until the end of our school year. We are looking for non-perishable items that could be packaged into Christmas hampers that will be delivered to local families in need. Please bring in any items to your classroom teacher. These items will be collected by St Vincent De Paul's during our Thanksgiving Mass on the last day of school.

Date Claimers ...

We have a **VERY BUSY** term ahead:

- This Thursday, 18 November, Yr 5 & 6 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- This Friday morning, 20 November, 5G will lead us in our assembly prayer.
- We will formally **farewell Mr Montgomery** on Friday 20 November starting with a **whole school assembly from 2:00**. Please join us for this assembly.
- Our **Christmas Concert** will be on Wednesday 25 November at 6:30 pm.
- Next Thursday Yr 3 & 4 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **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.

Virtue of the Week: Excellence

What is Excellence?

Excellence is doing your best. It is giving your best to any task you do or any relationship you have. Excellence is a desire for perfection. It is the key to success. You don't try to be better than anyone else. You are trying to be the best that **you** can be.

You are practising Excellence when you ...

- Practise the virtues whenever you get a chance.
- Give your best to whatever you do.
- Give your best to relationships.
- Remember to plan and practice.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght

Assistant Principal Religious Education

2016 St Mark's Parish 100 Club

7th January 2016 to 31st December 2016

Purchase a number for only \$5 a week.
Payment to be made in advance: \$260 for the year or \$65 per quarter.



Prizes:

Weekly draws of \$75 gift card.

3 Quarterly draws of 1 x \$500, 1 x \$100, 1 x \$50

And the big prize draw on

Saturday December 31st, 2016:

1 x \$5000, 1 x \$500, 1 x \$200

If you would like to participate in this club and help raise funds for St Mark's Parish, please complete an application form and forward with payment to the parish office. Application forms are available from the school and parish office and as a download from the web page: www.stmarksinala.com. This is a fun way to raise funds for the parish and the odds of winning a prize are better than Lotto! Closing Date for Applications: 13th December.

St Mark's Uniform Shop

is open every Friday during school term between 8:00am and 9:00am.

Also open:

Wednesday 20th January 2015: 9-11:00am
Wednesday - Friday 27-29th January 2015: 8-9:00am

Lay-by available!



Today is the last day for Homework Club for 2015.

We thank all of our teachers who volunteer their time to provide this assistance to our students.



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



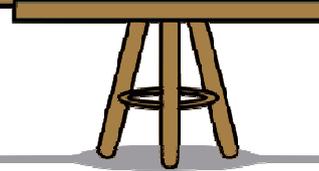
Great Prizes!
Only \$2.00 per ticket

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.



Please join us THIS FRIDAY for
Garry Montgomery's Retirement Farewell Assembly
November 20 2015
Mercy Hall at 2:00pm
All Welcome!



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): _____

PRINT (Parent): _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NAME OF NEW SCHOOL: _____

REASON FOR LEAVING: _____

Thanks for letting us know.

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						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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.

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL P&F



Please remember our brothers and sisters who are suffering in France
in your prayers.
May God give them strength and comfort during this difficult time.

Feedback from St Mark's P&F Meeting last Wed 11th Nov @ 6pm

P&F Dinner—A successful night. P&F to get quotes from other venues next year
so the dinner price can be under \$30

St Marks Bunning's Oxley BBQ on Saturday 30th January 2016

St Mark's Welcome Back BBQ in February 2016—Waiting on school to confirm date

St Marks P&F meeting—Wednesday 3rd February 2016 5PM

We will trial 5PM starting time for 2016 P&F Meetings

Win a \$300 credit towards your school fees next year?

XMAS RAFFLE — ONLY \$1.00 PER TICKET

1st Prize : \$300 credit towards School Fees

2nd Price : \$200 credit towards Uniform Shop or School Fees

3rd Prize : \$100 gift card

4th Prize : \$50 Tuckshop credit

DRAWN AT THE XMAS CONCERT

Important Dates to Remember

Garry's Farewell Assembly—This Friday 20th November 2pm at Mercy Hall

Garry's Farewell Mass—This Sunday 22nd November 9.30am Mass at St Mark's
Church—Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea after Mass.

Students—Here is your chance to win a simple online writing competition

It's easy. All students (or parents of very young students) have to do to be in with a chance of winning for their school and themselves a prize is tell us in 50 words or less how their teacher or librarian inspires them to love reading. **Enter the competition online via <http://www.bigthankyou.com.au>**

Competition closes on Friday 4th December.

C4K COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 10AM–1 PM

UNIDUS COMMUNITY CENTRE
204 SHERBROOKE ROAD, WILLAWONG

This is a free event and it promises to be fun for children of all ages and the whole family.

There will be a variety of carnival games, jumping castle, giant games, face painting,
sports, free food, live performances, dance and lucky draws.

Every child who attends will receive a free Christmas present.

Christmas 4 kids is an annual community event by Hands of Hope and volunteers from Hope
Church Brisbane. It is supported by Cr Angela Owen–Taylor & BCC.