Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Last Friday, I was treated to a wonderful send-off from the school community with a number of parents able to join us as well. I enjoyed the occasion very much as did the members of my family, some of whom have heard me talk of St. Mark’s without having been here during school time. I will certainly miss this school!

Christmas Concert
One of the highlights of this week will be the annual Christmas Concert, held tomorrow night, 25th November, starting at 6.30 pm in Mercy Hall. Please have your child at school around 6.00 pm at their classroom so that they have time to get ready.

It’s sure to be a wonderful occasion and one that we will all enjoy, Entry is free. Doors will open at 6.15 pm. Children stay for the whole concert which will take about an hour. At the finish of the concert, children get collected from the hall.

Have you bought your Christmas Concert raffle tickets yet? It’s not too late!

See you at the concert!

Spirit of St. Mark’s
Another highlight of the week will be the awarding and presentation of the Spirit of St. Mark’s Award for the second semester. We can all be very proud of these recipients, chosen by the teachers at each year level, as outstanding models of all that it is to be a student who lives their virtues and works to challenge their best.

At the assembly we will also farewell our Year 6 students with a special prayer/ liturgy. All parents and friends are invited to come and join us at this time.

Swimming
We are now into our final week of our swimming block. While flexibility has been needed from an organizational point of view, lessons have gone very smoothly. Thank you for your support. There is some lost property to be collected, swimming and other. Please have your child check. You might like to check yourself!

Graduation
Our Year 6 students have their Graduation Mass and formalities on Wednesday evening, 2nd December, starting in the church at 6.30 pm. I know that all is coming together well here at school. Again, I look forward to being with our graduates and their families next week on this special occasion.

End of Year
* Report Cards will be issued at the start of next week. So many of your children have done very well in their school work this semester and are to be congratulated. Each student is asked/ encouraged to challenge their best. There are some quite amazing success stories to be shared. Should you want an interview, please arrange to see the teacher in the last week.
* Booklists should have been attended to and the offer from Brodies is open. The Uniform Shop provides a wonderful service and the times that it is open are contained in this newsletter and around the school.
* The school year concludes on Friday, 4th December at 12 noon. Please ensure that your child knows who is collecting them at that time.
* School resumes on Wednesday, 27th January, 2016. All students should arrive by 8.30 am and will find out who their teacher is at that time.

Christmas Appeal
Donations are now being taken of non-perishable items suitable for Christmas hampers that St. Vincent de Paul will give. Please support this annual, traditional appeal that we have here at the school. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Staffing
Mrs Fran Miles has accepted a full time teaching position at Laidley next year. We wish her well and thank her for her work at St. Mark’s.

Mrs Mandy Chapman will work with Mrs Alison Cummins in Prep G next year. Welcome Mandy.

For Excellence:
PG: James Egan
PW: Lillie Elferink
1G: Duy Pham
1W: Emily Pham
1W: Betti Huynh
1B: Xavier Satchell
2G: Reuben Vickerson
2W: Monika Anju
2B: Jamai Tran
3W: Lily-Rose Egan
3B: Jessica Khong
4G: Amy Luong
4W: Leanne Vu
5G: Marcus Tenisio
5G: Kerry Nguyen
5W: Vi Ngo
6G: Sang Le
6W: Mi Pham

For Enthusiasm:
PB: Mimi Phan

For Honesty:
3G: Brendan Peace

Upcoming Events
Wednesday November 25:
Christmas Concert at 6:30pm

Wednesday December 2:
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday December 4:
Last Day of School
We have a VERY BUSY term ahead:

• Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 25 November at 6:30 pm.
• This Thursday, 26 November, Yr 3 & 4 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
• This Friday morning, 27 November, Year 2 will lead us in our assembly prayer to farewell the Year 6 leaders. We will also present the Spirit of St Mark’s award for Semester 2 2015.
• 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 4 December.

PARENTS & FRIENDS YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ALL THESE EVENTS!!

What is Resilience?

Being resilient means that you have the ability to overcome odds and demonstrate the personal strengths needed to cope with different kinds of hardship. Resilience is the ability to bounce back after encountering difficulties, negative events, and hard times and to return to almost the same level of emotional wellbeing.

You are practising Resilience when you …

• Find ways to solve your problems.
• Exercise control over negative thoughts and take responsibility for choosing how to act and feel.
• Persist with a task and persevere.
• Possess a sense of fun.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Your whole family could be eligible for FREE dental care

1300 300 850

For more information, visit - www.metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/oral-health

St Mark’s students who participate in before school tennis coaching with Guse’s Tennis received a trophy for their hard work and achievement in 2015.  Guse’s Tennis look forward to continuing this service to our students in 2016.

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.

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!

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: ____________________________

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

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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.
Last chance to be in the Christmas Raffle draw! $2.00 per ticket

1st Prize : $300 credit towards School Fees
2nd Price : $200 credit towards Uniform Shop or Fees
3rd Prize : $100 gift card
4th Prize : $50 Tuckshop credit

Drawn tomorrow night at the Christmas Concert

Important Dates to Remember

St Marks P&F Bunnings Oxley BBQ on Sat 30th Jan 2016
St Marks P&F Meeting on Wed 3rd Feb @5PM
Come and meet your new principal – Mrs Allison Malouf
St Marks P&F Welcome BBQ on Fri 5th Feb 3pm—4.30pm
Welcome to 2016 for another great year

Writing Competition for all students—Closing date is Friday 4th December
Enter the competition online via http://www.bigthankyou.com.au

The students put in outstanding performances last week at the Creative Kidz Concert.
The Year 4 group did an amazing job and Arturo captivated the audience with his voice, energy and passion.

Creative Kidz Concert.

C4K Community Event on Sat 5th Dec 10am—1pm
204 Sherbrooke Road, Willawong
This is a free event and it promises to be fun for children of all ages and the whole family.