



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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**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

**24 November 2015  
Week 8 Term 4**

**Christmas concert: Mercy Hall Wednesday at 6:30pm**



**Student  
Awards**

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

## 'Tis the season to be jolly ...



St Vincent de Paul Society  
good works

**Please give generously to our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**



**Vinnies Christmas Gift & Hamper Appeal**

**How you can help those in need**



The season of Advent (which starts this Sunday on 29 November) heralds the start of a new liturgical year in the Catholic Church. This past year in the Church has been the Year of Mark. In Mark we see Jesus in the role of mighty worker achieving what is humanly impossible through the power of God. The Apostles performed remarkable miracles with Christ (Mark 16:20) and the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11) working through them. His disciples were told to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all peoples (Mark 13:10, 16:15), and that is what they did.

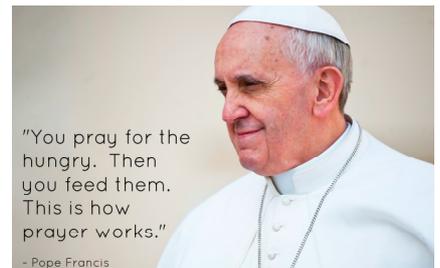
As Jesus and his followers were empowered in the Gospel of Mark we, too, are called to continue his mission in the world, called to care for the poor and lowly, the outcast, sinner and afflicted. St Mark's students have certainly answered that call this year. Time and time again families in our community have sacrificed in order to give to others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Your generosity is recognised and we humbly thank you for giving so freely.

Christmas Time is supposed to be a joyful time, a time for family and friends gathering to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. However, for some

families this isn't a joyful time—it can be a stressful time when there is worry about how to provide children with presents, and family with food. **That's where we can help again!!!!**

St Mark's, I'm calling on you once again to dig deep and give to those in need. Our **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** will run between now and 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 mass on the last day of school.

As we enter this time of Advent let's stop and think about what Jesus, The Teacher, is asking of us: that we give what we can to help others, and that we pray for all those in need!

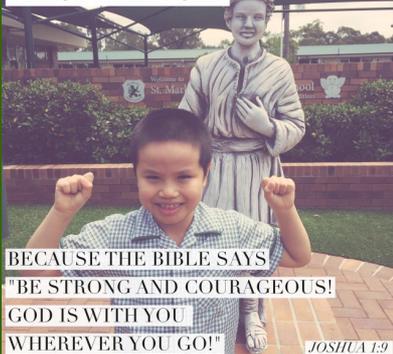


## Date Claimers ...

**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!!**

### RESILIENCE:



## Virtue of the Week: Resilience

### 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

Dental clinics are open and available to all eligible children **over the school holidays**.  
Visit <http://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/oral-health>

Metro South Health

Oral Health Services

Your whole family could be eligible for **FREE dental care**

Simply telephone

**1300 300 850**

For more information, visit - [www.health.qld.gov.au/metrosouth/oralhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/metrosouth/oralhealth)

Great state. Great opportunity.



**Who is eligible?**

- ❖ All children age 4 through to grade 10
- ❖ 2-17 year olds who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule
- ❖ Adults & children who hold a current:
  - Centre link card
  - Health care card
  - Pension concession card



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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DOB \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED (Parent): \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT (Parent): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NEW SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR LEAVING: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for letting us know.*

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.



**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**

[www.telugulabs.in](http://www.telugulabs.in)

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.



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**

## ST MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL P&F NEWS

**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>**



### Creative Kidz Concert.



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..



**C4K COMMUNITY EVENT ON SAT 5TH DEC 10AM–1 PM**

**204 SHERBROOKE ROAD, WILLAWONG**

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