Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Today we had the second day of Vietnamese food to support the orphanage in Vietnam. Again, thank you for your support of this. The final day for this support is next Tuesday. Meanwhile, the tuck shop, under the care of Mrs Sinitsky, operates each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Thank you for your support of our tuckshop throughout the year. The service is valued by many families and needs your continuing patronage. A revised price list was distributed with last week’s newsletter. Please put it where you can easily refer to it—the fridge?! Extra copies are available at the office.

**ACU Excursion**

Yesterday, 16 of our students were hosted by the Australian Catholic University for a day of learning and challenges. All enjoyed the experience. Special thanks goes to Mrs Keaton and Miss Fitzgerald who accompanied our students. Your children were wonderful ambassadors of their families and St. Mark’s.

**Orientation Days**

I am still accepting children, and families, in for prep next year. If your child is born between 1/7/2010 and 30/6/2011, make application as a matter of importance now.

Next Wednesday, 28th October, is “Orientation Day” for your children, those with brothers and / or sisters here at the moment. Parents and children come to meet the teachers, become familiar with the surroundings and find out a little of the prep routines and practices that will be in place. If you cannot be here, please inform the office as a matter of courtesy.

Those new to St. Mark’s come the following week.

**Assembly on Friday**

Mrs Allison Malouf is our special guest at our whole school assembly this Friday morning. All are welcome to join us at this time as we transition from one principal to another. I am pleased to have Fr Stephen preside at this time. It is a fitting time for introductions and a chance for Mrs Malouf to meet staff, parents and students. Your children were wonderful and Miss Fitzgerald who accompanied our experience. Special thanks goes to Mrs Keaton for her help.

There is a lot of activity in the school with many opportunities to be involved in the life of the school. Your support and involvement is important for our success.

Swimming —

This is for all students and begins on 11th November. A medical certificate is required should your child not be fit to swim on any particular day. They will still travel with the class to the pool. Permission forms from the first term are current for this term. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate swimming gear, named and ready.

Wear Red for Daniel—

Here is a great way to re-enforce the message of safety. It is scheduled for Friday, 30th October. There is no cost associated with this so send your child along in red!

**World Teacher’s Day**

On the same day, 30th October, we celebrate World Teacher’s Day here. Come and join us in Mercy Hall for our school assembly and / or join us for a shared morning tea in the staffroom at 10.45 am that morning.

**Protected Action**

This Thursday, some teachers who are members of QEU will take part in protected industrial action that will necessitate some adjustments to usual classes during the middle part of the day.

All students will be supervised/cared for. Should you have any questions, contact me here at school.

**Parish/ School Mass**

This Sunday morning at the 9.30 am Mass, the school has the opportunity to gather and worship with the wider parish community. I hope that you will join us on this occasion. The school and parish are vitally linked and we enjoy wonderful interest and support from Fr Stephen, Fr Joseph, Sr Jana and the whole parish team.

See Mrs Lysaght’s page for details.

Again, I look forward to a good number of children.
Parish Mass THIS Sunday!
This Sunday, 25 October, we join with St Mark’s Parish to celebrate Mass. It’s always a lovely morning and a wonderful opportunity for us to show that we are truly one community. We are looking for a group of students to help Mr Montgomery lead the community in song on Sunday. During Mr Montgomery’s 12 years at St Mark’s these community masses have been a highlight for him. As this will be Mr Montgomery’s final St Mark’s Parish & School Mass it would be wonderful to have lots of children come along to sing with him. We will gather in the choir alcove from 9:10am to prepare for Mass. Please come along to support us. Parents, encourage your children to join us. Thanks! We look forward to seeing many of your there.

Fundraising efforts for Vietnamese Orphanage:
Again this year we are supporting an orphanage in Vietnam with links to our St Mark’s community. A group of Mums, Dads and family friends will be again selling Vietnamese food from the tuckshop today and again next Tuesday. All the profits will go directly to the orphanage. Thank you to our Vietnamese parents for giving so generously of their time and talents and spoiling us with this beautiful food! We will also have a free dress day and lunchtime disco on Melbourne Cup day, Tuesday 3 November, to help fundraise more for this orphanage. Thank you all for your support.

Date Claimers ...
We have a VERY BUSY term ahead:
• This Thursday, 22 October, Year 5 students will celebrate a year level mass.
• This Friday, 23 October, Mrs Allison Malouf our new Principal for 2016 will visit us for our assembly. I will lead us in a handover ritual from Mr Montgomery to Mrs Malouf. You are all welcome to join us on this special occasion.
• Our Parish/School Mass will be on Sunday 25 October at 9:30am. Please join us!
• Next Thursday, 29 October, Prep G & 3G will celebrate their buddy mass.
• Next Friday, 30 October, 3B will led us in our World Teacher’s Day assembly.
• Staff & P&F Dinner is on Friday 6 November. Please come along and show your support for our wonderful P&F.
• We will formally farewell Mr Montgomery on Friday 20 November starting with a whole school assembly from 2:30. 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: Flexibility
What is Flexibility?
Flexibility is being open to the need for change. Many unexpected things happen to us. We cannot control the things that happen. Being flexible means that instead of just getting upset, you see difficulties as a challenge.

You are practising Flexibility when you ...
• Recognise a bad habit
• Want to change
• Ask God for help
• Try new ways to do things
• Learn from the hard times in your life.

Mrs Nikki Lysaght
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Please join us for
Garry Montgomery’s
Retirement Farewell Assembly
November 20 2015
Mercy Hall at 2:30pm
All Welcome!

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 2, 2015
Students with Disabilities
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?

Bus Fare Assistance
Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
Does your family spend more than $33/week on fares to and from school (* $25/week if you hold a concession card)?
Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

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 October 2015.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

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.

Anthony Milford
Recently, we had Anthony Milford, a past student of St Mark’s come to the school to speak of his experiences as a professional Rugby League player and talk about his time at the school. It proved a very valuable experience for both teachers and students to see a past student achieve so much, yet be still so humble. During his visit, I asked Anthony if he would allow us to name a Sports Board after him for students at St Mark’s who gain selection in a District, Regional, State or National team. He has given us his permission and was honoured to be asked. The board will be named ‘The Anthony Milford Celebrating Success in Sport Board’ As renovations will be taking place in the new year to the Administration building, the board will be unveiled when this project is complete. Anthony has agreed to visit the school for this unveiling.

Queensland All Schools Touch Competition
On Saturday November 7 & Sunday November 8, St Mark’s will send a combined 12 Years Touch team to compete in the All Schools Touch competition at Cleveland. The team has been busy preparing for this event, with Mr Jason Chadburn (Amelia’s Dad) kindly volunteering to coach the team. Already they have completed 6 Saturday training sessions and I thank Mr Chadburn for the time he has given up to coach the team. We wish them every success for the competition.

Should you have any queries with any matters relating to Sport, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Kind Regards
Mr Biddulph
P&F OCTOBER MEETING OUTCOMES

Implement annual donation of $200 to support Year 6 Graduation ceremony (cake etc).
Provide Graduation sashes for Year 6 students to keep as a memento of their special day.

$650 value in raffle prizes to be drawn at the Xmas Concert
- 1st Prize $300 credit towards first term school fees
- 2nd Prize $200 credit towards uniform shop or school fees
- 3rd Prize $100 gift card & 4th Prize $50 credit towards tuckshop.
Raffle Tickets Cost $2.00 each

Our Inspirational Teachers Morning Tea—Next Friday 30th Oct 10.30am
Please bring a plate of delicious home-made food to share with our staff next Friday.
A mother spoke to me with pride about her Year 5 daughter chasing her dreams. Mum is attending the morning tea to personally thank our teachers & staff for igniting this priceless self belief in her child.

St Mark’s School Mass is on this Sunday 25th Oct @ 9.30am
Please join us at St Mark’s Church to celebrate our school and parish.
Children—we need your beautiful voices so please come and sing!

St Mark’s Christmas Party!
Friday 6th November @ 6pm at Richlands Tavern
DJ Manny, delicious food, lots of prizes to win on the night.
Please pay $35 at the office to RSVP

My Favourite Teacher is ...

Mr Biddulph, he is fun, sporty and keeps us active. He would take our class outside for our lesson which I really enjoyed. He made the lessons and our class tasks interesting and fun. He gave us challenges that helped us learn. When he is on lunch time duty, I like that he took the time to play with us.— Jacob Richter

Mrs Brehmer is one of my favourite teachers because she is funny - Jonah Curtis

Miss Briody is my favourite buddy teacher because she is always friendly to me and never gets angry - Chlo Curtis

Ms Davy, she is kind, nice and loves God. It is good that she is on earth. God bless you Ms Davy - BJ Connolly

Mrs De Jesus because she teaches me many things as a 5G helper—Siyama Wani

Mrs Eaton because she keeps us fit, healthy and she is nice to us. She gets us to run as fast as we can and gets us to do locomotive moves. My favourite locomotive move is the commando crawl—Issac Richter

Mr Ebzery because he is a kind and interesting teacher—Ben 5G

Mr Everett because he is funny, awesome, kind and helpful. Mr Everett always helps me with problems with other people - Gabriella Rangel

Mr Everett because he was my first ever Male teacher which was very different since I only had Women Teachers since Prep. Mr Everett is a fascinating and fun teacher that brightens my day.—Vivienne Le

Mr Ferguson because he is nice, funny, happy and caring. I am happy that he is my buddy class. Thank you God for making our Beautiful Teachers AMEN—Yvonne Connolly

Mrs Hilliard because she is nice, lovely and always helps me—Elliot Connolly

Mrs Keaton because she is kind and helpful. She is also a good reader—Emma Tierney

Miss Waites because she is very organised, a wonderful kind person and always willing to help—Hang Tran

Mrs Wilson is my favourite teacher because she is nice and always has a smile on her face - Noah Curtis

Everybody, because they are kind and nice to me all the time. They say hello to me even when they are a little bit angry, it makes me laugh and laugh then I stop laughing. - Alessandra Rangel

Affordable swimming lessons at Carole Park Swim Centre
Corner Boundary Road and Waterford Road, Wacol
Swimming Lessons start from $12.00 for 1 class or $22 for 2 classes per week
Junior Stroke Correction Squad $7.50 for 1 class or $15 for 2 classes per week
The above prices include free access to the pool any time
Call Tammy on 3271 6116 or 0499 996 103 for further details.