Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Welcome back to what will be a busy and hopefully very rewarding term. At the end of last term, and after the fiesta, we sold the excess stock that was left with a view to support the Orange Sky van and the annual Catholic Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, we have donated close to $500 to each of these appeals.

Catholic Mission Appeal
Traditionally at this time of the year we look to support an orphanage in Vietnam. Over the last couple of years a generous and hard-working group of parents leads our efforts for this. So it will be again this year.

From next Tuesday, and the two subsequent Tuesdays, there will be a selection of Vietnamese food on sale through the tuck shop. All profits will go to the orphanage. I ask you to again generously support this initiative. Thank you.

October—Month of Mary
Throughout October we will again pause each day from regular lessons to pray the rosary. Teachers will be leading their classes in this time-honoured and valued prayer form. Children are welcome to bring along their own rosary beads if you have them. Class sets will also be in use. I commend the praying of the rosary in your family too.

P and F Meeting
The next meeting for the P and F Association is scheduled for next Wednesday evening at 6.00 pm in the staffroom. All are welcome. There will be planning for the many end of year activities. I hope to see a good number at this meeting. The P and F page contains the details of the many initiatives and acknowledgements from our P and F. I am always appreciative of the wonderful support that comes from this dynamic group within the school. The success of the term will depend in part to the combined efforts of us all. I encourage you to get involved where-ever you can throughout the term.

Staffing
At the end of last term we farewelled Mrs Jo Patrick and thanked her for her wonderful work over many years. Mrs Kerry Kearns fills the guidance counsellor position for this term.

Mrs Wai Kwok takes maternity leave from the end of next week. We look forward to news of the new baby’s arrival in due course. We will see Mrs Kwok again later in 2016. Mrs Tash Morrison returns to undertake part of Mrs Kwok’s role for two days each week. Welcome back Tash.

After some 7 years, Mrs Kathy Moses resigns from St. Mark’s as school secretary. Kathy’s contributions in the front office have been so very valuable and much appreciated by so many in this community. We will miss her. We wish Kathy every success as she moves to new horizons. Interviews for the secretary’s position take place later this week and you will, no doubt, have the opportunity to welcome our new secretary in due course.

Practical Matters
I have again processed too many jumpers with no names! Please ensure that all items of the uniform are named. Thank you for your efforts to have your child well presented each day in the correct full uniform. Hats remain a “challenge” for some children in the school!

Children need to be at school on time, by 8.30 am. Should you be late, bring the children to the office.

In the afternoon, please insist that your children meet you on time, at the agreed place. We will follow up should this be an issue with your child.

Homework Club begins next week at the usual time and place.
Breakfast Club operates every Monday and Tuesday morning—$1.
Swimming block begins in early November. All children will be involved.

Upcoming Events

Monday October 19:
Pupil Free Day (CTJ)

Sunday October 25:
Parish/School Mass @ 9.30am

Friday October 30:
Wear Red for Daniel Day

Tuesday November 3:
All Saints/All Souls Liturgies & Melbourne Cup Free Dress Day/Disco

Friday November 6:
P&F Dinner

Friday November 20:
Farewell Assembly for Mr Montgomery

Wednesday November 25:
Christmas Concert

Wednesday December 2:
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday December 4:
Last Day of School

PLEASE NOTE
October school fees will be sent out this week.
Join us at the P&F Meeting on Wed 14th October 6pm in the Staffroom

At last month’s meeting the P&F agreed to donate $200 yearly to the library to buy book prizes for book week & book festival. The P&F appreciate the fabulous work that Mrs Badke, Mrs Rangel, Ms Pilar and Miss Keaton do encouraging our Children to Enjoy Reading.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Australia promotes early childhood literacy for children by providing free age appropriate books from birth to age 5.
Find information on au.imaginationlibrary.com OR call Jacqui Baty (Mission Australia) 3713 2300 to check eligibility and help you register. Thanks to Deb for sharing this information.

St Mark’s Got Talent!

Congratulations to Iverson Rizo for winning his first Tennis Championship at Qld Tennis Centre.

Congratulations to Jacob Richter for achieving his Black Sash!

Congratulations to Justin on the right with his medal for winning the West Tennis Holiday Camp. The rest of these St Marks students enjoyed participating as well.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY MORNING TEA FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Please keep this morning available so you can bring in delicious home-made food to share with our teachers & staff!
This is one way we can show our appreciation to the teachers & staff for their hard work and dedication to our children’s educational journey.

ATTENTION ST MARKS STUDENTS Please submit a paragraph on your favourite teacher and why? Email agnes.sio@hotmail.com OR drop it into the office. Thank you.

Come and meet Mandy Weidman from the Fundraising Directory, Lincoln and Michael from Sirromet Wines and a rep from Catholic Insurances on this Thursday 8th October at Francis Rush Centre, 127 Elizabeth Street | Brisbane to talk about Fetes & Fundraising!
To reserve a place at this free event http://www.trybooking.com/158434

P&F CHRISTMAS DINNER — 6pm Friday 6th November—$35
Live entertainment, delicious buffet and lots of prizes to win on the night.
RSVP NOW!