



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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**8 September 2015**  
**Week 9 Term 3**



**School Fiesta is this Sunday!**



**2015 TERM DATES:**  
Term 1: 28 Jan - 2 Apr  
Term 2: 20 Apr - 26 Jun  
Term 3: 13 July-18 Sept  
Term 4: 6 Oct - 4 Dec

## Student Awards

### For Compassion & Effort

**PG:** Elliot Connolly  
**PW:** Kevin Nguyen  
**PB:** Henry Li  
**1G:** Ryan Jones  
**1W:** Ashlyn Frost  
**1B:** Eken Dang  
**2G:** Jim Lokadir  
**2W:** Vincent Vu  
**2B:** Abel Irishura  
**3G:** Mekenzi Hutchison  
**3W:** Son Bao Vuong  
**3B:** Martin Nguyen  
**4G:** Madison West  
**4W:** Thaison Tran  
**5G:** Christina Phan  
**5W:** Misiona Sau  
**6G:** Ryan Nguyen  
**6W:** Patris Tawor  
**6W:** Melissa Nguyen



### Upcoming Events



**Friday September 11:**

*Harmony & Book Week  
Parent Celebration*  
**PARENT HELPERS NEEDED**

**Sunday September 13:**

**FIESTA** Multicultural  
Fiesta 9am—3pm

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

It is with pleasure that I inform you that **Mrs Allison Malouf has accepted the position of principal** here at St. Mark's from the beginning of the 2016 school year. Allison will join us at our fiesta this Sunday. Please make her welcome when you meet her then.

### Book Week

This is "Book Week" where we celebrate reading and let "books light up our world". The library team, headed by Mrs Badke and Mrs Keaton, has put together a number of activities for all classes to engage with, and enjoy, reading and books. My special thanks goes to our parents who will share books by reading to classes on Friday. Details of just what is on, and when, are contained in this newsletter. Reading is still the single most important academic skill for students and your support is absolutely vital for the success of your children.

To share the joy of a good story, and reading time, adds a richness to family life. I commend you on your encouragement of reading.

### Fiesta

The wait is almost over! Excitement is everywhere and we are certainly looking forward to a great celebration this Sunday, 13th September. All are welcome. Bring the whole family and your friends!

Much preparation has gone on. A wonderful, generous response has come from many of you and now we need you to come along and be part of our multi-cultural celebrations.

We begin with **Mass** at 9.00 am in Mercy hall. The liturgy celebrates the rich diversity of cultures that make up our community.

All the fun of the fiesta begins after Mass at approximately 10.00 am.

There is no parking on the school property after 8.00 am. **Parking** is available at the Vietnamese Centre, opposite the hall and further along Lobelia Street, between Lobelia House and Trocaire. Simply look for the signs. Parking is at your own risk.

Many of you have taken advantage of the **pre-paid deals** being offered on the rides. This is where some family value can be found. It's not too late to take advantage of these prices!

The fiesta concludes at 3.00 pm after a full entertainment programme is completed.

Tickets are still available in the multi-draw raffle, and there will be rides and fun at many of the stalls. There will be **food** for you to sample from many cultures, not to mention some great bargains from the "White Elephant" and "Second Hand" stalls.

Importantly, the fiesta is the culmination of the work of many in our community, from the parish, school and our P and F Association. We want to build the links that exist in our community. Your contributions, and being part of the day, are vital for this.

I look forward to a fabulous day this Sunday.

Again, further details are included in this newsletter. Should you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school or parish.

### Practical Matters

- ◆ School fees go home this week. Please attend to them as a matter of priority. Should you be experiencing difficulties, please make contact with Ms Barry or myself here at the school.
- ◆ Children need to arrive at school between 8.00 and 8.30 am each morning. Should your child be late, they must be brought to the office for late admission by an adult. Do not drop them off and have them walk in—this is a dangerous practice.
- ◆ Lost property is significant as the weather warms. Please check and collect pullovers now. What remains at the end of next week will be processed and given away.
- ◆ Have a look at the new Outdoor Learning Area near the tennis court. We are happy with the work done. The dental facility comes down during the holidays! New grating is being installed near the tuck shop.

**See you at the fiesta!**

*Garry Montgomery*  
Garry Montgomery  
Principal

## Prayers for Mercy during Harmony Week



On the feast of the Immaculate Conception we will commence the Jubilee of Mercy, a year dedicated to mercy as decreed by Pope Francis in his Bull of Indiction on 11 April 2015. The Age newspaper ran a story on 25 August entitled 'Refugee crisis: Millions of people fleeing war and poverty'. I was drawn to the article and the following words caught my attention "The migration crisis in Europe is on a scale that far exceeds what went on in Australian waters in recent years, but both require swift and sustainable regional and global solutions, not unilateral measures that are predicated on locking people up for years without hope." We have to find ways to help our fellow neighbours. I can't imagine what those seeking asylum are going through - we have to find a way.

In the lead up to the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy we should make concrete efforts to bring in to the light the plight of people that are victims of war and all that comes with it. The best thing that we can in the first instance is to pray for mercy. Pray for those that are suffering, pray for governments to make radical changes in acceptance of those seeking asylum and pray that we can find ways in our local communities to reach out to those in need with the mercy that Christ has placed in us.

In our own St Mark's community there are many who have experienced first hand the hardship of persecution and oppression, fleeing their own countries for a better way of life. In this week, our annual Harmony Week, let's pray a prayer of gratitude for those who have made Australia their new home and find safety and security here.

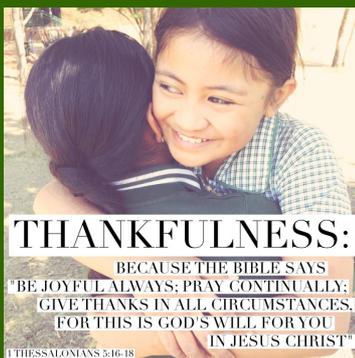
The words of Pope Francis in the Papal Bull direct us to why we need mercy and what mercy is: "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

These words, I believe, are important as we witness the global tragedy that war and poverty brings and which we need to answer in some way. To be agents and witnesses of mercy in our school and community.

## Date Claimers ...

**A VERY SPECIAL HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY WISH FOR MR MONTGOMERY tomorrow** (Wednesday 9 September). **We hope you have a wonderful day filled with lots of surprises and smiles!!**

- This Friday, 11 September, 5G will lead us in our special Assembly Prayer to beginning our Harmony and Book Week Assembly.
- Harmony & Book Week Parent Reading Circles will take place on Friday 11 September. Please see Library notice for more information on how YOU can help!
- St Mark's Fiesta is on Sunday 13 September. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- Thursday, 17 September, 3B & Prep B celebrate their buddy mass at 9:30am in the Church.
- Friday, 18 September, 4G will lead us in our Day Assembly Prayer.
- School Holidays start Friday 18 September—with school starting back on TUESDAY 6 October.



## Virtue of the Week: Thankfulness

### What is Thankfulness?

Thankfulness is to be grateful for what you have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving, and being. Thankfulness is giving thanks for the special things which come along. It is also being grateful for the little things which happen around you and within you every day. It is an openness and willingness to receive each of God's bounties.

### You are practising thankfulness when you ...

- Are receptive to God's gifts.
- Appreciate your own gifts instead of envying others.
- Count your blessings often.
- Offer thanks to the Creator.

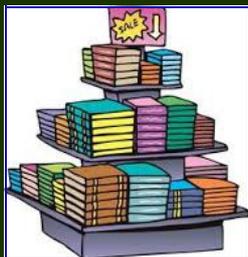
**Mrs Nikki Lysaght:**

Assistant Principal Religious Education

# » Fiesta News

## Book Stall Donations

Mr Everett and the class of 4W are collecting 2nd hand books, CDs, DVDs and video games for the fiesta. All donations can be delivered straight to the 4W classroom.



**Year 5W's Fiesta Viking Pot TICKETS ALL SOLD OUT!**

**Only 1 Prize of \$500!**



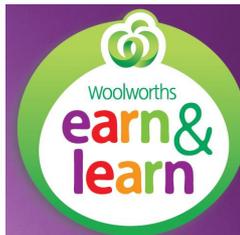
**\$10 per Ticket**

**Last ticket drawn is the winner.**

**Thanks for the support!**



**Prep B getting ready for Book Week**



Today is the **last day** for the **Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion.**

Please bring in all your stickers and sheets to school (even if incomplete).

**Thank you for your support!**  
So far we have collected 19 920 stickers.

# From the Library

Book Week is magical and mystical this year as **"Books light up our World"**. The children have begun to come through the library with exciting activities and wonderful art work provided by the classes.



Reading on a Rug will be Wednesday afternoon for most classes as the older children read to their buddies. Please encourage your child (in Yr 3,4,5) to practice their reading tonight so that they do a great read tomorrow!

**Our fabulous library display**



Friday Assembly will commence around 9.50am. The children are not dressing up this year however some will be dressing up in a "country costume" for Sunday's Fiesta. Prizes will be given for competitions from the library including best movie trailer from a Yr 6 student. Winning books will be announced and various media displays will be shown to illustrate the children's and staff's participation in Book Week. Parents and some staff will then be reading to classes a story from particular countries from which many of our children come. This will probably be around 9.30am and the classes will move back with the parent/staff member to the classrooms for the reading.

PARENTS, you are most welcome to attend our Book Week Assembly. You are also welcome to come and view the amazing art works of the children after the Assembly OR, on Sunday at the Fiesta, we will open the library for one hour (from 12-1pm) after the Fashion Parade.

## CHILDREN FOR FIESTA FASHION PARADE

Children participating in the Fashion Parade please come with your parents to the library at 10:30am to prepare for the parade which begins at 11am. We will have a practice for the Fashion Parade with the children on this Friday after first break. Parents if you have anything special to tell me about their costumes can you please send it to me by Friday so I can include it in the Parade.



Many thanks,  
**Therese Badke and Leesa Keaton**  
(Teacher-librarians)

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL P&F

## MULTICULTURAL FIESTA IS ON THIS SUNDAY!

9AM Mass in Mercy Hall  
Come dressed in your cultural clothes.



### MULTICULTURAL FIESTA PARKING

Parking is available on the day across the road in the grounds of the Vietnamese Community Centre, as well as the vacant land along Lobelia Street.



*Happy Birthday to all the September birthdays especially Mr Garry Montgomery who turns 60. Wishing him all the best for the year.*

**\$2.00 Raffle Tickets still available in the office.**

1st prize Accommodation—4 guests over 2 nights in a SSC Seaview Apartment

2nd prize Mini iPad 3rd prize 4xVIP Tickets

4th prize 3 Burner BBQ & More

### P&F Christmas Dinner

6pm Fri 6th Nov 2015  
Richlands Tavern

### P&F Meeting

6pm Wed 16th Sept  
Everyone Welcome!

### World Teacher's Day

Friday 30th October  
Morning Tea

Super Sizzler



Animal Petting Zoo

PCYC  
JUMPING  
CASTLE



Frog Hop



Tea Cup Ride



Triple Screamer

At the Fiesta ride armbands cost \$30 each  
Single rides cost \$5.00 each