

Letter to Parents: Welcome to the 2015 school year.

It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces returning as well as the new faces in Prep and the various classrooms around the school. I trust the first couple of days have gone smoothly for the children and for you. With understanding and explanations, along with goodwill and co-operation, much can and will be achieved so that the success we all want and need can be achieved.

Good parental involvement is vital for your child's success at school. Here are some of the essential practices that need your active participation in so that all children are safe and ready for learning.

Thank you to all parents for your efforts to have your children well presented in **full school uniforms**. The Uniform Shop is open each Friday morning throughout the year from 8.00 – 9.00 am. Do keep the standard up as it speaks highly of you, your children and our school.

All children need to **be at school by 8.30 am** ready for the official start at 8.40 am. Children not in the classroom by 8.45 am must report to the office and collect a "late slip". This is a new process needed to record daily attendance. When you need to collect your child early, parents need to do so from the office.

Parking/ dropping off or collecting children in the school grounds is not permitted no matter what the weather. It is far too dangerous. Likewise, the parish parking area is not for school use. Please follow these rules for the safety of all.

When dropping off and collecting your child from the pick-up zone in Lilac Street, remember, do not leave your car. The children wait for you and will move to your car once you have driven through as far as you can go. Children should always enter from the footpath side.

When you collect your child on Eucalypt Street, walk to collect them from the gate. Never call them across the street. Whatever their age, you must cross the street, collect them and then safely return to your car.

Our parent/ teacher information evening is scheduled for Wednesday 11th February at 6.30 pm in Mercy Hall. This is a most important opportunity to hear of the school's plans, meet your child's teacher and other parents. Last year's numbers were not particularly good so I am looking for a greater attendance. If this approach is to continue, we need to certainly see more than the 30 % of last year. Previous years of individual meetings, while time consuming, allowed almost all families to meet the teachers.

Later that week, on **Friday 13th February, 3.00- 4.30 pm, we have our "Welcome BBQ"**. This is for the whole community and I look forward to hopefully seeing you at one, or both, of these occasions. Please mark them on your calendar.

Homework Club operates to assist families on a Tuesday afternoon in the library. It will start in a couple of weeks time. Children will need to register to take advantage of this opportunity. Details will come in the newsletter which comes each Tuesday.

St. Mark's prides itself on serving the families and children who attend the school. This is a vibrant, active, faith-filled community intent on providing the best we can for your children. For that to be a reality, you must be involved in the life of the school. There will be many opportunities, in big ways and small. Get involved. All the research shows that when parents are supportive of their children and their school, amazing things happen. We build success together! I look forward to working with you and the staff throughout the year.

Garry Montgomery
(Principal)