Floods again!

The news of flooding happening again in Qld and northern NSW is almost unbelievable. We like to think that we are in control of our lives and the events that surround our lives. But the truth is that we cannot control nature - floods, fire, wind, drought and the like.

And it's not only Australia that suffers from unseasonal weather and unpredictable circumstances. Last year the news reported Earthquakes in Japan, New Zealand and Spain, severe drought and famine in East Africa, flooding in Pakistan and Thailand and of course Australia, Volcanic eruptions in Iceland and Indonesia. And these are only a few of the natural disaster stories that are constantly being reported.

All around us there is the risk of disaster and catastrophe. Where will you turn when the unexpected happens? Where will you go for safe refuge?

The bible tells us that God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:11) God is the one in whom we can trust (Psalm 91:2)

When the unpredictable happens in life we should not fear or give up or despair. God is waiting to help us in all our needs. Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) What a wonderful invitation. What a comfort when we find things out of control. God is watching and waiting to bring you relief. He promises, call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you. (Psalm 50:15)

Cheers, Peter Hage (School Pastor)

Principals Ponderings

Thank you to all parents, staff and students for making the beginning of the 2012 school year so smooth! It is great to see children genuinely excited to be back at school and interacting with each other in such a positive manner.

Also it was tremendous to see so many parents at the ‘Coffee and Chat’ last Friday morning - see you this Friday!

Parent Information Evenings

On Wednesday evening (8th February for Reception-Year 3) and Thursday evening (9th February for Years 4-7), the opportunity is provided for parents to meet their child’s teacher. I encourage all families to be represented at these information sessions. One session will occur each evening beginning at 7.00pm. Supervision is provided for children aged 4+ in the playground areas and grassed area.

St Mark’s Easter Fun Fete …………… hop to it!

Thank you to those people who have volunteered to be convenors or helpers on the many stalls that make our fete such a success. At this point in time, we still need a convenor for:

- Yellow Brick Road
- Hot Dogs

plus many more helpers to share the load.

It is vital that we have convenors and at least four (4) helpers per stall so parents can also take the time to spend time with their family on fete day.

Please consider! A reply slip is included on the back page of the newsletter.

Arrival at School/Pedestrian Traffic

Just a small reminder that children should not be dropped off prior to 8.20am as there is no teacher supervision. Also, please use the two crossings for walking in and out of the school.

Staffing

I’m pleased to inform the school community that Megan Lehmann will be joining the staff as a Lutheran School Support Officer from the commencement of Week 3.

Megan is an experienced and accomplished educator who will bring many skills to those children she will work within the junior primary.

Andrew Messenger
Principal
Prayer Support
Please keep the following families and staff members in your prayers:

Miriam Ahrens and William
Kylie & Haydn Applebee and Tyson & Ryan
Alexandra & Jason Thornhill and Corey
Melissa & Andrew Bailey and Alecia
Kylie & Michael Balis and Mitchell
Lisa Angwin
Dani Barolo

Forms
Could families please return all forms as soon as possible especially the database check form. Details from this form need to be inputted onto the school’s database system prior to the printing of the parent directory. Your assistance in this regard is appreciated.

Parent Directory
This year’s directory is taking shape and will hopefully be sent home within the next two weeks. I hope you find it useful for communication with other St Mark’s families.

I need to point out that the Parent Directory is not to be used as a medium for soliciting business opportunities. A clear statement to this effect is set out on the first page. The reasons for this are two-fold:

1. The spirit of the directory is to assist St Mark’s families to communicate with each other in relation to matters pertaining to the school and/or school community.
2. The Commonwealth Privacy Act (Dec 2001) forbids a Parent Directory to be used for any purposes other than outlined in point 1, without the expressed permission of the families listed in the directory.

Please abide by these points, so no embarrassment or annoyance occurs to families of St Mark’s.

Also as in the past, businesses are invited to put a small advertisement in this publication which is available to all families of the school. The school community is encouraged to support any business operated by families of the school. Please email to the school (contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au) a high quality jpeg file (or pdf is fine) of your business, plus $40 to the front office by 15th February so that they don’t get lost. Last year I wrote out MANY (over 25) sheets for students who did not hand in sheets but had read enough books. This WILL NOT happen again as I will be away on leave when the Readers Challenge finishes. I encourage all students participating, to read the required number of books as quickly as possible and hand in your sheets early.

NOTE: Children in Reception who are not able to read may have their parents read the books to them.

Book Club:
Just a reminder that any book Club orders need to be handed in to the front office by Friday next week.

Book covering:
A huge thank you to the mums who have been covering books. Some of you have been taking several bags at a time. Your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you,
Mrs Louise Paterson

Fun and Games (Reception)
If you think you can help with the Fun and Games program this year (for all Reception children), please see the note in last week’s newsletter and return the reply slip.

Sunday’sCool
‘Sunday’sCool’ starts again at St Mark’s this Sunday (Feb 12th) during the 10.30am service. Parents are asked to attend this first lesson with their child for registration purposes.

LOST
A brown school jumper belonging to Flynn Samardzic has been lost. If found, please return it to the Year 1M classroom - thank you.

Coming Up
- Parent/Teacher Information Night R-3 - Wednesday 8th February
- Parent/Teacher Information Night 4-7 - Thursday 9th February
- Chapel/Installation of School Leaders - Friday 10th February
- Pedal Prix Meeting - Monday 13th February @ 7.30pm
- Bursary Applications Open - Tuesday 14th February
- Year 8 2014 Information Evening @ Cornerstone College - Tuesday 14th February
- Assembly - Wednesday 15th February
- School Council Executive Meeting - Wednesday 15th February
- Fete Committee Meeting - Wednesday 15th February @ 7.30pm
- Year 8 2014 Information Evening @ Cornerstone College - Thursday 16th February
- Chapel/Installation of Class Carers - Friday 17th February

For Your Information
- Macclesfield Football Club Junior Registration Night for all grades. 9th February 6.30-7.30pm at clubrooms. Players required for under 13, 15 and 17. Free snag sizzle on the night. Phone 0419 023 393
- Mt Barker Soccer Club Registration Day at Anembo Park on Sunday 12th February, 1-4pm, U8-U16’s. Ring Peter Maddox on 8398 3515
St Mark’s Easter-Fun-Fete…..hop to it!

Saturday 31st March 2012
10:30am to 2:00pm

An important part of Fete day is the Silent & General Auction. For the fete to be successful we require many items and prizes. We are asking if the families of St Mark’s could please donate! Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Prizes for the children, general auction items, silent auction items & goods for the Yellow Brick Road bag. It all helps!

(Donations can be left in the front office for the committee to collect)

All monies raised at the 2012 School Fete will be used to purchase Interactive White Boards (IWB’s) in some of the classrooms. The children are the direct beneficiaries of your generosity.

We still requiring Convenors for the following stalls:
Hot dogs
Yellow Brick Road
Fairy Floss

So give a stall a go and be a part of a fun filled event.

A Convenors meeting will be held on 22/2/12 at 7:30pm. This is a chance to get together and have any questions answered.

Each stall requires multiple helpers; it’s not too late to put your name down to help!
Thank you to all have already offered support, that’s the spirit we need for a successful fete.

The next Fete Committee Meeting is on Wednesday 15th February at 7:30pm in the staff room. New families are always welcome.

Thank you on behalf of the 2012 St Marks Easter Fun-Fete…..Hop to it! Committee.
ST MARK’S SCHOOL FETE  
SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 2012

The following listing of **parent** operated stalls requires your support. Please return the reply slip included in this newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stalls</th>
<th>Convenor</th>
<th>Helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Emma Shaw</td>
<td>Kerry Doyle, Nicki Gevers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ</td>
<td>John Main (APEX)</td>
<td>Mick Borbasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Floss</td>
<td>(machine)</td>
<td>Yvette Mitchell, Ellen Messenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Brick Road</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Face Painting</td>
<td>Vanessa Hampel</td>
<td>Kerrin Robertson, Sharon Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>Paula Hopley</td>
<td>Lis &amp; Craig Chapman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Cream</td>
<td>Ruth Murphy</td>
<td>Juanita Kleinig</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Simone Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Elephant</td>
<td>Hannah Dridan</td>
<td>Marie Maddox, Gina Highte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Dogs</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milkshakes</td>
<td>Laura Heath</td>
<td>Sarah Fetchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baked Potatoes</td>
<td>Charise Middleton-Frew</td>
<td>Wendee Virgo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yiros</td>
<td>Rob Rogers</td>
<td>Jackie Manly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweets</td>
<td>Susan Foord</td>
<td>Caron Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donut Stand</td>
<td>Jo Glover</td>
<td>Tracey Oats-Willis, Symon Gogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Petting</td>
<td>Sue Bormann-Ziersch</td>
<td>Susan Naitin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pony Rides</td>
<td>Marie Noyen</td>
<td>Julianne Ferris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badge Making</td>
<td>Adam &amp; Sarah Scott</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linda Formosa, Peter Maddox, Jane Todd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**STALL CONVENOR/HELPER - SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 2012**

I ________________________________ would be interested in convening/helping (please circle) 
(print name)

the ________________________________ stall at the 2012 School Fete. 
(Please return reply slip to the front office - thank you)