Maybe you can relate to the morning I have just had. It started off well - the alarm sounded at 5:55am, the coffee was delicious, the shower hot and there were no grumbles from my 7 year old little boy as he reluctantly made his way to breakfast! Out the door at 7:15am - GREAT! It was on the way to work that it started to unravel. There was a near miss at the roundabout, the puddle I landed in as I stepped out of my car and then to make matters worse I dropped my lunch.

Life is like this sometimes. Things just happen! However, having said this there are countless moments in our life’s journey when everything seems to be smooth sailing. There are moments when there is no noise, no rush, no demands or crises, when everything is simply perfect. I cherish these moments.

Yes my morning was certainly not the best but just as it came apart it also came together. It came together through this morning’s staff devotion when I was reminded again about God’s love for me. In 1 Peter 5:7 we read, ‘Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.’ As people of faith we are never alone. Like God the Father and Jesus, the Holy Spirit encourages us. At this morning’s devotion the words of my colleague certainly encouraged me to focus on the calm and not the chaos, to focus on the many positives of the morning rather than on the minor hiccups along the way.

As you travel through your week, I encourage you to enjoy the moments of calm and I hope you experience many. AND then for those moments of chaos I leave you with Deuteronomy 31:6 (TLB) ‘Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid! For the Lord your God will be with you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you.’

Loredana Saracini
Deputy Principal

What’s on at St Mark’s

Our term calendar continues to fill quickly and these dates have been included for you. Below are two events in these first weeks of school this year I wish to highlight.

Pedal Prix
An information and planning meeting will be held in the school library on Wednesday, 8th February beginning at 7pm for families of any Year 6 students who are considering joining our 2017 St Mark’s Lutheran Lightning Pedal Prix team.

As parents are required to manage and run the team it is essential that all students who may wish to participate are represented at the meeting by a family member. We will be making final decisions re the entry of our team following the meeting.

Parent Information Nights
On Thursday February 9th commencing at 7:00pm, we invite families of Year 4 - Year 6 students to attend their child’s Parent Information Evening. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s class teacher. During the evening teachers will provide information about classroom and homework expectations, timetables, learning programs, camp dates as well as other important information.

Foundation to Year 3 families are invited to join us on Tuesday February 14th at 7:00pm. Should families require a crèche, we are offering a service through the school library. Please note staff will not be able to care for children who are not toilet trained.

Both Parent Information sessions will be held in your child’s classroom.

Friday Chapel
We look forward to this Friday’s chapel beginning at 9:00am in the school hall. This week’s chapel will be led by Miss Cheryl Liebelt.
Family Fun Night
Our Parents and Friends will be hosting a whole school family fun night on Friday 24th February. The evening will commence at 5:00pm on the school oval. The Parents and Friends will be hosting a BBQ for a gold coin donation. The coffee van will be available for coffee and tea. Our wonderful class carers will be hosting family games. Families who do not wish to partake in the BBQ are most welcome to bring along a picnic basket. We look forward to our families joining us in what promises to be a fun filled evening.

Best laid plans..
On the weekend our Principal James enjoyed a celebratory tandem skydive with his family. He reported it was a fantastic experience but the landing didn’t quite go to plan. He’s ok but just resting up this week. Please contact the office with any questions you would normally direct to him. Please join me in praying for his speedy recovery.

Loredana Saracini
Deputy Principal

PEDAL PRIX MEETING
For our Year 6 students interested in being part of the St. Mark’s Pedal Prix team, there will be a meeting held at the St. Mark’s school Library at 7pm on Wednesday the 8th of February (Week 2). All students that wish to be part of the pedal prix team MUST to represented by a parent/caregiver on this night. This meeting will be used to finalise commitments of school families in relation to Pedal Prix organization for 2017.

Courier Cup Swimming Team
Thank you to the students and families who have committed to the swimming trials Tuesday (this morning) and Thursday morning at the Mountain Pool. Try outs begin at 7am and should be finished by approximately 7.45am. Unfortunately only students that are born in 2005-2007 may compete therefore some Year 4 students are not eligible until next year. I look forward to seeing you at the Mountain Pool.

Mr Scott

Please keep an eye out for a lost blue school satchel! It belongs to Henry Milne. We have looked everywhere we can think of, and just haven’t been able to find it. His Mum and Dad think it is lost at school, not at home. Thank you

The P & F are looking for donations for our Sports Day raffle. If you are able to donate something, please bring it in to the front office or contact Louise Borgo on 0448 332 701 for pick up. Thanks for helping our St Mark’s P & F!
Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge for this year has now started. Many children have already borrowed books to start reading. The Reading Challenge has been going for over 10 years now. It was initiated by the Premier as a way of encouraging children to read. The challenge is to read 12 books between now and September. Eight of the books must be Reader’s Challenge books and four can be free choice. In our Library these books are identified with a coloured dot on the cover: Foundation – Year 2 Orange dot, Year 3 – Year 5 Green dot and Year 6 Blue dot. Parents are allowed to read the books to children who are not able to read fluently yet. When each book has been read it needs to be recorded on the Reading Record sheet. Most children in JP classes have this sheet stuck into the back of their Communication books. When the sheet is completed the sheet should be removed and returned to the Library. Children completing the challenge for the first time will be issued with a certificate. Every year after that children will receive a medal!! Last year we had a very high percentage of the school complete the challenge. I am hoping for a similar result this year.

Book Club

Most classes took home Book Club order forms last week. Scholastic Book Club is an optional service provided by the school. Order forms are sent out twice a term and we also have a Scholastic Book Fair in August. If you wish to place an order, fill out the form and place it in an envelope or sealed bag. Payment can be done by cash or Credit card- online (instructions for how to do this are on the form). If you are paying by cash the money needs to be included with the order. Orders are placed on the due date that is printed in the Newsletter and take approximately a week to arrive. Orders and payment for Issue 1 are due on Thursday 16th February.

Thank you,
Louise Paterson

Hi everyone,

Who doesn’t have a hat?

As we have many new OSHC family members this year I thought I would touch on our sun policy. It is really important that everyone in OSHC wears a hat when we play outside. As it’s the beginning of the term it is a good routine to get in to or if you’d prefer (as many OSHC families do already) you can leave a spare hat with us!

What’s been happening...

The past week we have been working on our child profiles and learning something new about each other. We have decided our new theme will be ‘insects’ which will involve craft and finding out some cool facts about insects we see around the school.

This term we will also be focusing on our Better Buddy leadership program. This gives children the opportunity to help new kids settle in and take on roles such as leading activities.

Week 3 is Safety Week. We will be reviewing our OSHC safety rules and practicing our lock down and fire evacuation drills. We also have discussions about how we can look out for each other.

If you would like to use our service, please go online and register at www.campaustralia.com.au. If you require medical forms for this period, please come to the service before or after school and I will give you everything you need.

Thank you,
Sam Thomas and team. 0403 731 488
JUNIOR REGISTRATION NIGHT

A Football Skills Night for kids, plus loads of FUN!!!

Friday March 3rd from 6pm
All Grades - AusKick to Senior Colts
Bring your gear!

JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED

• Family friendly club for players and parents
• Enjoy lots of game time every week
• Cheap subs and club membership for all the family

Everyone welcome!
Check out our facilities
Food and drinks available

Contact Vaughan Brooks: 0457 537 794

WE WANT YOU IN THE RED AND THE BLUE
Dear Families

An important aspect of my role as Religious Pastoral Support Worker is to support student well-being. We all understand that change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives.

At St Mark’s we recognize that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, relocating homes and schools or any other kind of loss or change, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively.

We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth.

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research that highlights the importance of social support and the need to practice new skills to cope effectively with change and loss.

The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, recognizing and managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and developing support networks.

Seasons for Growth runs for eight sessions and each session is 60 minutes in length, once a week during the school day and then the program concludes with a ‘Celebration’ session after school that parents can attend. There are 3 levels;

Level 1—year 1, 2 students
Level 2—year 3, 4 students
Level 3—year 5, 6 students

Seasons for Growth will commence in week four of Term 1. I will facilitate the program as I have received special training in the use of this program. I have run this program for the past 8 years and many students have participated.

If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth I would encourage you to talk to him or her about this. It is important that the child chooses to do the course rather than being told to do the course. Should he/she decide to participate please fill in the tear-off section below and return to the school by Friday 17th February 2017.

=================================================================

SEASONS FOR GROWTH with Janene Overton

My child _______________________________ is interested in taking part in the SEASONS FOR GROWTH program in Term 1—2017.

I have discussed this with him / her.

The reason (s) he / she wants to do the program are;

____________________________________________________________________________

______________________________          _____________________________ Class: ________
Parent/Guardian Signature        Student’s Signature
St Mark’s Care-net 2017

Dear Parents,

For a number of years, we have been able to implement a Care-net program at St Mark’s with the assistance of Class Carers, who will be introduced to you at our upcoming Parent Information Nights.

At times during the year, families experience both difficult and joyful times – bereavement, a birth, an accident, a serious illness, an injured child, etc. Through the Class Carer and Care-net system, the school community has the opportunity to help and support each other and to provide care when needed. Attached is a form outlining practical ways assistance can be given and asking for your help in this area. It need not be a large commitment, but any offer to help will be a benefit to those whom you are supporting and showing care.

If you know of any families, or are a family who would benefit from extra care or are experiencing any of the above mentioned difficult or joyous times please let your class teacher, your Class Carers or Janene Overton (Religious Pastoral Support Worker) know as soon as possible.

If you would like to assist in the CARE-NET, please fill out the WILLINESS TO HELP form and return to the front office as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ’s Service

Janene Overton
Religious Pastoral Support Worker
CARE-NET / WILLINGNESS TO HELP 2017

Name: _______________________________________________________

Names and classes of children:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ______________________ Mobile: _______________________

Town you live in: ________________________________________________

I would be willing to help in my child’s/children’s class(es) in the following ways:

☐ Transport of children to/from school in emergency situations

☐ Before/after school care of children in emergency situations

☐ Provide a meal in emergency situations

☐ Main meal

☐ Dessert

☐ Bake a cake or biscuits

☐ Be willing to phone and be phoned in emergency situations.

☐ Are you willing for your contact details to be released to 2017 Class Carers only?  

  Yes/No

☐ Help with classroom matters

☐ Other – Do you have any other skills that you think could be useful?

☐ I agree that Janene Overton, Religious Pastoral Support Worker at St Mark’s school, can have my phone numbers to ring me in relation to Care-net matters

☐ I agree that this year’s (2017) Class Carers can also have my phone numbers to ring me in relation to Care-net matters

Signed__________________________________________________________