



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 5 5 April 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Fri 1 Yr 10 Reflection Day
Thurs 7 Duke of Ed Trial Expedition Day 1
Fri 8 Duke of Ed Trial Expedition Day 2
 Years 7 & 11 Transition Reports distributed

Last Day of Term 1

TERM 2

APRIL

Tues 26 First Day of Term 2 for all students
Thurs 28 Years 7 & 11 Parent/Teacher Night
Fri 29 Diocesan Boys & Girls Soccer

MAY

Mon 2 Diocesan Cross Country
Thurs 5 College Photo Day
Fri 6 St Benedict's Day
Mon 9 Year 11 U-Turn the Wheel
Tues 10 NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9
Wed 11 NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9
 HSC Half Yearly Reports distributed
Thurs 12 NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9
Mon 23 Yrs 9 & 10 Semester 1 Exams start
Tues 24 P & F Meeting 7pm @ the College
Fri 27 Yrs 9 & 10 Semester 1 Exams end

JUNE

Fri 10 Staff Development Day-Pupil Free
Mon 13 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Wed 15 Parenting Teens Evening Part 1
 Vaccinations #2 (Year 7)
Wed 22 Parenting Teens Evening Part 2
Fri 24 Year 7 Science Excursion
Thurs 30 Yrs 8-10 Parent Teacher Evening

JULY

Fri 1 Yrs 8-10 Parent Teacher Day
Last Day of Term 2

Dear Parents

'He is Risen!'

Welcome back to all families after the Easter break. I hope it was a lovely family time for all. The blessings of Easter and the celebration of the Risen Lord continues to shape our daily actions and interactions as we continue on in the Easter Season as part of the Church's calendar. I wonder how as individuals we will continue to make this a priority? It is a real challenge when we get so caught up in the busyness of daily life. I hope the excitement and hope engendered by the Easter story lives on in each of us at St Benedict's particularly as we move to final preparations for the opening of our new facilities next term. The Learning Centre is an exciting new space for our students to engage with learning and (re) discover the beauty of books.

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It was with great pleasure that we launched our 2017 Enrolment Programme to a full Camden Civic Centre two weeks ago. About 700 people, our biggest ever audience, took over 320 applications of interest for St Benedicts. These applications are due back this week. Because of the level of interest, the Enrolment Panel has begun interviewing prospective families this term in order to meet everyone's needs. This year we have also formalised our College Tour Programme and for those Year 6 students and their parents who wish to see the facilities *in real time*, with classes and teachers in action during the day, bookings can be made at the time of the enrolment interview.

It is vital for parents to read the enrolment criteria very carefully and understand them. There are always many myths floating around that need dispelling. Two of these we hear constantly: 1. The school has to take a percentage of non-Catholics 2. St Justin's has automatic entry to St Benedicts and 3. Siblings don't need to apply as they have automatic enrolment. All of these are incorrect. Practising Catholics have priority and as such, if they fill all available spaces, then further spaces cannot be created. In addition, all Catholic feeder school students have equal opportunity for enrolment spaces. This is reflected in the large numbers of students drawn from St Clare's and more recently, from St Paul's. An increasing number of Highlands families, attending St Anthony's are also enrolling at St Benedicts. Siblings need to apply in the usual way and although it would be highly unusual for them not to secure a position, it is certainly not a given as each child is very different.

Like our sister schools at Magdalene and Mt Carmel, we are a regional school, and although we are situated in St Mary McKillop Parish, our students can be drawn from the Macarthur, Highlands and certain areas of South West Sydney as long as they meet the enrolment criteria.

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Medical Alert

We have received notification that a student has been diagnosed with Impetigo (School Sores). For more information on the symptoms and treatment visit the NSW Government Health site at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/childhood.aspx>

**Last Day of Term 1
Friday 8 April**



Years 7 & 11 Transition Reports

Transition Reports will be distributed to Year 7 & 11 students on Friday afternoon. If your child is absent on Friday they may collect the report on their return in Term 2.

Parent/Teacher Interviews for Years 7 & 11

Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 7 & 11 students will be held on Thursday 28th April. Details for making interview bookings through the online site are included with the reports.

Our Year 7 and Year 11 students will be receiving their Transition Reports this week. These will be an indication to parents, at a simple level, of the transition to a new stage of learning and, for Year 7 students, in their new setting. I encourage families to follow up any concerns or queries early in the new term.

Congratulations also must go to Year 12 whose approach to their Half Yearly Exams was very positive and the manner in which they managed their time, which included driving to and from school for the first time, was exemplary. Year 12 Reports will be sent home to parents early in Term 2.

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At a recent Parents and Friends Meeting, there was a great deal of support for holding a **Christmas in July (in August)** Trivia Night. These have been held twice before and have been fantastic evenings of laughs and social banter with Mine Host Craig Davidson keeping things moving and with an overall Christmas theme. It is not a formal fundraiser for the school but primarily a social evening. So pull out the antlers, Santa Hats and tinsel for your table and sign up for a great night. A flyer is elsewhere in the newsletter to claim the date with a venue to be decided based on anticipated numbers. You don't need to know anything about anything (in fact that helps!).

With the school holidays upon us, I wish you all a wonderful break with your children and be safe if you are travelling on the roads.

Michael Hanratty
Principal

Duke of Ed

Trial Expedition to Sydney

Thursday 7 April to Friday 8 April

Students are to meet at Campbelltown Station at 8:15am on Thursday 8 April and to be collected from the Station at approximately 4pm on Friday 8 April. Please ensure that you have checked off the requirements list that has been supplied. If you have any queries regarding any item listed, could you please see Mrs Isbister.



Year 7 2017

If you have a child currently in Year 6, a reminder that the applications for enrolment for Year 7 2017 are to be received in the Office by Friday 8 April, the last day of term. This applies to all applicants, including siblings of present St Benedict's students. Application packages may be obtained from the Office.

COLLEGE MISSION AND VISION

Throughout the last two weeks, the prayer focus has continued to be on the wonderful work of Caritas through their Project Compassion Appeal. In particular we have also focused on almsgiving and fasting, prayer and forgiveness. The focus has been on reminding students of the importance of these concepts, not only during this season, but also in our daily lives. The remainder of the term will continue with stories from project compassion and the significant impact that almsgiving can have on peoples' lives.

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The Easter Liturgy held on Holy Thursday focused on the theme of forgiveness. It was a very engaging liturgy, which had a modern interpretation of the Stations of the Cross, with readings from scripture and music that helped students understand the meaning of the readings. At different stages, students were painting a section of the crucified Christ on canvases. When placed together on the cross, these canvases revealed the image of Jesus. The Liturgy also focused on ideas for forgiveness. Students were offered the opportunity to write down areas in their lives where they could seek forgiveness. In the afternoon we symbolically burnt these and students were challenged to do something about the area they had written down on their paper.

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Caritas fundraising has continued. Students have been enthusiastic with their donations as well as organising the homerooms fundraisers for those in need. This was clearly evident in the recent coin trail, where we were able to raise significant donations. Congratulations to 9.1 for having the longest trail – a total of 10.35m. Congratulations also to 8.1, who raised \$92.50 on the day. Special mention to Year 12 who made a significant contribution on the day. Helping those in need is an imperative of the Church, and Pope Francis, writing in *Evangelii Gaudium* provides two great quotes to consider in this area:

“An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.” (#184)”

None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice: “Spiritual conversion, the intensity of the love of God and neighbour, zeal for justice and peace, the Gospel meaning of the poor and of poverty, are required of everyone.” (#201)

The first quote is significant for our students as we have raised significant donations for those in need, and such a contribution shows the desire of our community to leave other areas better off than they are now. The second reminds us that even though our official fundraising for Caritas finishes, social action initiatives are ongoing at the College as we try and provide opportunities to engage in issues of Social Justice.

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On Friday 18 March, the staff participated their annual staff spirituality day. We were very fortunate to have Abbot John Herbert from the New Norcia community in Western Australia. The New Norcia community is a town that is run as a traditional Benedictine community. It was a wonderful opportunity to listen to the Abbot share his stories and experiences of being the head of the community and living the traditional life in this town. Abbot John was able to help us understand the Benedictine tradition a little better; in particular, the desire to seek God, the importance of stability in life as well as the benefits and challenges of living in community. The spirituality retreat has certainly aided us in understanding the Benedictine tradition in greater depth and given us ideas of how we can develop this in the College.

David Costin

Director of Mission and Vision





TRIVIA NIGHT!

The P&F Committee presents a
**Christmas in July
Trivia Night!**

Saturday August 6 2016.

More details will become
available closer to the date.

watch this space!

PARENT & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

P&F NEWS

April 2016

SAVE THE DATE



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The P&F is excited to present a Christmas in July Trivia Night on Saturday 6th August 2016.

Further details regarding venue, time and costs will be announced soon.



To ensure the trivia night's success, we are currently seeking volunteers to form a committee. Interested parents would be involved in the preparations and organisation of prizes, decorations, tables etc. The more the merrier and after all, many hands make light work!

If you are interested in volunteering for our trivia night committee, please contact Lucy Bautovich on 0402 221151.



The P&F invites parents and carers to a

Morning Tea

on

St Benedict's Feast Day

at

St Benedict's Catholic College

on

Friday 6th May

Following the morning Mass

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the executive team, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all current and new parents and carers.

The P&F is an integral part of St Benedict's Catholic College and provides a formal structure and support network for parents to participate in the activities and decision making processes at the school and to work for the benefit of the school and their children.

We are here to represent the interests of the whole parent body and engage with the college on various P&F related matters.

As the St Benedict's community continues to grow, I urge you to join and assist the P&F through one of our general committees.

P&F general meetings are held throughout the year, dates and times are advertised in the college newsletter and Benny's Bites.

Danny Rodriguez

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We are looking for school uniform donations, which can be brought in to the school office. Rachael is available on the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month at 8am & 2.40pm to assist you. Rachael can be contacted on 0402 247 088 for further enquiries.



NEXT MEETING

Our next P & F meeting is on Tuesday 24th May at 7pm in the College staffroom.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into the St Benedict's P & F community.