Dear Parents

On Friday we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption. The belief was not defined as dogma until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

Although the Magnificat has had numerous musical settings from such composers as Palestrina, Bach and Mozart, it can be recited as well as sung. Its name comes from the first line of its text in Latin ("Magnificat anima mea Dominum") translated in the first line below. Mary proclaims the Lord's greatness with characteristic humility and grace.

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear Him.

He has shown might with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has given help to Israel, His servant, mindful of His mercy
Even as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His posterity forever.

+++++++

Over the last two weeks we have celebrated a number of events. The College Athletics Carnival was won by Polding house and there were a number of records equalled or broken on the day, including some that had stood since our first year in 2011. Congratulations to all students for the spirit shown on the day and a huge thank you to the number of parents who came to support their (grand) children. Special thanks to those parents who assisted the teachers on the day in a variety of roles, often doing so without much of a break. Age Champions will be recognized at the School Assembly in Week 7.

+++++++
Once you have created an account, you will be able to view our entire Menu that features a range of hot and cold foods that adhere to the Healthy Canteen arrangements mandated by the State Government. Much of the hot food is made on site by the Café operators in their own kitchens that have been built as part of Stage 2. Parents can use a variety of methods to top up accounts, and can manage their child’s spending and check items being bought by their children.

Lunch orders are made online through your account. Menu items will change regularly dependent on season and student interest.

At this stage, we are looking at a trial run of the system for Year 10 only for three days from Wednesday in Week 7 (27 August) with the rest of the College beginning in Week 8, week commencing Monday 1 September.

I am sure when you view the variety of items on the menu, you will agree that the café has been well worth waiting for. For many of our parents this is (finally!) the end of packed lunches. And Amen to that.

+++++++

One stage ends....

Last week I met with the principals from Morabito Constructions who have won the tender to construct Stage 3, our Science Lab Block and the Staff Study component of the Administration Centre. They will also be adding nearly 100 car parking spaces at the front of the College. Anticipated start date is September 1 with a conclusion mid 2015. On Friday, the last of the render on the Cloister was applied and the line marking of the Basketball Courts was completed so we should have use of these facilities next week. Exciting times.

+++++++

Coming Up....

Yesterday Year 8 completed the Diocesan Religious Literacy Test. It is not a test of faith, rather an assessment of religious knowledge our students have accumulated in Stage 4. Schools across the Diocese will complete the test and the test is mirrored in the Sydney and Parramatta Dioceses.

In a busy day on Tuesday, Year 8 students will have a variety of presentations from staff about our elective offerings for 2015 in Stage 5. This will be followed on Tuesday evening with a presentation to parents about subject selection in Stage 5 and the Record of Student Achievement (RoSA). The session will be held at the College in the Hospitality (D) Block beginning at 7pm.

Year 9 will have a visit from the staff from Somerset Outdoor Education Centre on Tuesday in preparation for their Outdoor Experience as part of the Leadership Diploma. If you have a child in Year 9 (or 10) you may wish to discuss with them their progress in the Purple or Gold Diploma stages. Attendance at the Outdoor Education programme is a prerequisite for completion of the diploma(s) and completion of the Gold programme in Years 10-11 is a prerequisite for being considered for school leadership in Year 12. Presentation of the Stage 1 ‘Purple’ Diplomas will occur towards the end of year and is an honour bestowed on students who have committed to the College’s Service programme, participated in a variety of extra curricula activities and successfully participated in the Outdoor Education Programme. All activities logged as part of the Leadership Diploma can be added to the students Record of School Achievement (ROSA).

A reminder that our Semester 1 Academic Assembly is being held on the 28 August in the Cloister. Details will be sent home to families whose child will be receiving an award. We are hoping to avoid the cold by starting a little later. For this year only we will not be having our usual inspirational guest speaker as we have grown beyond our current format and will be returning with a whole new format in 2015.

Following the Assembly, we will be having a whole-school photograph taken at the front of B Block to celebrate the completion of our first four years.

Michael Hanratty
Recently, we celebrated our College Feast Day. This day provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the values of our College as well as coming together in community to give thanks and celebrate our many gifts and talents. This year, for the first time, the feast day celebrations were entirely held at our College, with Fr. Michael celebrating Mass in our new COLA. Despite the freezing cold (with single digit temperature readings) it was a beautiful celebration. Fr. Michael blessed our new altar which was designed and constructed by Mr. Shelton.

The middle of the day saw students involved in an amazing race trivia organised by Ms Brady, where homerooms had to answer a series of questions and complete many challenges to earn points. After this we had lunch, and many thanks to the P&F who slaved over the BBQ to provide everyone with a delicious lunch, drink and ice cream.

After lunch we witnessed the many talents of students at our College in Bennies Got Talent. Ms Robino and Mr Davidson organised a wonderful program which had a variety of musical and dramatic performances and showcased the array of talents we have at our College.

Many thanks to the guests, parents, teachers and students who were involved in many aspects of the day and worked hard to ensure it was a success.

Mr David Costin
Director of Mission and Vision.
Science Update…

During the last fortnight, both Year 9 and Year 10 have had opportunities to take their science learning outside of the classroom.

Year 9 spent a day at the Australian Museum in Sydney where they explored concepts related to evolution, natural selection and adaptations of living things. The museum educators led a hands-on session, where students explored fossil evidence and used numeracy skills as well as scientific reasoning to draw conclusions. Students then utilised museum exhibitions to further develop their understanding of evolution, particularly in relation to Australian animals.

Year 10 made it through the security checks and spent a day learning about nuclear science and its applications at ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation). Students drew on the concepts being developed in our current science lessons to answer questions about atomic structure and isotopes. Student participation was excellent in both the lecture and the site tour components of the day. A highlight was learning about the OPAL nuclear research reactor.

Finally, this week is National Science Week and our local area is fortunate to have the Shell Questacon Science Circus public exhibition visiting at the Camden Civic Centre. See the attached flyer for more information.
**Bennies Bring a Blanket**

This year we are once again running our voluntary Social Justice event, Bennies Bring a Blanket. This event will be held after school on Friday 29 August. There are many activities organised for the night which will not only be a lot of fun but will raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and their needs. The cost of the night is $10 and all proceeds raised go to support St Vincent de Paul’s Winter Appeal. Departure times will be staggered with Year 7 finishing at 7pm, Year 8 at 8pm and Years 9 and 10 at 9pm.

There will be a permission note available in homeroom which students are required to fill out if they would like to attend. Anyone who is interested should make sure that they return the note by the due date.

---

**MISA Sport**

Last week our MISA teams fared well against some experienced John Therry teams. A special mention to our MISA Netball teams - Year 7 came away with a win, and Year 8 had a narrow loss by 2 points!

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as the Most Valuable Player for their team;

- Maddison Evans (7-9 Girls Soccer)
- Kaitlyn Sapienza (7 Girls Netball)
- Aaron Orchard and Aaron Saggu (9-10 Boys Basketball)
- Vince Forgione (7-9 Boys AFL)

Just a reminder to our MISA representatives, if you are unable to play on a Tuesday, please let your Coach know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements if we don’t have enough players.

Mrs Pereira

---

**ARNDELL COLLEGE INTERSCHOOL CARNIVAL**

Christine Mougios (Yr 9) and Allirah Hill (Yr 7) recently represented St Benedict’s at the Arndell College Interschool Equestrian Carnival.

**Congratulations**

Christine’s results, competing in the Yr 9 Intermediate section were:
- 1st: Rider
- 2nd: Best Presented
- 3rd: Intermediate Hack 16hh+

**Well Done**

Allirah’s results, competing in the Year 7 Open section were
- 1st: Best presented
- 2nd: Rider
- 2nd: Open Galloway

---

**Reminders: Students Arriving Late to School—after 8:10am**

If your child is not present in their homeroom at 8:10 they will be marked absent on the electronic roll marking system. If your child arrives after 8:10, they are to report to the Front Office before proceeding to their homeroom so that the absence can be adjusted to a late arrival instead of the full day absence. A note in the child’s diary, stating the reason for the late arrival, will satisfy legal requirements.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Youth Ministry has held Spirit Alive Youth Events for the last four years. These popular events offer students and young adults the opportunity to connect with one another at a large event and share their faith in a safe, fun environment. The evenings include music led by youth musicians and singers, a meal (donations welcome), and dynamic input from an inspiring speaker, and are a great opportunity for youth from across the diocese to connect with one another and share faith and life. The details of our next event are:

Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm to 9.30pm; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

The speaker for our next event will be Sr Therese Mills, a Missionaries of God’s Love Sister, who is very experienced in and passionate about youth ministry. She regularly takes young people on mission trips to the most remote parts of Australia and Asia-Pacific, as well as inspiring youth at national conferences like ACYF and Ignite.

The event is supervised by Diocesan staff. Participants are asked to bring a small donation if possible (say $5) to cover the cost of dinner. School uniform is NOT required as this event is organised by Catholic Youth Ministry, Wollongong.

Bishop Peter Ingham has a strong heart for our youth, and is keen for this event to be a real inspiration to our young people. We have included the option of providing contact details on the permission form if you wish to be kept informed about future events.

Kind Regards,

Richard McMahon
Director, Parish Services

Please ensure this form is completed and signed by parent/guardian and brought to the event with those who are under 18.

I, ______________________, give permission for my child __________________ to attend Spirit Alive at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Hall, Friday 12 September 2014, 6.30pm – 9.30pm.

□ I give permission for the Diocesan Office to inform my son/daughter about upcoming events and plans in the area of Catholic Youth Ministry. I am aware my son/daughter will be able to opt out of the contact at any time.

Contact Email for updates: ____________________________________________
Contact mobile for updates: ____________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: __________
Mobile: ____________________________ (best contact in case of emergency)