



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 18 16 December 2016

Dear Parents

This week we celebrated with our students' academic success at our Academic awards ceremony and with our HSC barbecue. Our guest at the Academic assembly was TV star Renee Lim, who spoke with passion about her career as a surgeon, as an academic and as a star in Australian cinema and on the ABC comedy, Please Like Me.

On the day our most significant awards were won by

Love of God: Grace Cremen  
Love of Neighbour: Darcey Christl and Julian Di Giovanni  
Love of Learning: Mia Gibbs-White

The Oran Park Community Spirit Award: Mikayla Gauci  
The ADFA (Australian Defence Force Academy) Award: Maddison Crawford  
The Western Sydney University Award: Emily Winters  
Macarthur Commonwealth Community Award: Maddison Evans and Anthony Conlon  
Victor Chang Science Award: Samantha McCabe

Congratulations to all those students and the many student who have achieved excellence in Semester 2.

We were delighted with our HSC results this week. A huge congratulations to our inaugural 50 Year 12 students on a wonderful set of results. Of note:

Astrid Turner achieved an All Rounders Award with straight Band 6 results across 10 units. Astrid also had an ATAR of 97.05, a wonderful result.

Erin Coppin received an ATAR of 91.5

75% of our subjects scored above the state average, a fantastic collegial result.

Chris Sandrone received full marks for his Industrial Technology project and was shortlisted for DesignTech.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the St Benedict's Catholic College families the joys and blessings of this holy Christmas season. I hope you enjoy a very happy and safe holiday with family and friends.

Merry Christmas,

Michael Hanratty  
Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### JANUARY

**Mon 30** First day for Years 7 & 12 students  
**Tues 31** Years 8-11 commence

### FEBRUARY

**Wed 8** Year 7 Laptop Evening  
**Thurs 9** Yr 7 Laptop Bootcamp-Day 1  
**Fri 10** Yr 7 Laptop Bootcamp-Day 2  
Opening College Mass



## Back to School

Years 7 and 12  
(plus new students other grades)  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Years 8 to 11  
**Tuesday 31 January**

# CATHOLIC MISSION and VISION

As Christmas time fast approaches we are reminded of the beauty of the season and the celebrations that will take place. The last few weeks of term have been both busy and exciting.

## WOLLONGONG YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Wollongong Youth Festival was held recently and students from Year 10 were able to attend this significant event. It was a very long and busy day for our students, leaving the College just after 8am for the trip to Wollongong and returning after 6.30pm. The day included some great sessions and activities that will help prepare students for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival next year. A student report appears below.

## SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action group has been very busy in the last few weeks trying to make a difference to those in need. In particular, we have looked at supporting two particular agencies of the Catholic Church, the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal and the Catholic Mission's Cambodia Appeal. Apart from raising awareness of these two initiatives through the prayer focus, we have looked at helping inform students of these issues by placing information into the messages every morning.

There has been a number of fundraisers for these two campaigns. Firstly was the Great Kahoot challenge. This was a great way of discovering if students had learnt anything from the awareness campaign and to have fun by competing in a Kahoot at the same time. There was a \$20 iTunes card up for grabs for the winner. In the end it was a tight competition, with all students who competed, enjoying the challenge. Congratulations to Christine Mougios who won the event. The following day was 'Cambodia Day' which highlighted the need for education to help break the cycle of poverty in Cambodia. Students could purchase a blue or red ribbon from school to wear for the day in order to support these young people. The final fundraiser was the BBQ at the CAPA night. What a great way to spend a Friday night, watching amazing musical and drama performances, surrounded by the fantastic art works, and raising money for those in need at the same time. It was great to see so many students and teachers involved in these initiatives and I thank all for their commitment in these areas.

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is an important virtue of St Benedict. In the rule, he talks about the importance of being stewards and caring for all things as if they are the sacred vessels of the altar. A recent competition with the theme of Stewardship was the #earthtobennies competition. This competition required students to write a letter to the Principal, outlining the importance of Stewardship in today's world (supported by scripture). Students had to look at initiatives that the school could put into place to further the notion of stewardship. First place in this competition was Emily Azzopardi who has received a \$60 iTunes card, second place was Jessica Maher, who received a \$30 iTunes card, and third place awarded to Olivia Dowling, who received a \$20 iTunes card. Congratulations to all students who entered this competition.

## UNITE

Planning has started on next year's festival. This year, UNITE saw 200 students from Bennies take part in this wonderful youth festival. Next year's festival, which at this stage is still nameless, already has confirmed guests, and even though in its early planning stages, looks as if it will be bigger and better.

As this is the final newsletter of the year, I would like to wish all families a happy and Holy Christmas and look forward to a wonderful 2017.

Mr David Costin  
Director of Mission and Vision

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## Catholic Youth Festival

On Friday of Week 8 several Year 10 students travelled by bus to Wollongong to participate in the first ever Catholic Youth Festival. The bus ride down was a jovial trip with music and general enjoyment from everyone. Upon arrival we were greeted by the Youth Mission team and once we signed in, were directed into the tent in which most of the day's activities would be held. The festival took place from 10:00am and continued until 5:30, at which point most of the students returned home.

The day consisted of many productive and educational activities in which we discussed some of the misconceptions about the Catholic Church. There was a band playing loud, energetic music with an important meaning behind each song. As the day continued we were also taught of the importance of involving our faith and catholic values in our life. The theme of the day was that we should not be afraid to express our faith among those within our life.

Overall, the Catholic Youth Festival was an exceptional experience and it provided great insight to the Catholic faith. It was great to also meet other people from our diocese.

Jake Schloeffel and Anthony Conlon (Yr 10)



## Christmas Mass times 2016

### St Mary Mackillop Parish, Oran Park

Christmas Eve 24 December: 5.00pm and 7.30pm (Outdoor Mass at St Justin's Catholic Primary School, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park)  
Reconciliation: 2nd Rite Monday 5 December 7.00pm;  
1st Rite Thursday 8 December 9am,  
Saturday 10 and 17 December 4.00pm

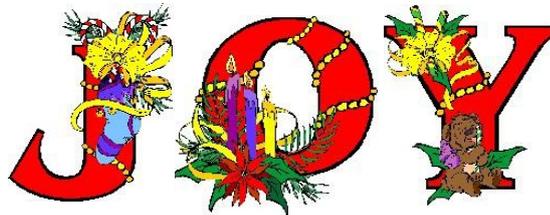
### St Paul's Parish, Camden

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm, 7.00pm, 9.00pm  
Christmas Day: Midnight, 9.00am  
Reconciliation: 1st Rite Saturdays 9.00am;  
2nd Rite Tuesday 20 December 7.00pm



### St Anthony's Parish, Picton/Tahmoor

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm (Menangle), 7.00pm (Tahmoor),  
7.30pm (Douglas Park) (carols from 7.00pm),  
10.30pm (Tahmoor)  
Christmas Day: 9.00am (Tahmoor)  
Reconciliation: 2nd Rite Wednesday 21 December 7.00pm



Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas  
from all at St Benedict's

### Urgent Need for Catechists in our State Schools St Mary Mackillop Parish, Oran Park

Our parish of Oran Park is responsible for the provision of Special Religious Education (commonly known as Scripture classes) in state schools in the parish. This includes Rossmore, Leppington, Harrington Park and Oran Park Public Schools. Next year a number of our catechists are no longer available as they have found full-time employment or have other commitments. Next year Oran Park Public will be doubling in numbers and a large percentage of these children will be Catholic.

We need Catholic adults who are willing to bring the love of Jesus to Catholic children in these schools. The commitment is to be trained (online or in class) to deliver a 30-minute lesson once a week. This is either on a Tuesday or a Wednesday between 12.15 and 1.40pm. To begin we would place you as a helper with a certified teacher so as to get you confident in dealing with children from ages 5-11. You will need a Working with Children check number which we can explain to you. If you can assist please contact the Catechist Coordinator, Kevin Wright, via the parish at 4648 2226 or email [wrightk01@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wrightk01@dow.catholic.edu.au)

Kevin Wright  
Pastoral Associate