



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 17 2 December 2016

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! This week we celebrated the "New Year" of the Church with the First Sunday of Advent. It is the season of new beginnings. A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of transformation and hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. It is the season of longing and light. Week by week, candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. Yet Advent heralds more than Christ's birth. It paves our way toward celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is a profound mystery at the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy at Christmas.

Speaking of new beginnings....at the end of last week, our new Year 7 cohort attended an Orientation Day at the College. As a sign of the times, this was the first time we were able to host 186 new students whilst still conducting classes through the rest of the school. The now-traditional opening of the day with the College Welcome by the student body and march past into the Cloister area by Year 6 students was very moving for the assembled parent body. Proud parents had their camera phones going strong during the procession. Congratulations to Mr Turton, Mrs Newell and the new Year 7 team for providing an excellent introduction to College life for the new members of the community.

In another very significant first for the College, Year 10 student Courtney Schonell was named Diocesan Sportswoman of the Year in a glittering ceremony last Friday night. Courtney has represented the College, the Diocese, the Catholic school system, NSW All-Schools, and now has made the Australian Junior Womens hockey team. She will be travelling to Europe to represent Australia in 2017. Her sister, Karley (Year 11), was also recognised on the night with a Sporting Blue in Hockey.

Congratulations also go to Samantha McCabe who is the 2016 College winner of the Victor Chang Award in Science. The Award, which honours the outstanding work of surgeon Dr Victor Chang who was tragically murdered in 1991, and presented by the Victor Chang Institute, is awarded to outstanding students of Chemistry each year and, amongst other privileges, allows exclusive access to the Cardiac Research Centre at Camperdown.

At the time of going to press, 40 St Benedict's College students are attending the Diocesan Catholic Youth Festival in Wollongong. This is our local festival for youth and is a preview of the Australian Youth Festival which will be held in Sydney at the end of 2017 and will involve tens of thousands of young people from all over Australia. A report will follow in the next newsletter.

Michael Hanratty  
Principal



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DECEMBER

<b>Thurs 8</b>	Duke of Ed - Canberra Day 1
<b>Fri 9</b>	Duke of Ed - Canberra Day 2
<b>Mon 12</b>	Yrs 7-10 Reports distributed
<b>Wed 14</b>	College Closing Mass
<b>Thurs 15</b>	Beach Day
<b>Fri 16</b>	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Pupil Free)

### JANUARY

<b>Mon 30</b>	First day for Years 7 & 12 students
<b>Tues 31</b>	Years 8-11 commence

### FEBRUARY

<b>Wed 8</b>	Year 7 Laptop Evening
<b>Thurs 9</b>	Yr 7 Laptop Bootcamp-Day 1
<b>Fri 10</b>	Yr 7 Laptop Bootcamp-Day 2 Opening College Mass



A huge thank you to the P&F and the parent volunteers who, once again, provided the BBQ lunch for the Year 7 2017 Orientation day last Friday: Clare -Ann Taylor, Libby Tully, Kellie Hanser, Karen Caccamo, Melissa Nicholas, Nichole Pace, Steven Jennings, Catherine Smith, Andrew Parker and Matt Newton.

The continued support by the P&F for this annual event is very much appreciated.

## CATHOLIC MISSION and VISION

As we move into the season of Advent, we are reminded of the joy and beauty that Christmas brings. This is a great time to reflect on the importance of hope and faith. I include quotes from Pope Francis from December 1, 2013 to the crowds in St. Peter's Square.

*"For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is the horizon that makes a good journey,"*

*"The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"*

*"The time of Advent that the Church celebrates in preparation for Christmas is a new journey of the People of God with Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who guides us in history towards the completion of the Kingdom of God."*

*"Let us rediscover the beauty of being together along the way: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and the whole of humanity, the people, the civilizations, the cultures, all together on the paths of time."*

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-advent-is-a-journey-towards-horizon-of-hope/>

St Benedict writes about the importance of silence and listening with the ear of our heart. As I contemplate Advent and the coming of Christmas, I am reminded that in this busy time, it is important to take a moment, in the silence that we create, to listen with the ear of our Heart; to listen to those around us, our family and friends, and to appreciate them being there with us at this special time.

### Prayer Focus—The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



Our prayer focus at the moment is on the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. We are reminded that in this joyous season there will be those in our local community who are struggling to make ends meet. As a result, the Christmas that they experience will be significantly different to others. The St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal provides people with some basic meals and presents on Christmas day. It really is a wonderful opportunity to live the message of Christ as well as put into practice the Benedictine virtue of Love of Neighbour.



### Social Justice Day

Recently, students from Year 10 attended a Social Justice day organised by the Diocese. This is an important day as it allows our students to develop an understanding of the Social Justice Statement for this year, which was "A place at the table". It certainly provides us with a platform to build upon for our Outreach Program at Carrington. Mrs Creswick accompanies some of our Year 11 students to Carr weekly as part of this program and we are certainly keen to investigate ways in which we can further expand and develop our involvement.

### Wollongong Youth Festival

The Wollongong Youth Festival is on today and we are fortunate to be able to send 20 students from Year 10 to this celebration. I look forward to the students returning to school and listening to their experiences. I am confident that this will be a productive day and rewarding experience for them.

### Social Action

The Social Action group remains busy with the great the Kahoot Challenge and Cambodia Day coming up. These are great initiatives to raise funds to support the work of Catholic Mission in Cambodia and I encourage all to get behind this.

Mr David Costin  
Director of Mission and Vision



## Science Excursion to Minnamurra Rainforest

As part of the Science course, Year 8 students visited the Minnamurra Rainforest last week. The excursion was a part of the 'Living Together' unit and the purpose of the visit was to learn about the rainforest as an ecosystem. Students learned about the adaptations of the animals and plants that enable them to survive in a rainforest environment.

The day was forecast to be 36°C, but the temperature under the canopy of the rainforest was a very pleasant 25°C. The students listened to a talk given by the Park Rangers and then were taken on a guided walk through the rainforest. Recess and lunch were eaten in the park surrounded by beautiful bushland and the sounds of many birds. It was a lovely opportunity to take some time out of the school grounds and enjoy a day immersed in nature.

Dr Maria de Lima  
Science Coordinator



## Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Awards for 2016

This year, Samantha McCabe of Year 11, was the recipient of the prestigious Victor Chang Science Award. The award was presented to her on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at a ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Camden. The award recognises the efforts and achievements of Australian school students in the area of Science. Samantha is a well-deserving student who has demonstrated an exceptional work ethic in Biology. She is an independent learner, demonstrating initiative and a positive attitude towards her studies. As part of the award, Samantha will get the opportunity to visit the Institute to learn first-hand about its activities and about a career in science.

Congratulations, Samantha!



## Schonell's Sporting Achievements

On Friday, 18 November, Karley and Courtney Schonell were awarded Blues Awards at the Diocesan Sports Awards, for their achievements in sport throughout the year. The Blues Award is given to the students who have been selected in a NSW All School teams and competed at School Sport Australia events. Both girls have done exceptionally well in their chosen sport of hockey, and their efforts have been recognised with this award.

Courtney was also awarded The Terry White Trophy Most Outstanding Secondary Sportswoman on the night. This award is given to a student that has been selected in a NSW All Schools team or an Australian team. Congratulations Courtney on this great achievement.

Thank you to Karley Schonell and Cate Ives who represented the College on the night and read various students sporting citations.



Miss Julia Liska  
Sports Coordinator

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### Good Luck Cooper

Cooper Burton Year 9 is representing Australia in the Australian Deaf Football men's team against Nepal on 3 December. We congratulate him on his selection and wish him good luck for Saturday.

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### Reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews for Years 7 to 10

Reports for students in Years 7 to 10 will be distributed on **Monday 12 December**.

Teachers will be available from 10:30am to 2:30pm on Friday 16 December for Year 7-10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews.

To make an appointment could you please contact the required teacher directly via their email address, or, if this is not possible, you may phone the office and a message will be passed on the teacher for them to contact you to make a suitable time. Staff email addresses can be accessed via the College website under the Wellbeing tab → Our Staff.

### **Duke of Ed Bronze Trial Expedition Canberra**

Reminders to students attending the Duke of Ed trip to Canberra:

- \* Students will be departing from the College at **7am** on Thursday 8 December.
- \* Students will return at approximately **4pm** on Friday 9 December.
- \* Please check that you have **all** of the required items on the list provided.
- \* Students are to bring their own morning tea and lunch for Day 1 and money for lunch on Day 2.



### **Request .....**

If any students are leaving the College at the end of the year could families please notify us as soon as possible.

We have a long waiting list of students seeking places at St Benedict's and would like to be able to offer them a position for 2017, before the end of the year if possible.

Many thanks.

### **End of Year Mass and Semester 2 Awards**

**Wednesday 14 December**

**Mass commences at 9:15am**

**Awards Ceremony commences at 10:45am**

Parents of students receiving an award at the ceremony will be notified next week.





ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# CAPA SHOWCASE NIGHT!

DRAMA

MUSIC

PHOTOGRAPHY

VISUAL ARTS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 2016

COLA | T3

6PM – 8PM

COFFEE | SLUSHIES |  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE



## RANIER UNIFORM NEWS

**AVOID THE LAST MINUTE RUSH**  
**Please come in now**  
**to purchase your uniform needs.**

**Last trading day for 2016 - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Regular trading commence - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**

### Additional Trading Days January 2017

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm – 6.00pm  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 1.00pm

### Book Fitting Appointment

#### ONLINE



VISIT: [RANIER.COM.AU](http://RANIER.COM.AU)

Click on 'Your Uniform Shop'

School password: stb2570

Student ID from the school

**\*New students:** Click on  
"Fitting Appointment"

#### PHONE



02 4647 8942

Mrs Kara Delaunev

*If there's no answer, please  
leave a message and your  
call will be returned on the  
next trading day.*

#### EMAIL



[stbenedict@ranier.com.au](mailto:stbenedict@ranier.com.au)

#### Shop Location

5/6 Porrende St,  
Narellan

### Normal Trading Days (During School Terms)

**Tuesday 9.00am – 1.00pm & Thursday 2.00pm – 6.00pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month - 9.00am – 1.00pm**

#### Payment

Cash / Eftpos / Visa / Mastercard (1.5% credit card surcharge applies)



RANIER