



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 2 16 February 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Tues 16	Yr 7 2016 Parents (FAQ) Evening
Fri 19	UNITE Festival Yr 11 Sen. Science & Biology Excursion
Wed 24	Swimming Carnival (Competitors only)
Thurs 25	Yr 12 Parents' Workshops Dio Boys Touch Footy
Fri 26	Yrs 9 & 10 PASS Excursion

MARCH

Tue 1	Yr 7 Backpack talks
Fri 4	Blessing & Opening of Stages 1,2&3
Mon 7	Dio Girls Touch Footy
Tues 8*	P&F AGM 7pm @ College
Thurs 10	Dio Swimming Carnival
Fri 11	College Cross Country Carnival
Wed 16	Yr 7 2017 Information Evening
Thurs 17	Yr 7 Vaccinations #1
Fri 18	Staff Development Day-Pupil Free
Mon 21	HSC Half Yearly Exams commence
Fri 25	Good Friday Holiday
Mon 28	Easter Monday Holiday

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 End of Term 1

BREAKING NEWS

*Please note the change of date of the
P&F AGM
to **Tuesday 8 March**, commencing at 7pm
at the College.

All parents/carers are invited to the
Parents and Friends Association Annual
General Meeting.

The St Benedict's P&F does not undertake
fundraising activities, as families
contribute via the P&F levy. The P&F, in
consultation with the Principal, is
responsible for determining the way in
which the funds can be best spent.
Various working groups within the P&F
are responsible for such things as Second
Hand Clothing Pool, Working Bees, Care
and Hospitality groups. P&F meetings also
offer the chance to discuss issues that
parents may raise and may also provide
guest presenters to address key areas of
parent interest.

Come along and help make a difference.

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we started preparations for the Lenten season, a time when we reconnect with the story of Jesus. In this time of Lent we hope and pray that we will hear God's call and that it will bring us closer to Him. At school, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes in the quad with Year 10 students raising money for Caritas. Ashes were distributed in a moving liturgy on Wednesday morning.

Mr Costin and the student leaders are doing an excellent job on raising awareness and funds for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion with innovative fundraising ideas happening throughout the school. I also congratulate our the many Senior students who have taken up ministry to become Catechists. They completed their training with Sr Anne-Marie Gallagher, Mr Costin and members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team last week. We look forward to seeing them in our local public schools in the coming months.

Our annual Youth Spirituality Festival has had a rebranding to "Unite" and will be held this Friday night. It was exciting to see, at the time of writing, nearly 200 students will be attending. It promises to be a fantastic evening of song, fun activities and prayerful reflection.

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Year 7 continue to impress with their very calm transition to St Benedict's and life at High School. The laptop distribution evening was held in Week 2 and our Parents and Friends Executive hosted a welcome supper for the families with tasty morsels supplied by Made Fresh, our café partner. This week we are hosting our first P(arent)-Plate evening for first-time High School parents. A lot of the most frequently asked questions we have heard in our first six Year 7 cohorts will be addressed on the night. Over 100 parents have already signed up and we look forward to meeting with you once again.

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Thank you to all parents for their patience with the new traffic arrangements in the car park. The concrete paths leading from the current bus bay will be laid shortly and that will provide a safer walking experience for all students and a much longer 'Drop Zone' for parents who drive their children to school. This will mean a significantly quicker drop off in the morning in particular. This week we also have another "first" as we begin our parking arrangements for Year 12 students who have secured their parking permits.

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Parents will have received an invitation to the Blessing and Opening of Stages 1-3 of St Benedict's which will be held on March 4. Bishop Peter Ingham will conduct the Blessing and Mr Chris Patterson MLA, who has been a great supporter and frequent visitor to the College since it opened, will open the buildings. I encourage parents who wish to attend to RSVP as soon as possible as space is very limited. It is our intention that Years 10-12, invited guests and parents will be seated in the Cloister and Years 7-9 will have the ceremony live streamed to classrooms. For those of you unable to attend, we are investigating the possibility of having the event livestreamed on the web. We will update the information next week.

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St Benedict's Catholic College - Skoolbag App

Are you using the Skoolbag App? Many parents are making use of this valuable addition to our communication outlets. The St Benedict's Skoolbag App is available for iPhone and Android. This will provide links to the College calendars, coming events, newsletters and important notes and announcements. There is also the ability to notify us of Student Absences and of Changes to Address and phone number details.

You can download this **FREE** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play site (for Android phones). Use the search: **Skoolbag St Benedict** and download.

Senior Maths Study Group (year 11 and 12)

**General Mathematics
Mathematics 2 unit
Mathematics Extension
Wednesdays after school:
2:45pm – 3:45pm
Room B1**

Come along and enjoy a relaxed, informal atmosphere with other senior maths students.

Get all your maths needs sorted with the help of one or more of the Maths staff.
Prepare for upcoming assessment tasks.
Complete homework.
Begin/continue revision for assessments.
Practice past HSC exam questions.

See you there!!

It seems hard to believe it is that time again, but this week our annual Roadshow will be visiting St Paul's, St Anthony's and St Justin's with current Year 7 & 8 students and Mr Turton. They will be speaking about their experience of schooling at St Benedict's. It is enrolment season again and families with children in Years 6 (and 4 & 5) will be welcome to attend our **Information Evening at the Camden Civic Centre on Wednesday 16 March at 7pm**. The Civic Centre continues to be a comfortable, central location for families and can accommodate the 700 or so people who have attended each of the last two years' sessions. If you or family friends are intending to select St Benedict's College for Year 7 in 2017, Enrolment Packs will be available on the night.

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Information will also be on the agenda at our first Year 12 Evening to be held on site on the 25th February at 7pm. Targeted information and education sessions on Pathways from Year 12, including University and ATAR information, TAFE and Apprenticeships, will be distributed in a series of workshops. All Year 12 parents are invited to attend this important evening.

Have a great week

Michael Hanratty
Principal

Construction for the Future

The Year 12 Construction class were involved in a couple of large projects at the end of 2015 that formed part of their competency assessment for the course. They built four picnic tables out of a blend of mixed Australian hardwoods. Students worked in pairs to complete this task.

The next part of the task was to excavate an area 22 metres squared, outside the new Science Labs. This area was flagged as an outdoor learning space for the science classes to utilise. The excavation proved to be a relatively easy task as the soil was still freshly turned from the construction of the building.

Students were then required to build the formwork to hold the slab, paying particular attention to the required levels to ensure water would run away from the building. They also had to plan around some existing underground services such as sewerage inspection pits.

The project was completed with the students laying of 3.2 cubic metres of concrete and installing the picnic tables on the slab once cured.

The students involved in the assessment were Chris Sandrone, Lachlan Abbott, Hayden Knoll, Jack Chiswick, Reece Meredith and Andrew Robinson

The College thanks them for their efforts. The students should be proud of the fact that the area will be used by many groups of students well into the future.

Mr Shelton
TAS & VET Coordinator

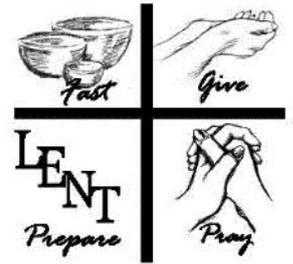


Catholic Life update:

The Lenten season is upon us and this is a critical season of the Church in preparing for Easter. During Lent, we focus on several areas, such as prayerfulness, almsgiving, forgiveness and fasting.

Bishop Peter in his Lenten Pastoral Message 2016 reminds us of these and the importance that mercy plays in our lives:

“Lent is a program of spiritual exercises of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to strengthen us to help us grow in our spiritual life and open us up to receive God’s mercy so that you and I will become merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful.”



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and students at St Benedict’s were involved in liturgies with their homerooms to celebrate this significant day. Students were involved in many aspects of the liturgies and some of our senior leaders also distributed ashes.

Mr Davidson recently took two of our Year 9 Social Action leaders, Carol Halim and Claude Abdallah, to Holy Spirit Bellambi for the launch of Caritas’ Project Compassion. Once again the students had a wonderful experience by partaking in the liturgy and listening to the experiences of those around our world who have helped Caritas.

Every homeroom has been challenged with organizing activities that will help raise funds for Project Compassion during Lent. Several homerooms have already begun planning their activities and are almost ready to run their fundraiser. Good luck to all homerooms in their endeavours.

I am also very pleased to be able to report that our Catechist training program was a great success. 20 students in year 10 will now actively engage in this important ministry of teaching the catholic students in our local government primary schools. The program will start in a couple of weeks and I know that the students are very excited.

The UNITE festival is this coming Friday and there will be approximately 200 students attending this event. This is a Catholic youth festival that aims to promote the understanding of acceptance and harmony for all. St Benedict talks about the importance of being hospitable people – an important Benedictine virtue. An important step in learning to be hospitable is accepting all people for who they are, regardless of their culture, differences or background. Several Year 11 students have had a key role in planning the festival and will use this as part of their Gold Leadership Diploma. I know that the students attending on Friday night will have a great night and I look forward to the evening. A reminder to parents of students attending the UNITE festival, that it concludes at 8pm and parents and families should ensure that they collect their child at this time

Mr David Costin
Director of Mission and Vision

Mater Dei PEACE EGG for sale this Easter.

Most of us will spend money on chocolate eggs at Easter time.

The PEACE EGG provides a terrific opportunity for you to purchase a Chocolatier Australia chocolate egg as well as do something special for others...money raised from the sale of this egg helps to fund some of the community based programs that help improve the quality of life for children with intellectual disabilities at Mater Dei, Camden.

We are taking orders to support the Mater Dei appeal. Order forms have been distributed through Pastoral Classes and copies are available from the College office. Completed orders with full payment (exact change only) must be returned to the office in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Peace Egg Order” with your child’s name and Pastoral Class on the front by **Wednesday 2 March**. Late orders will not be accepted.

Prices: \$4 each for the Original Peace Egg (100g, 12cm tall) or \$42 for a carton of 12 Peace Eggs
 \$10 for 160g Peace Egg gift box (4 x 40g eggs)

Many thanks!!

Year 7 2017

Information Evening

Wednesday 16 March

7pm

Camden Civic Centre

Enrolment packages will be available on the night, and from the College office from Thursday 17 March.

Interview times will be arranged for Term 2 on submission of the completed application form. Offers of places for 2017 will be sent at the end of Term 2.

The Staff and Students
of St Benedict's Catholic College

extend an invitation

to

Parents and Carers

to the

**Official Blessing and Opening
of the
Buildings of Stages 1, 2 and 3**

on

Friday 4 March

at

9:45am for a 10:00am start

Limited places are available. Please RSVP to Mrs Helen James at jamesh02@dow.catholic.edu.au by Monday 22 February.

Year 12 Parent Workshops

(Notes to be returned by Thursday 18 February)

A note will be distributed this week to Year 12 students with an invitation to students and parents to attend workshops to be held on Thursday 25 February, commencing at 7pm. The purpose of these workshops will be to prepare students for their future by providing information that is critical to success in the HSC and beyond.

Café News

Just a reminder that there will be **no meat products** served in the Café on Fridays during Lent. Fish burgers will be available on these days as well as many vegetarian, cheese and egg products.

St Anthony's, Tahmoor

The first FAMILY/YOUTH Mass for 2016 @ St. Anthony's Church, Tahmoor, will be on Saturday February 27 @ 6:00pm. There will be the usual GREAT band, the AMAZING choir, a very keen group of Liturgical dancers and of course all the Families that make our Parish so very SPECIAL. Refreshments will be served after Mass, so come along and share in this remarkable FEAST.

blue illusion INVITES YOU

To attend a Fashion Parade

24th February 2016, 12pm - 3pm

339 Bong Bong St, Bowral

All proceeds raised will go to the

Lipstick Luncheon Event

6th May 2016 at the Cube, Campbelltown

For the Children of Mater Dei Camden



Triple P Positive Parenting Program

A free, 7-part series workshop designed
for parents of teenagers

The course includes information on:

- Positive parenting
- Encouraging appropriate behaviour
- Managing problem behaviour
- Dealing with risky behaviour
- Implementing parenting routines

Dates: March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th and 26th 2016

Workshops are once a week with telephone support sessions included.

Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm (please arrive at 5.45pm for registration)

Where: Level 2 - Momenta Advisors Room, Oran Park Podium Shopping Centre
351 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park NSW 2570

For information and bookings, please contact the Reconnect Program on
(02) 4629 5170 or (02) 4629 5137