



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 1 2 February 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Wed 3	P&F Year 7 Welcome Evening & Laptop distribution
Thurs 4	Laptop Bootcamp
Fri 5	Laptop Bootcamp
Mon 8	Catechist Training
Tues 9	Project Compassion Launch Shrove Tuesday
Wed 10	Ash Wednesday
Tues 16	Year 7 FAQ Evening (new parents)
Fri 19	UNITE Festival Yr 11 Senior Science Excursion
Tues 23	P&F AGM
Wed 24	Swimming Carnival (Competitors only)
Thurs 25	Yr 12 Parents' Workshops Dio Boys Touch Footy
Fri 26	Yrs 9 & 10 PASS Excursion
Mon 29	Yrs 11 & 12 D&T Excursion

MARCH

Tue 1	Yr 7 Backpack talks Yr 11 Construction Excursion
Fri 4	Blessing & Opening of Stages 1,2&3

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the new Academic Year and, to our many first-time St. Benedict's parents across the school from Yrs 7-11, welcome to our College community. I hope your Christmas season was filled with many blessings and you enjoyed a restful time with your children. No doubt many families are even happier for the blessing of school returning at this time!

Our new school year opens with many new faces amongst the staff and you will see them all introduced below. Our College student population now numbers close to 700 and our teaching staff numbers have grown to 50. More importantly, the addition of our new Year 7 cohort, now makes our College whole as a full Years 7-12 school for the first time. So this is a truly historic year for the school. At the other end of the school that means we are preparing our first group of students for the rigours of the HSC and the variety of pathways that they have chosen for their post-school options.

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Any parent who used the student drop-off area this week will have noticed the new entryway and parking arrangements. The student drop-off can now occur in two locations: outside the College Reception where students can then walk along the fenced-off walkway to the Cloister OR, as previously, outside Blocks B & C near the Food Technology classroom. If you have not driven in to the school please note there is now a sharp left hand turn at the old administration building to take you to the front apron of St Benedicts. Please note that the gate to the College at the crossing is open from 7:45am.

Students being picked up in the afternoon will now be waiting at B Block only. No student will be allowed to sit anywhere on the St Justin's property including the verandah of the old Administration building. Those families with children waiting for St Justin's siblings at 3:20 should be aware that the College does not provide supervision for these students after 3pm and they will also be held in a waiting area by B Block until they are dismissed from the property.

As always, please be patient. As both schools grow arrangements will continue to adapt. If you wish to avoid the traffic can I plead with you to encourage your children to use the school buses that travel close to 95% of our families homes.

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We had confirmation last Friday from Minister Piccoli's Office that the date of the College Opening and Blessing will be Friday March 4th. This will involve the official declaration of Stages 1, 2 and 3 open and a Blessing by Bishop Peter Ingham of the facilities. Details of arrangements for parents including an opportunity to attend will be sent home in the next week.



LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION & P&F WELCOME for new parents and students

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Session 1: 6:30pm to 7:30pm
(7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

Session 2: 7:30pm to 8:30pm
(7.4, 7.5, 7.6)

New students in Yrs 8, 10 & 11 can choose either session.

Drinks and light refreshments provided by the P&F.

Come and see your child's classroom and inspect the facilities.

Absences from School

If your child is away from school it is a **legal requirement** that the parent/carer notifies the school of the reason for the absence within 5 school days. This can be done by a phone call to the College office, by email, by a letter produced on the student's return or by a response to an automatic email sent on the day of the absence. (The automated absence emails are sent if your child has been marked either absent or late to school.)

If no reason has been supplied by the parent/carer within this time period, the student's absence will be recorded as Unjustified.

If your child is **late** to school they are to report to the College office so that the rolls can be adjusted. The student's diary will be stamped with a Late Arrival stamp. A note from the parent/carer written in the diary is acceptable for late arrivals or early departures.

If your child is to leave school **early**, they are to bring their note to the College office before homeroom, or after they have been marked on the roll in homeroom. The diary will be stamped with an Early Leavers stamp with the time they are to be picked up written in the diary. It is the student's responsibility to show the stamp in their diary to the teacher of the class they are to leave. **Please note**, if students are being picked up they are to make their own way to the office for signing out. They are **not** to wait for someone to come and get them. (Students will be sent for in unexpected or exceptional circumstances.)

Please be aware that homeroom commences at 8:10am. Students are expected to have been to their locker and be lined up at 8:05am.

If students are late due to the late arrival of buses, they are to report to the office so that the rolls can be adjusted. This late arrival is recorded with a special notation.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office if you have questions or concerns in regard to Student Absences.

Year 7 Parents have two important evenings coming up. This Wednesday Evening (February 3) is the P&F Welcome and Laptop Distribution Evening, which we have combined as one big event this year. Come and see your child's classroom, inspect the facilities and meet some of their teachers in an informal way. Finger food and drinks are provided courtesy of our fantastic Parents and Friends Association, which I urge all families to join by attending meetings or joining one of the Working Groups. On February 16th we will be holding a "Year 7/High School FAQ Evening" for the first time. This evening is for the large number of parents whose oldest child is now in a Catholic High School and will help parents understand the world of high school at St Benedicts.

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The Lenten Season is on us very early this year with Ash Wednesday significantly on the Feast of St Scholastica (Benedict's twin sister) on February 10. The College will once again be involved in the distribution of the Ashes on that day. Some of our student leaders will also be involved in the Caritas Project Compassion launch on Shrove Tuesday at Holy Spirit College, Bellambi.

Michael Hanratty
Principal

A very warm welcome to our additional staff in 2016.

Leadership Team:

1. Mr Alan Jolly, General Coordinator, Mathematics.

Middle Leaders/Coordinators

2. Mrs Maria de Lima, Science Coordinator
3. Mrs Rachel Newell, Year 7 Coordinator, English
4. Mrs Julie Keedle, Learning Support Coordinator, HSIE
5. Ms Karina Lemon, Careers and Pathways Coordinator, TAS
6. Mr Jim Gallagher, Information Services and Library

Teaching Staff

7. Mrs Heather Brown, Science
8. Ms Sheree Santos, Language
9. Mrs Jennifer Koryzma, Music
10. Mr Bradley Gavin, TAS
11. Ms Jane Kelleher, Mathematics
12. Sr Anne-Marie Gallagher, RE.

Support Staff

13. Mr Stuart Topham, Grounds and Maintenance
14. Mrs Kerrylee Hemenstall, Registrar.

A number of teachers are replacing staff on Maternity or other leave for a period throughout the year.

15. Ms Julia Liska, PDH, who will also be acting as our Sport Coordinator
16. Ms Rebecca Riedel PDH
17. Mr Gavin Bates, Science
18. Mr Steve Bulfon HSIE

Late to School

Time.....

Note Rec'd

Office.....

Early Leaver

Time

Office

Return

Time

Office

Catholic Life and Mission update:

In 2016 the College will offer many activities and opportunities for students to develop their understanding of our faith. Students and families are encouraged to take advantage of these as they arise.

One such opportunity is through our Catechist program. In conjunction with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Year 10 students at St Benedict's will be afforded the opportunity to undertake a training program that will give them skills that will enable them to be a Catechist. Once this training day is completed, students will assist trained Catechists from the parish, to deliver the good news to those students in our State schools. This is a really exciting program that will reaffirm our students Love of God, Love of Neighbour and Love of learning as well as continuing to build community spirit.

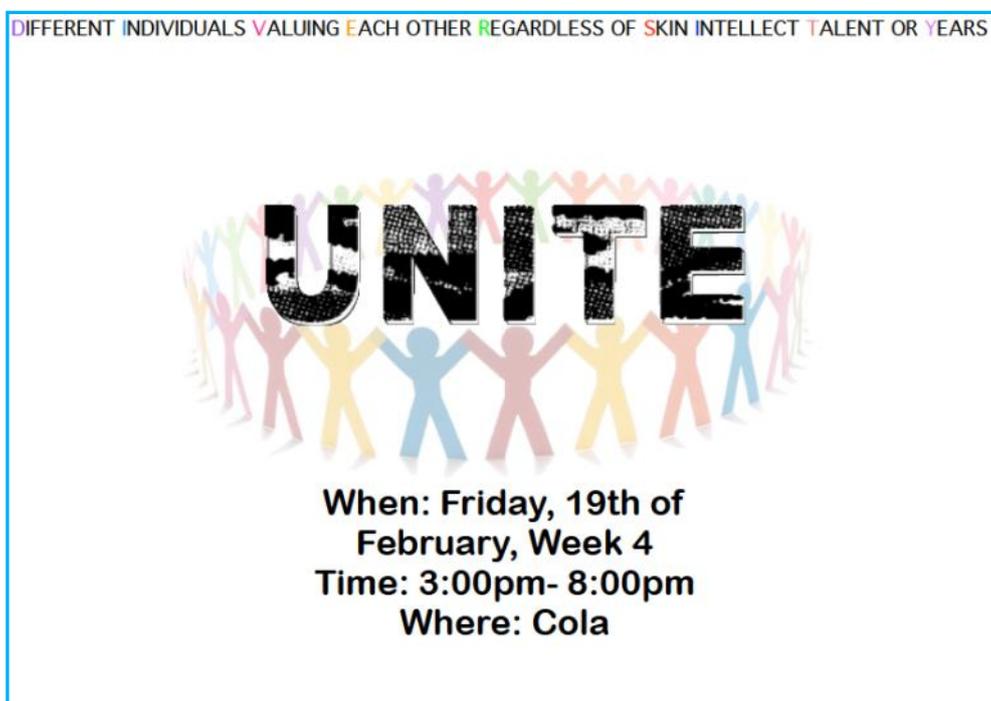
Caritas is a Catholic Agency that runs the annual Project Compassion appeal. Over the last few years, families at St Benedict's have strongly supported this wonderful cause. Students have been very active in organising fundraisers which are aimed at creating awareness of those in need as well as raise funds to support people who have very little. We will support Caritas in their initiatives again this year. Students, in their homerooms, will organise a variety of stalls and activities in order to achieve these goals.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent - a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and ashes are marked on our foreheads to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told "Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return." Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. At school, students will have an opportunity to receive Ashes and partake in the ritual. Students will be reminded of the importance of this day and the purpose that it serves.

The UNITE festival is fast approaching. Some families may remember the BURN festival from last year, which was a great success. UNITE will be similar to the BURN festival but will have different themes and therefore different activities. The themes this year is based around the notion of the acceptance of others and harmony. There are many fun and rewarding activities that have been planned by the organising committee. Students are strongly encouraged to attend this wonderful event. The cost is a gold coin donation – but this would not be an impediment to attendance. Two guest presenters have been booked to help ensure the evening is a great success.

David Costin

Director of Mission and Vision.



URGENT REMINDER

Students are expected to have all equipment for class. This includes having their laptop charged. Laptops should be charged every evening.

It is also the student's responsibility to backup their laptop **at least once a week**. All students are issued with a Backup hard disk which is configured to do a backup automatically, but it needs to be plugged in every week. You can check when the last backup has been done by clicking on the 'clock shaped' icon (not the time display), in the top bar.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL



This year the St Benedict's Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 24 February **for competitive swimmers only**. A variety of circumstances has led to this decision including the availability of dates, and venues that could accommodate the number of students. Letters will be going out to all students which will include an entry form to be completed by those students wishing to participate.

The St Benedict's Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool is run on a voluntary basis by members of the P&F. Mrs Rachael Zappia will be available to open the Clothing Pool this Friday at 8:00am and again at 2:40pm. Could you please phone Rachael on 0402 247 088 to arrange for her to meet you.

Has your child grown out of their uniform, or are they now into the senior uniform? We would greatly appreciate donations to the Clothing Pool of clean uniforms in good repair. Please drop any donations into the College office.



Many thanks.

St Benedicts Equestrian Interschool's Team

2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the equestrian team. If any student is interested in joining please contact Kylie Hill 0408207162 or anaky@bigpond.com for more information. You must have your own horse and be willing to purchase the team uniform.

We look forward to welcoming our new year 7 team members! Could all current and new members please verify if they will be continuing this year and complete the following form and return to the school office ASAP. Once I verify the information I have on file I will send out a mini Equestrian newsletter.

Parent's name:

Team member's name:

Student's Year Group:

Parent's mobile phone number:

Parent's email address:

Do you have a saddle cloth? Yes No

Do you have a browband? Yes No

Happy riding!





The Mater Dei Early Intervention Program invites you to a **Transition to School Workshop** presented by Pamela Templeton, Director of Services.

You have a choice as the workshop will be presented on the following days:

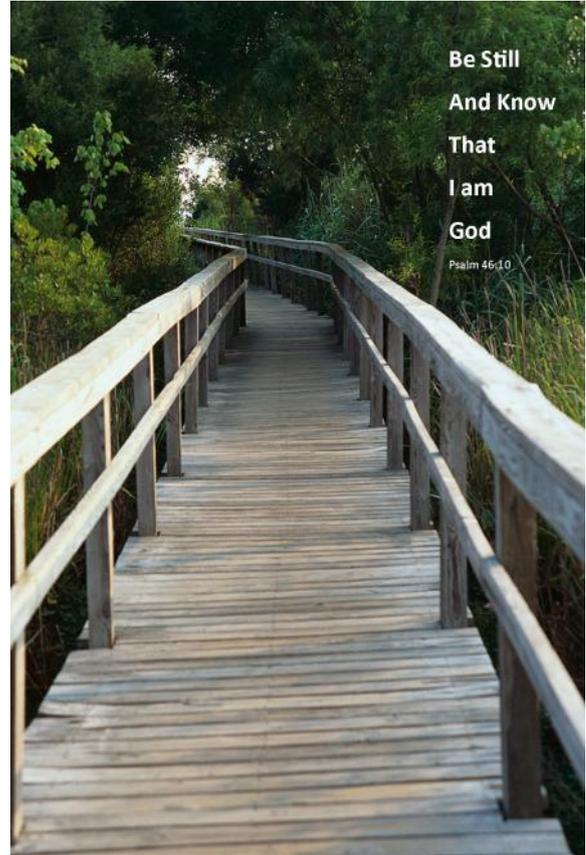
Monday 07 March 2016
 Tuesday 08 March 2016
 Wednesday 09 March 2016
 Thursday 03 March 2016
 Friday 04 March 2016
 from 12.15pm—2pm

How do families navigate to the most



appropriate Kindergarten placement for their children?

RSVP Friday 26 February 2016 on 4654.8726 or by email: MDEIPadmin@materdei.org.au as limited places are available.



Be Still
 And Know
 That
 I am
 God

Psalm 46:10

Challenging Behaviours Collaboratively Workshops



BRIEF THERAPY SOLUTIONS
Managing Challenges Collaboratively



The workshop is aimed at parents only with children diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), or Conduct Disorder (CD) or challenging behaviour.

Highlights

- └ Child development and the relationship to seriously challenging behaviours
- └ Looking for and identifying lost skills in AD/HD, ODD, CD.
- └ Parents as partners in managing behaviour
- └ Strategies to reduce outbursts

The very popular programme developed by Dr Steve Walker will be presented by Ms Carmel Flavell, MasterChild/Adoles.Welfare, BA(Socio/Wom'sStudies), TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

This workshop is not for workers. For families only.
 Venue: Busy Bee Kindy 102 Merlin Street, The Oaks
 Date: Thursday 4th February 2016 and every Thursday after until Thursday 24th March 2016. Time: 6.30 pm-8.30 pm. Cost: Gold coin donation.
 All sessions need to be attended.
No child care available. To register phone Phone: (02) 46832776






YOGA & CHILL

camden library

10 FEB — 30 MAR
Wednesdays
 3:45-4:30pm

\$50 per term
 BYO yoga mat

Worried about your assignments? Worried about exams? Worried about your friends? High school can fill your head with worries. Yoga & Chill is a time where you can put aside those worries and learn skills to cope in times of pressure or stress. 12-18 years.

bookings essential
library.camden.nsw.gov.au/bookings

Depression, Anxiety and young people just not coping is becoming more and more prevalent. This year Camden Libraries is aiming to help, by running a new after school program, [Yoga & Chill](#). The program will go through the usual yoga exercises plus other chill activities whilst aiming to develop mindfulness and teach skills to cope in times of stress or pressure coming from home, school or friendships.