



St Benedict's

Catholic College

Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 4 17 March 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

Wed 18.... Vaccinations #1 Year 7

Fri 20 College Cross Country

April

Wed 1 Yrs 9 & 10 PASS Excursion

Thurs 2 Yrs 7 & 11 Transition Reports distributed

..... Applications for Yr 7 2016 due

..... **Last day of Term 1**

TERM 2

April

Mon 20.... First Day of Term 2

Wed 22.... Dio Boys Soccer

..... Dio Girls Touch Footy

Thurs 23 .. Yr 10 Duke of Ed Day 1

..... Yr 7 History/Art Excursion Day 1

Fri 24 Yr 10 Duke of Ed Day 2

..... Yr 7 History/Art Excursion Day 2

Reminders

- **Parents of Yrs 8-11 to complete Parent Survey (attached)**
- **Year 7 Immunisations tomorrow (Wednesday)**
- **Applications for Year 7 2016 close on Thursday 2 April**

School Fee Account

A reminder that the 1st Instalment of the School Fee Account is due on Friday 27.

(Please note that this due date does not apply to those who have a regular payment plan in place or have made alternate arrangements with Mr Hanratty.)

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the past week, we have seen across New South Wales, the celebration of Catholic School's week. This is an opportunity for us as a Catholic Community and a system of schools to celebrate all the things that are life-giving and provide growth within the College. The naming of a specific week helps us to focus on the many experiences that are provided for our students to show their love of God, love of learning and love of neighbour. It is a time to celebrate the many gifts of our staff and students and the families from which we all come. We must however, be sure not to forget that this is a celebration of what continually occurs week in and week out, throughout the year.

As a way of recognising the importance of our faith and commitment, a number of our staff attended the Wollongong Diocesan Mass held at the co-cathedral at Fairy Meadow last Wednesday. At this Eucharistic celebration, our Director, Peter Turner, launched the next phase of our 'Lighting the Way through Faith and Learning' document. This is a vision and strategic direction that will assist us in our commitment, as stated by Bishop Peter, to 'continue being an integral part of the work of the Church in our part of the world'.

This commitment to developing the whole person of the students and staff in our care continued during this past week with the Pastoral days held for our Year 9 and 10 students and the Spirituality Day held last Friday on our staff development day. All of these groups went off-site to spend a day to reflect and hear speakers who entertained and provided laughs but also delivered a clear message of the hope and positive outcomes that come with following the message and person of Jesus Christ. This was again highlighted with the 'Burn Festival' which occurred last Friday afternoon and evening at the College and was attended by over 130 students. This festival was an awareness raising event, built strongly from our love of neighbour where students played activities, reflected, prayed and learned about the plight of the less fortunate within our community. The event culminated in adoration of the Eucharist, led in celebration by Fr Joseph. All of these events were organised and coordinated by Mr Costin (our Director of Mission) and would not have been possible without his selfless dedication and organisational skills. Congratulations Mr Costin.

We are also currently in a professional development phase where each of our faculty Coordinators are meeting with their colleagues from across the diocese to talk about, and work on, programs and assessment tasks that reflect best practice. Some of our Year Coordinators have also been at training to assist with students at risk and provide opportunities to reflect on their skills in dealing with students who need this extra attention.

As always, there is an enormous amount of activity and opportunity occurring within the College. I thank the staff, students and families for all of your hard work and continued support.

Mr Steve Lo Cascio
Acting Principal

Happy St Patrick's Day



VACCINATIONS

The first of the vaccinations for Year 7 in 2015 will be offered this Wednesday 18 March. This will be for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and the Varicella (Chicken Pox), Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Year 11 students will be offered the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine in Term 2. This is only required if they have not had a previous 1st or 2nd dose. Forms are to be returned by the morning of Wednesday 18 March.

The consent forms were distributed last week. Please return the **fully completed forms** to your child's Academic Care teachers if you wish to participate in the programme.

YEAR 7 2016

Students at Catholic feeder primary schools as well as siblings of present students are reminded that the applications for positions at St Benedict's in Year 7 2016 close on the last day of Term 1, Thursday 2 April.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

We have been notified by Ranier that the new shop at 6/5 Porrende Street, Narellan (behind Bunnings) now has a new phone number: 4647 8942 or you can email them at: stbenedict@ranier.com.au

Ranier also wish to advise that, as of 1 April, there will be a 10% price increase on all stock.

Café Cards

Purchases from the Café can only be made with the student ID card. In order for the card to work it needs to be linked to your account. Once you have registered with FlexiSchool and set up your payment method, you will need to add your student then link the card number from the ID card to the account.

Students who lose their ID cards can order a replacement at the Office. The cost of the new card is \$11.

Students may place their orders for recess and lunch at the Café before school or during the recess break, without having to go on line.

Week 7 Tuesday 10th March 2015

College Sport

Another week of glorious weather meant that students could make the most of Sport activity time. Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs for Week 7;

Brielle Brown (7A, Sports-fun)
Ethan Aquilina (7B, Swimming)
Emma Hooton (7D, Zumba)
Jessica McGlynn (7C, AFL)
Allirah Hill (8A, NRL)
Joshua Meadows (8B, Taekwondo)
Jack Smart (8C, Clinic)
Deacon Natsia (9A, Maximum Skating)
Monique Rossato (9B, Bodywar)
Fletcher Brown (10A, HYPE)
Abbygail Petrovski (10B, Crossfit)
Harry Lottey (11A, Tennis)
Hayden Knoll (11B, F45)

MISA Sport

Round 5 of MISA saw our teams come up against Macarthur Anglican High School. We came away with three losses and three wins, well done!

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs;

Haylee Drieman - Girls Oztag
Thomas Walker - Boys Oztag
Jayde Bermingham - Girls Basketball
Demi-Elise Cavallaro - Girls Softball
Thomas Haidle - Boys Softball

Yours in Sport,
Mrs Pereira (T.U.T)

YOUTH MASS @ ST ANTHONY'S

The next YOUTH MASS @ St. Anthony's Church , Tahmoor is @ 6-00 pm on Saturday , March 21st . Come along and join in the celebration with all your friends from your past years in Primary School. There will be GREAT singing, a HUGE band and refreshments after Mass.

Margaret Cronin—On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council



Highlights from Catholic Schools Week

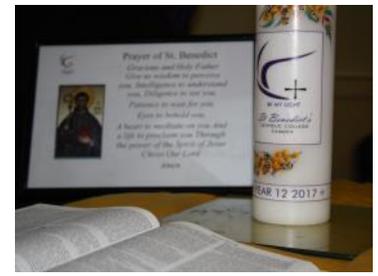
Year 10 Reflection Day 2015

Last Friday Year 10's Reflection Day was held at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. Inspirational speaker Sam Cleary spoke to us about his life as a Christian and his fight for all Churches to work together in peace. He had always been religious and wanted all Christians to work together in peace, no matter what their denomination. Sam described how he walked through South America, North America and Europe to spread his message. He was held at gunpoint three times, robbed four times by people with knives and had to face dangerous animals and elements whilst accomplishing his journey. Sam taught us the importance of perseverance no matter what challenge you are faced with as well as helping those who are in need.

Later in the day we completed an activity showing us the importance of money in the world. We learnt how much people have to give up just in order for their survival. One of the facts we learnt was only 20% of people in the world have a fridge. We were given a yearly income and a brief on our lives. We had to decide where to spend our money to help us survive. This was extremely hard to do because we didn't have a lot of money to spend. This activity showed us how a lot of people live and where they have to spend their money. We learnt the importance of helping people because many people struggle to support themselves.

Overall the day was a great success and taught us a lot about endurance, perseverance and the need to assist people that have less than us. All of us have learnt that change is needed in the world for us to all live in peace and equality one day. We all have a role in assisting the needy and accept everyone for who they are and respect their choices.

Jackson Lewis



Yr 9 Reflection day

On Wednesday 11th March, Year 9 visited the Don Bosco Centre at St Mary's for their Reflection day. We were lucky to have Chris Doyle as our guest speaker. Chris Doyle has worked with students from St Benedicts for the last few years and has worked with many other high schools. His powerful speech provided us with the message of how we should love one another and how we should care for everyone in our community.

The Don Bosco Center opened their facilities to Year 9. During the breaks the students could play ping pong, pool, or a game of soccer outside. The lunch provided by the school was an added bonus.

Chris Doyle was funny, thoughtful and made the students feel comfortable to be around their classmates. He did this by playing his guitar, singing songs, organising activities, all in an entertaining and funny way. As a result, new and stronger bonds formed between the students, which was a great positive. The students really enjoyed their day of reflection, as they looked back on the good things we have and how we should be thankful for everyone we have in our lives.

Mikayla Gauci

BURN FESTIVAL

Friday the 13th marked St Benedict's Inaugural Burn Festival. The aim of the festival was to raise awareness of the importance of Stewardship of both each other and our environment, as well as raising funds for our current fundraising focus, Caritas. In the end, we believe, not only did we achieve this, but we did so in a really fun and engaging way. We started the afternoon with a treasure hunt, which saw students noticing the environment around us and the need to care for it. We were then lucky enough to see a retelling of the parable of the Good Samaritan – which challenged students to think about who our neighbour is. Next on the agenda was a talk from Rachel Moran who has completed some great work in building schools in areas of need such as Cambodia. She shared her experiences and what it was like to work with the people of Cambodia. On the night we were also very fortunate to be able to listen to Chris Doyle and his amazing messages of respect and caring for one another. Next it was dinner time! Pizza, hash browns, wedges, cans of drink, cakes and ice creams were on offer. Homerooms had the opportunity to run a stall to raise money for Caritas. Many great musical performances were shared from our wonderfully talented musical students and Mr Costin even sang a few lines! The night concluded with Adoration. We were lucky enough to have Fr Joe celebrate Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with us in the Cloister. It was a great night. We were able to raise an amazing \$1400. I would like to thank Ebony Billett, Erin Coppin, Sam Krause, Lachlan Haidle and Ashleigh Robinson who with me worked hard to get this festival running and I thank them for all their hard work. Also many thanks go to all of our special guests, Chris Doyle, Rachel Moran and Father Joe for sharing this experience with us. I would also like to thank all the staff and teachers who were able to stay and help on the night. Without your support the night would not have been able to go ahead. A MASSIVE thanks to Mr Costin for allowing the student team to be a part of organising this amazing night and allowing us to assist and share our ideas with you. Without your help and support the night definitely would not have been able to go ahead. Finally a thank you goes to all the 140 students who turned up on the night. We hope you had a good night and we can't wait to see you hopefully again at next year's event.

Taylor McGovern

PARENT SURVEY

It is that time of year again! We would appreciate it if parents of students in Years 8 to 11 could print and complete the Parent Survey Form below. The information supplied will be used to complete our Annual School Report and all comments returned will remain anonymous. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

St Benedict's Catholic College ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY

The purpose of this anonymous survey is to provide parents with an opportunity for input into areas affecting the education of their children and the general functioning of the school. Results will assist the school in the preparation of the Annual School Report.

I have a child in the following years (please circle)

7

8

9

10

11

Place a tick (✓) in the circle that represents your answer

SA - Strongly Agree

A - Agree

D - Disagree

SD - Strongly Disagree

QUESTIONS

	SA	A	D	SD
1. The school helps my child to develop a knowledge and understanding about Catholic tradition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. My child is challenged to maximise his/her learning outcomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. The school strives to meet my child's individual learning needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. The school provides appropriate information about my child's progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The school offers a range of co-curricular activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. The teachers are genuinely interested in the welfare of my child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. The school provides a safe and supportive environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. The school effectively communicates information about activities and events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



FREE & fun program for fitter, healthier, happier kids!

Know if your child is over a healthy weight?

Go to www.go4fun.com.au to see if your child could do Go4Fun.

Go4Fun is a FREE 10 week program which runs over one school term after school hours. During the program children and their families get involved in fun games and activities and learn about delicious nutritious foods they can eat every day.

Children need to be 7-13 years old and a parent or carer also needs to attend. Younger and/or older siblings are encouraged to attend.

Go to www.go4fun.com.au or call 1800 780 900 to see if your child could do Go4Fun.

Autism FAMILY FIRST PRESENTS...

AUTISM EXPO 2015
LEARN. SHARE. DISCOVER

ENTRY FEE \$5 FOR LOCAL CHARITY

EVERYONE CAN DANCE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2015 . 10:30AM - 3:30PM
CAMDEN CIVIC CENTRE
OXLEY STREET, CAMDEN NSW

All visitors must register to attend the expo.
Register online & bring a copy of your ticket to avoid delays.
To Register: www.autismfamilyfirst.com.au
** KIDS UNDER 18 - NO FEE OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

