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
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)

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 online.
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 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

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. 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

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.

Taylor McGovern
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

1. The school helps my child to develop a knowledge and understanding about Catholic tradition

2. My child is challenged to maximise his/her learning outcomes

3. The school strives to meet my child’s individual learning needs

4. The school provides appropriate information about my child’s progress

5. The school offers a range of co-curricular activities

6. The teachers are genuinely interested in the welfare of my child

7. The school provides a safe and supportive environment

8. The school effectively communicates information about activities and events

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.