



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 3 3 March 2015

Dear Parents

It has been a very busy opening to the term and it has been fantastic to see so many parents in and around the College involved in a variety of activities. In the last fortnight we held a very successful Working Bee and, despite the inclement weather on the Saturday, a hardy band of families braved the showers to mow, clean windows, wash, oil and hedge, weed and beautify. With the early birds in by 6.45am, all the jobs were completed by 10.30! Huge thanks to master chef Danny Rodriguez and his son Zac for the barbecued bacon and eggs for breakfast and to P&F Executive team Libby Tully and Denise Hemenstall who organised the morning. I have been told to note the particular work that went on at the Office Door and Reception area by a dedicated team who puzzled through cleaning security screens and window screens in order to meticulously present the front of the school to incoming families during the enrolment period!

Thank you to the families who gave so generously of their time.

++++++

Fr Whitty joined the College to celebrate Ash Wednesday in a celebration that began in the Cloister with the Blessing of the Ashes and the moved to student year communities. Fr Whitty reinforced that the true Lenten message is about the *doing* not the *giving up*. It was a great lesson in the Benedictine message of "being the face of Christ", and especially so at this time of year through Project Compassion.

++++++

Last Tuesday the Middle School Leaders Induction Ceremony was held. Special Guest Chris Patterson MLA spoke on Leadership in all its guises and, in front of the assembled community of students and parents, our Year 9 students made their Leadership pledge and placed their mark on the "Leadership Tree" a powerful symbol of support and growth. Maddison Crawford gave a powerful 'speech in reply' on behalf of the student leadership team which drew a very generous round of applause from the students. A big thank you to Mr Turton, our Director of Wellbeing for a ceremony that was both dignified and a celebration of what we understand by leadership in the Benedictine tradition.

Last night (Monday) we held our annual enrolment evening for Year 7, 2016. It was held at Camden Civic Centre again this year due to the large number of interested parents, not only from Year 6 across the western Macarthur, but also families who are looking to the future from Years 4 & 5.

During Week 4 School Captains and former leaders from our local primary schools, who now attend St Benedict's in Year 7, spoke with confidence and passion about their experience as a Year 7 student with the Year 6 students at St Paul's, St Anthony's and St. Justin's Primary Schools. I thank all the schools for their warm welcome. The following students presented our College in a wonderful light and were outstanding ambassadors: Lachlan Duck, Montana Robinson, Olivia Dowling, Darcey Christl, Troy Seniuk, Isaac Taylor.

We will be undertaking Prospective Parent Tours again this year. These will be held in Weeks 7 and 9 this term and also early in Term 2. They are only during school hours and, we hope, reflect a realistic view of school life at St Benedict's.

++++++

Our Swimming Carnival was held at Camden Swimming Pool last Wednesday, a venue we have, sadly, now outgrown. On a fantastic day of fast swimming, Ingham House trounced all comers and there were a number of records smashed. Despite the very poor weather early on, parent helpers were in plentiful supply and the number of parent supporters made it quite a family day. Thank you to all parents who assisted and to those who cheered their children on, congratulations.

++++++

Our Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friend's Association was held on Tuesday 24 February. It was with sadness that we farewelled our foundation secretary, Denise Hemenstall and foundation Treasurer, Libby Tully, who have steered the P&F through our days at Mt Carmel and on to Oran Park. They have now retired from their positions. I want to publicly thank both of them for the wonderful job they have done in the last 4 years – I cannot think of any event that involved parents that I have not seen them attend. Their support has been endless and will be missed.

Office Bearers Elected for 2015:

President: Mr Danny Rodriguez (returned)  
Secretary: Mrs Clare-Ann Taylor  
Treasurer: Mrs Kellie Hanser

All positions were elected unopposed.

The Parents & Friends Executive is very keen to have parents involved in the Working Committees. These are:

**Hospitality:** (Required about 4 times a year during the day to man the BBQs). Coordinator Required as well as many helpers as we can get.

**Pastoral:** (outreach to families in need. On demand).

**Building and Maintenance:** (Working Bees and some specialist work.) Coordinator required: suit someone really handy or a tradesperson with lots of volunteers who may be in a trade or willing to lend a hand.

**Education:** (Parent Education programmes a few times a year): Coordinator required and parents willing to source speakers on topical issues for parents.

Please consider lending a hand, they are not difficult roles, but do require commitment a few times a year.

Michael Hanratty  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

<b>Fri 6</b>	Staff Development Day—Pupil Free
<b>Wed 11</b>	Yr 9 Reflection Day
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Diocesan Swimming
<b>Fri 13</b>	Yr 10 Reflection Day
<b>Wed 18</b>	Vaccinations #1 Year 7
<b>Fri 20</b>	College Cross Country

### April

<b>Wed 1</b>	Yrs 9 & 10 PASS Excursion
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Yrs 7 & 11 Transition Reports distributed Applications for Yr 7 2016 due <b>Last day of Term 1</b>

### TERM 2

<b>Mon 20</b>	First Day of Term 2
<b>Wed 22</b>	Dio Boys Soccer Dio Girls Touch Footy
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Yr 10 Duke of Ed Day 1 Yr 7 History/Art Excursion Day 1
<b>Fri 24</b>	Yr 10 Duke of Ed Day 2 Yr 7 History/Art Excursion Day 2

## UWS Koori Education Carnival

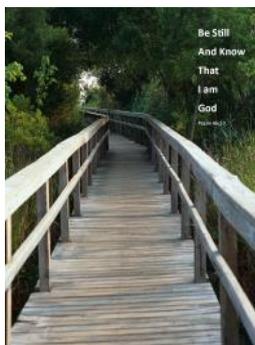
On Friday 26 February a group of 6 Year 7 and 8 students from St Benedict's attended the Koori Education Carnival at the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus.

It was a fantastic day that was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. Connor Mack, Zach Braga, Ethan Lane, Elliana Kremmer, Liam Reardon and Yehia Bates were given the opportunity to see what university life is like.

The day was designed to expose our students to the many opportunities and experiences that university offers and to strengthen their connection with culture. The group learnt about the job of a Paramedic and got to look through an ambulance, they learnt to plaster a broken arm with the UWS medicine students. Students also underwent some fitness testing in the Sports Science lab and were treated to some amazing experiments by the Science faculty and chemistry students.

We were also provided with a performance of traditional Dharawal dance and Yidaki (didgeridoo) playing. The students and I were privileged to hear Dharawal Elder Aunty Frances Bodkin speak about the history and culture of the Dharawal people and the local area.

After meeting many UWS students and hearing the stories of two aboriginal students currently studying at the Campbelltown Campus, I am sure everyone is beginning to think about the many opportunities tertiary education opens for them. It is our hope that these opportunities figure greatly in their plans for their future.



## College Sport

This week saw the students enjoying a final week of their current Sport before they rotate to another activity for the remainder of the Term.

The feedback from our Sport Providers and staff has been very positive.

Special mention to the Year 7 Zumba crew who have been giving 110% every single week – we have some great movers in our midst!

Students are reminded to check the Sport schedule (on display in their HR) to ensure they know exactly what equipment is required for next week, and what time they have to be in their usual Sport room.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs for Week 4;

Guiseppe Camera (7C, Zumba)  
Lyndsay Robinson (7D AFL)  
Thomas Gleeson (8A, Cricket)  
Mya Fernandez (8B, Clinic)  
Gabby Hooton (9A, Bodywar)  
Joshua Irons (9B, Skating)  
Shandelle Brown (10A, Crossfit)  
Emily Winters (10B, HYPE)  
Erin Coppin and Lachlan Haidle (11A, F45)  
Alex Zappia (11B, Tennis)

## MISA Sport

Round 3 of MISA competition was against Broughton Anglican College and we had some wonderful results.

Congratulations to Ms Chalmers and the Girls MISA Softball Team and Mr Turton and the MISA Boys Softball Team who came away with wins. Special mention to Mr Costin and the Boys Oztag Team who had a 6-6 draw, and to our Girls Oztag team who had a narrow 4-6 loss.

Our basketballers have been giving their all every week and continue to do the College proud.

Next week our MISA teams will be playing against Wollondilly Anglican College, we wish them well.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs;

Mickayla Dillon - Girls Basketball  
Marlon Font - Boys Basketball  
Gabby Sarkis - Girls Softball  
Isaac Hobman – Boys Softball  
Joey Lombardo – Boys Oztag  
Mikayla Hudson – Girls Oztag

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

## **Equestrian Team**

St Benedict's small, but successful Equestrian Team, would like to extend an invitation for any students who wish to join the team for the Interschools Teams Competition this year. If you are interested in becoming a member of the team, please contact the office and leave your details so that the team manager can contact you with further information.

Could current members of the team please notify the College if their contact details have changed. If current members of the team no longer wish to participate, could they please contact the team manager via the College Office, to arrange to return the College saddle cloths.



## WORKING BEE THANKS

Many thanks to those listed below who gave their time to complete a variety of tasks at the recent Working Bee.

Tracee, Jason & Jai Brown  
Teena, Brad, Tahlia, Kayley & Jessica Skeers  
Isaac, Clare-Ann & Isabelle Taylor  
Anna & Michael Viskovich  
Zach & Danny Rodriguez  
Sean & James Cahill  
Gavin Brimble  
Peter O'Neill  
Mat Newton  
Karen McFarlane  
Michael Shipley  
Libby Tully

Flavio, Brock, Marcus, Jeremy, Zack Battistuzzi  
Craig, Sandra, Jorjah, Ameer, Ben Landrigan  
Donna & Olivia McFadzean  
Michael & Mitchell Grout  
Kerri & Mark Peters  
Matt McGovern  
Matt Hort  
Peter Soanes  
Adam Dowling  
Jason White  
Denise Hemenstall



### Second Hand Clothing Pool

A limited range of second hand clothing is available through the P&F run clothing pool. Please contact

**Mrs Rachael Zappia on 0402 247 088**

to enquire about items available or to arrange a time for her to meet you at the College.

If you have items of uniform that you no longer need that are clean and in good order and you wish to donate, could you please hand them in at the College Office.



### Pastoral Committee

The P&F are looking for volunteers to assist with the Pastoral Committee.

The Pastoral Committee was formed to provide assistance to families in need in a variety of situations, as in times of illness, accident or injury or family emergencies. At such times, volunteers may be called on for assistance with providing a meal, offering transport or in other ways, depending on the circumstances.

If you feel you could assist in any way to help us help those in need, could you please leave your name and contact details with the College Office and they will be passed onto Rachael Zappia from the P&F.



mulp



Would you like assistance discussing post school options with your child?

Would you like more information about career options?

PACTS Workshops have been running in Australian secondary schools since 2002, with parents saying they are really helpful in understanding the different options.

**Macarthur Workplace Learning, in association with St Benedict's Catholic College will facilitate PACTS Workshops that will run over 2 hours and include the following topics:**

- How to assist your teen with career exploration
- Simple careers assessments
- Different school pathways available
- School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- How to use the Job Guide and other resources
- Understanding TAFE, Apprenticeships and University
- Tackling the Employment Market
- Preparing for employment – Understanding the Options

**Dates for the Term 1 workshops are:**

**Tuesday 17th March 2015 – Starting at 6pm-8pm**

**Places are limited to 20 so you MUST register by calling the school on 4631 5300.**



## College Swimming Carnival

The annual College Swimming Carnival took place last week and was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many talents and skills of our students in and out of the competition pool. Despite some early rain, we were able to get through all of the events and enjoy a wonderful day at a fantastic venue.

Students were given the chance to showcase their swimming ability in the competition pool across a range of distances. In a College first, a massive 38 records were broken. This is a very impressive achievement and demonstration of the growing talent amongst our community. Each age group also participated in enjoyable novelty events to earn crucial points for their House. Once again, parents and staff were impressed with the spirit and sportsmanship shown by the students who attended on the day.

This year's Swimming Carnival saw the introduction of a highly anticipated Staff and Student House Relay. Two staff members and two students from each House formed a 4x50m Freestyle Relay team. It was fantastic to see the staff get involved and the pool edge was filled with students cheering their teachers and peers on. A shout out to Dharawal who were able to enter two teams in the event! Thank you very much to our Staff Super Swimmers:

Miss Brady  
Mr Andruschko

Mrs Isbister  
Mr Limbrey

Mr Davidson  
Mr Shelton

Mr Costin  
Mr Turton

At the conclusion of all events, the annual 'Champion of Champions' race was swum. Bryanna Rixon held onto the crown and even broke her 2014 record for the event.

The day would not have been such a success without the hard work of the staff, as well as the assistance of the parents who gave up their time to help with the events of the day. Thank you very much to those parents who helped with the timekeeping, recording and judging. Your time and efforts were a huge contribution to the successful running of the carnival.

Congratulations to Ingham for placing first in this year's Swimming Carnival. Second place went to Polding, with Dharawal finishing in third. Age Champions have been finalised and will be presented at the next College Assembly. A number of students have also been selected to go on and represent the College at the Diocesan Secondary Swimming Carnival to be held at Corrimal Pool in a few weeks.

On another note: our annual Cross Country Carnival is coming up and students are reminded to return their permission notes, as well as information about parent assistance on the day, by Wednesday 11 March.

Mrs Pereira





The State Education Minister, Mr Adrian Piccoli, accompanied by our local member, Mr Chris Patterson, was impressed with the progress of the building programme since his previous visit in 2013.



**Ash Wednesday**



**Opening School Mass**

**Highlights from Term 1  
Weeks 1-5**



Mr Chris Patterson was present at the recent assembly when our Year 9 Middle Leaders were inducted and presented with their badges. Congratulations to

- Mikayla Gauci
- Maddison Crawford
- Jayde Bermingham
- Harrison Mäe
- Alex Wark
- Rajpreet Bajwa
- Cooper Davidson
- Brianna Lane
- Georgia Mchet



**Middle Leaders Induction**