



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 7 26 May 2015

Dear Parents

Last Sunday, May 24 was Pentecost Sunday, a feast day of the Church that I personally gain so much from. I often wonder how the Spirit moves me and gives me the courage to approach that new project or problem, or look to understand with greater depth that relationship with which I may struggle. When I think of Pentecost today I see the Spirit bestow his gifts on me and on those around me so that we may be people of awe in the face of our God and people of courage and understanding when tested. Let us take time this Sunday to open ourselves to the many gifts of the Holy Spirit so we may bring hope to our complicated world, as a Christian, Catholic and Benedictine community, this is what we are asked to do and to be.

*For the Lord has come to his people,  
and the earth trembles with joy,  
the Father is kindling his fire on the earth,  
the Son is roving with life in his touch,  
the Spirit is rising though we are falling.  
(Peter Steele SJ "If you watch")*

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In the last fortnight we have hosted visitors from the Catholic Education Office Parramatta including their Director of Schools, Gregory Whitby, parents from local Primary schools who have been on tours inspecting the school as prospective enrolments, and staff from other schools who have been attending for Sporting or other extra curricula reasons (such as debating). Not only are our visitors most complimentary about the physical developments on site but, more importantly, they comment positively about the welcome and presentation of the St. Benedict's students that they meet on tour, or as hosts or even those that they come across in their travels on the property. In a school that proclaims Hospitality and Welcome as core to our values, it is wonderful to see those values reflected in the experiences of those who walk through the door.

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Much of the last two weeks has kept our students busy with with NAPLAN (7 & 9) and Semester Examinations. The staff have been very impressed with the approach of the students to their preparation and determination to do better. Reports will now be prepared ready to hand out at the end of the term.

A reminder that if you wish to keep track (or keep your children on track) with assessments, full schedules of dates are published on the College website and constantly updated.

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Michael Hanratty  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May

**Wed 27** Parenting Teens Session 2

### June

**Mon 1** Yr 8 MISA Debating  
**Fri 5** Staff Development Day—Pupil Free  
**Mon 8** Queen's Birthday Public Holiday  
**Wed 10** Year 10 Careers Day  
**Thurs 11** Vaccinations #2  
**Tues 16** MISA Dance Festival  
**Wed 17** MISA Year 8 Debating  
**Thurs 18** Year 7 Science Excursion  
Year 8 English Excursion  
**Mon 22** Yrs 7-10 Semester 1 Reports distributed  
**Thurs 25** Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews  
**Fri 26** Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews  
**Last Day Term 2**

## Don't forget:

**Parenting Teens  
Workshop #2  
Wednesday 27 May  
(tomorrow)  
7pm sharp**

## Reminder:

**Staff Development Day  
(Pupil Free)  
Friday 5 June**



## PRAYER AND CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP



Isabella Taylor, Jackson Bartulovic, Joey Lombardo and I attended the Prayer and Conversation with the Bishop held at Holy Spirit at Bellambi last week. We listened to Bishop Ingham's insight into youth within the Church and the role that we play. We had the privilege of listening to American performer, Steve Angrisano, who gave us an account of some amazing moments in his life, inspiring us to be better people in the eyes of God and our neighbours.

Maddy Maher  
Year 10

### College Prayer Focus and Social Action Initiatives

The College's Prayer Focus for the last five weeks has been based around the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. This is a large global issue, with the BBC reporting recently that a child dies every 10 seconds due to hunger related problems.

Throughout this focus we have prayed for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. We have learnt about the depths of hunger issues globally and the attempts being made to try to alleviate this problem.

In an impressive show of solidarity for this important social justice issue, over 50 students completed the 7, 7 challenge. Over \$100 was raised to send to Caritas in supporting of their work in this area.

On Friday a reflection was held where students across all year groups came together to pray for people suffering from malnutrition. Thanks to all involved for the great effort in bringing such an important issue to the forefront of peoples mind, as well as putting strategies in place to try and make a difference.

### CLOTHING POOL

The Clothing Pool will be opened, **by appointment only**, twice a month:

**1st Friday** of the month from **2:40pm**, and  
**3rd Friday** of the month from **8am**.

To make an appointment contact Mrs Rachael Zappia on 0402 247 088.

Donations of uniforms in good condition are greatly appreciated.

### Café news

#### Lunchtime specials this week:

Wednesday—Lasagne

Thursday—Stir Fry Chicken with hokkien noodles

Friday—Macaroni Cheese

Could students please have their ID cards ready  
before they get to the counter.

### College Sport—Week 5 (19 May)

Unfortunately due to wet weather, MISA Sports and four recreational Sports had to be cancelled this week. All other sports were able to go ahead which is fantastic.

Just a reminder to all students that week 6 marks the beginning of the final rotation of Sport for this Term. Please check the schedule in your HR to ensure you know what equipment is required for your new Sport.

**Functional45 (Yr 10) and Crossfit (Yr 9) require a small sweat towel each week.**

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs for Week 5:

Justin Franovic & Monica Smsarian (7A, Zumba)

Amelia Merry (7D, Sportsfun)

Jonah Nader (8C, Maximum Skating)

Jared Madsen (9B, Bowling)

Dominic Debono & Hayden Peters (10A, F45)

Giuseppe Camera (7C, Swimming)

Novi Anosike (8A, Taekwondo)

Anthony Conlon & Deacon Natsia (9A, Bodywar)

Ebony Billett & James Hogan (11, Crossfit)

### MISA Sport

Unfortunately the round against Wollondilly Anglican College was a washout. Next week our teams will come up against Macarthur Anglican, good luck.

Mrs Pereira



**The following is a speech by our local member, Mr Chris Patterson, in parliament on 14 May 2015.**

From Hansard:

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON** (Camden) [4.12 p.m.]: Today I speak about one of the wonderful schools in my electorate, St Benedict's Catholic College. Earlier this month I attended its celebration day mass, which was conducted by Father Joe Nguyen. St Benedict's Catholic College serves the parishes of Camden, Picton and The Oaks. The school, set on eight hectares at Oran Park, opened its doors in 2011 with just 75 students. The college has expanded each year and now has approximately 545 students from years 7 to 11. The college takes its name from St Benedict, the patron saint of students, who was born in circa 480. Frustrated by his fellow students in Rome, he left and led life as a hermit. After being encouraged to lead by an abbey, he founded a monastery where he wrote his rule of order. He eventually founded 12 monasteries, with a further 40,000 monasteries using the Benedictine Rule, "Pray and work", and the formation of an education as a whole person instead of on intellect alone as a guide.

Instilled in the students at St Benedict's is a love of God, love of thy neighbour and the love of learning. St Benedict's enables students to live a life where "Christ Be My Light" is the college motto. Principal Michael Hanratty has overseen the school from its inception, and continues to manage its progress and growth. He does an outstanding job in guiding both students and staff. Minister Piccoli recently visited the school and was very impressed with what he saw. The Minister has been to the school a number of times, as has former Premier Barry O'Farrell, and they cannot speak highly enough of St Benedict's college. St Benedict's Catholic College took the opportunity at the opening mass to present awards to some of their students.

I congratulate the following students on their efforts. The 100 merits award for service, effort, classwork, participation and behaviour was awarded to Justin Waights, Briannan Warden, Jordan Flood, Montana O'Neill, Zac Winters, Brock Battistuzi, Gabrielle Hooton, Anthony Conlon, Harrison Mäe, Zachery Siutz, Isaac Smith, Baily Busuttill, Caitlin Burke, Isaac Hobman, Claire Murdoch, Chloe Cooper, Cooper Davidson, Georgia Machet, Isabella Menon, Jack Cleary, Mitchell Orridge, Natasha Molloy, Thomas Haidle, Aaron Orchard, Jake Newell, Ebony Billett and Brianna Lane. Fifty personal best awards were presented to Gabrielle Hooton, Chloe Cooper and Patrick Stafford, and 90 personal best awards were presented to Briannan Warden and Ebony Billett. Four students also received outstanding gold badge awards and medallion awards: Briannan Warden, Gabrielle Hooton, Chloe Cooper and Ebony Billett. Erin Coppin was the recipient of the purple leadership diploma. Congratulations to all recipients; they are a credit to their school. I also make mention of the wonderful performance by the school choir. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The college offers an holistic approach to education, giving the students the confidence to reach for their goals. The school has acquired an outstanding reputation. St Benedict's Catholic College is a wonderful example of Catholic education. Their feeder school is St Justin's Catholic Primary School, which is located on the adjoining block. Principal John Milgate has seen the school grow since its opening in 2012 to accommodate 845 students. Mr Milgate and his staff also do an outstanding job. Parish priest Father Michael Williams of St Paul's Camden—who is a great friend of mine and, I am proud to say, a mentor and someone I speak to regularly—offers pastoral care to the students at St Justin's. Father Michael was ordained a deacon in 1988 and a priest in 1989. Father Michael, who has been at St Paul's since New Year's Day 2003, does an outstanding job within his parish and our community.

Both St Benedict's High School and St Justin's Primary School are wonderful assets to our community. That is evident from the way they are respected. As I have said, St Justin's, which has been operating for only a few years, is basically at capacity now and, from 2007 to 2011, St Benedict's school population has grown from 75 students to nearly 600 students. Obviously next year will be its first Higher School Certificate year. So to the wonderful principals and the outstanding staff, as well as the entire school communities, I wish them well and thank them for everything they contribute to our community.

## WORKSHOP BOOKINGS

Campbelltown 4628 0044



*Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances*

### KEEPING KIDS IN MIND

A post-separation parenting workshop. Learn how to deal more effectively with the emotional & practical issues of parenting after separation. Explores loss & grief in parents and children, power grabs & impact on children.

5 Tuesday **Mornings** 10am - 12:30pm  
14, 21, 28, July, 4 & 11 August 2015

5 Thursday **Evenings** 6:30 – 9pm  
30 July, 6, 13, 20, 27 August 2015

CatholicCare  
35A Cordeaux Street  
Campbelltown

**Workshop Fee: \$20 per session**

### SEASONS FOR GROWTH PARENTING

This workshop gives an understanding of divorce/separation from a child's perspective and helps parents to support their children through family change.

2 Tuesday **Mornings** 10am - 12:30pm  
18 & 25 August 2015  
CatholicCare  
35A Cordeaux St  
Campbelltown

**Workshop Fee: \$15 per session**

### WE ARE MARRIED, NOW WHAT?

A workshop for married couples interested in enhancing their relationship. Couples will explore key concepts for keeping marriage strong, effective ways to communicate and learn strategies for dealing with challenges in married life.

3 Tuesday **Evenings** 6:30 - 8:30pm  
1, 8, 15 September 2015  
CatholicCare  
35A Cordeaux St  
Campbelltown

**Workshop Fee: \$15 per session**

## CAREER NEWS

The HSC and Careers Expo 2015

Thursday 28 May and Friday 29 May, 9am—3pm

Saturday 30 May and Sunday 31 May, 10am—3pm

Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney

[hscandcareers.com.au](http://hscandcareers.com.au)

Exhibitors including:

- Universities, tertiary institutions and training colleges.
- HSC textbook and study guide publishers.
- Providers of career and employment advice.
- Apprenticeship and employment organisations.
- Subject selection advice for Year 10 students.

General admission \$10.00. Family discounts available. Tickets are valid for all 4 days of The Expo and include all seminars.

Find out more in The Expo Visitor Guide published today in The Daily Telegraph.

### More from Careers:

Sydney University Year 10 Information Evenings are on Wednesday 3 June & Monday 22 June from 6.00 -7.45pm. Register at: [www.sydney.edu.au/future-students/high-school-students/year-10/information-evenings.shtml](http://www.sydney.edu.au/future-students/high-school-students/year-10/information-evenings.shtml)

The Power of Engineering Day for girls in Years 9 and 10 is on Monday 6 July from 9 am to 4 pm at UNSW Engineering. For more info: <http://unsw.to/poe>.

Pathway infographics for 21 health professions My Health Career has produced pathway infographics for 21 health professions to help high school students to know how to get where they want to go. The full list is available here: <https://www.myhealthcareer.com.au/pathways/> & includes exercise physiology <https://www.myhealthcareer.com.au/become-an-accredited-exercise-physiologist/> & surgery <https://www.myhealthcareer.com.au/become-a-surgeon>