Dear Parents

As we begin another year, it is timely to refocus our energies on what kind of school we have returned to in 2014. As a Catholic School infused with Benedictine spirituality, we are joined as one in “Proclaiming the Good News” of Jesus Christ. Our Opening College Mass was well attended by parents and other family members and they joined us in celebrating one of our core values – Hospitality. The proclamation of and practice of Hospitality in a world that rejects strangers and outcasts is a challenge for all of us as people of faith. Our formation in Benedictine spirituality is essential as a member of our community. In Year 7, we are looking at the life of Benedict and how he modelled his life and his teachings as abbot, on the teachings of Christ. He wanted to “let the Cross Be My Light”, a phrase captured by our motto. Benedict’s monasteries were open to any who wanted to study, to pray and even to just survive. It is a practice that continues in Benedictine Houses around the world and a spirit we keep alive in the College where all are welcomed and are safe.

The first few weeks of school are always hectic as the community comes to life in the new year. Year 7 in particular have had their “Laptop” evening and this week parents will have an Open Night, inspection of facilities and ‘Welcome to the College’ soiree run by the P&F.

For the second year in a row, the Working Bee was disappointingly postponed because of bad weather. The much-needed rain was welcome and a new date set for early March. We will let you know the details in Bennies Bites next week. You will have noticed that Stage 2 construction is moving on apace. Earthworks for the Basketball Courts occurred this week and the Cloister area is taking shape with the balconies ready. Fitting of the internal and external walls on the Hospitality building start this week. It is hoped that we will be able to move in by mid Term 2.

We have been advised that new bus services begin this week. As always, there may be some teething problems with drivers on new routes and delays, so we ask your patience as Busways in particular, settle down to new rosters. The time has also come to enforce bus passes. If you are still waiting for a bus pass, could you ensure your child is carrying the appropriate form to gain entry to the bus. Mrs James or Mrs Rumble in the Office can supply you with the temporary bus pass letter for Busways passengers only. Students who do not qualify will need to pay the regular fare or join the students who are escorted to the crossing in the afternoon.

A warm welcome this week to Mr Matt McGovern who will be working with Mr Nichols in ICT deployment on Fridays; to Mrs Nancy Payne who will be working with Year 10 students in Careers and post-school pathways on Fridays; and Mrs Cherrylee Nau who is our indigenous educator and is at the College on Thursdays.

A reminder that school supervision begins at 7.45am when the gates to Oran Park Drive open. We do not run before school care nor do we have any arrangements with St Justin’s Primary to care for young siblings. Please assist us by not leaving children at the gate before 7.40 or on Oran Park Drive as it is a matter of safety for the young people in our care.

Enrolments

Enrolments for Years 7 and 11 2015 opens in Week 7. Our Information Evening will be held on Wednesday March 12 at the Camden Civic Centre. If you have friends in a Government School who wish to apply, they will need to obtain the enrolment application at the Information Evening or by contacting the school office from Thursday March 13.

Under a new system Year 6 students at local, systemic Catholic Primary Schools will have a pre-filled enrolment form sent home. When application is to be made to St Benedict’s this pre-filled form is to be forwarded to the College Office along with copies of the other documents as signified in the enrolment package. We are anticipating running 5 streams (Homerooms) again in 2015.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the P&F AGM on the 25 February or at the College Swimming Carnival the next day.

Michael Hanratty
Principal
UPCOMING EVENTS
TERM 1

February
Wed 19 Welcome Evening for Year 7 2014 Parents
Mon 24 Diocesan Boys Touch Footy
Diocesan Girls Soccer
Tues 25 P&F AGM
Wed 26 College Swimming Carnival

March
Wed 5 Ash Wednesday
Fri 7 Staff Development Day
Mon 10 1st Vaccination
Wed 12 Year 7 2015 Information Evening
Fri 14 Year 10 Reflection Day
Sat 15 Working Bee TBC
Wed 19 Year 9 Reflection Day
Fri 21 College Cross Country Carnival

April
Fri 11 Last Day of Term 1

Vaccinations
Each year NSW Health works with schools to offer the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council. In 2014 the following vaccines will be offered:

Year 7:
• dTpa vaccine (Diptheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) as a single dose
• Varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
• Human papillovavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months for male and female students

Year 9:
• HPV vaccine in a 3-dose schedule, at 0, 2 and 6 months for male students only (catch up vaccination).

The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

The first round of vaccinations will be on Monday 10 March. The Kits will be sent home with all of Year 7 and Year 9 (boys only) next week.

St Benedict’s Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 26 February
Camden War Memorial Pool

Permission notes are due to be returned to Academic Care Tutors by Thursday 20 February. Copies of the note may be downloaded from the school website.

Students are to wear their full College sports uniform, including hat, to and from the carnival. They may change into appropriate house coloured clothing at the carnival.

The following are not permitted at the carnival:
• Bikinis
• Clothing with inappropriate slogans/pictures
• Crepe paper streamers
• Coloured zinc
• Coloured hair spray

Board shorts and rash shirts are acceptable. Students are to bring:
• Lunch, recess and drinks.
• Towel
• Sunscreen
• Hat

If parents are able to help on the day could you please notify the office.

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop has notified us that the school belts are now in stock.

St Benedict’s P&F Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 25 February
7pm at the College.

All parents/carers are invited to attend.
SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS

The first instalment of the School Fee Account has been sent out. If you have not received your statement or if you have any questions regarding your account could you please contact Mrs Karen Earnshaw on 4631 5304.

The accounts have been posted to parents. In future they will be emailed to the indicated bill payer. If you have changed your email account please contact the office.

WANTED!

The Art Department are in need of old towels. If you have any that you would like to donate could you please leave them at the front office. Many thanks.

WORKING BEE

The proposed date for the (postponed) Working Bee is Saturday 15 March

Confirmation and more details to follow in next week’s Benny’s Bites.

YEAR 7 2015

ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday 12 March
7pm
Camden Civic Centre

Application packages will be available on the evening.

From the Photography Club

Second Hand Clothing Pool

The Second Hand Clothing Pool will be open by appointment only at the following times:
- Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 8am to 8:30am
- Friday afternoons 2:30pm to 3pm
- One Saturday per month 2nd or 4th of Month—To be confirmed

The Clothing Pool will be open on Saturday 15 February, during the Working Bee, but there is limited stock available at this stage.

For appointments please contact Mrs Rachael Zappia on 0402 247 088.

With Year 10 moving into Senior Uniform, a reminder to parents that if you have items of clothing you no longer require, our second hand clothing shop will be open for business this year and donations of uniform items that are clean and in good condition are gratefully accepted at the front office.
Families Together invites mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers to

Maximising the Academic and Personal Outcomes of Boys

Presented by
Dr. Andrew Martin

Andrew Martin, PhD, MAPS, is a Registered Psychologist specialising in educational psychology. His work focuses on motivation, engagement, and achievements as well as work into boys' and girls' education, gifted and talented, disengagement, academic buoyancy and courage, pedagogy, parenting, teach-student relationships and Aboriginal education. He was listed in the The Bulletin magazine’s SMART 100 Australians and in the Top 10 in the field of Education. His books, “How to Motivate Your Child for School and Beyond” (Bantam) and “How to Help Your Child Fly Through Life: The 20 Big Issues” (Bantam) are published in five languages and have been enthusiastically received by schools and parents across Australia and beyond. His latest book, “Building Classroom Success, Eliminating Academic Fear and Failure” (Continuum) was published in early 2010.

In many academic and personal areas boys continue to underperform compared to girls. There are also ever-present challenges in school and outside of school that boys must overcome to achieve their personal potential.

This workshop presents practical strategies to help:

+ Increase boys' motivation and engagement
+ Encourage 'personal best' (PB) approaches to school and life
+ Enhance boys' achievement
+ Boost boys' valuing of school and educational and occupational aspirations
+ Enhance boys' literacy
+ Manage technology, the Internet, social networking, and electronic gaming
+ Build good relationships between boys and parents (or other carers)

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call 0407 708 626 to book your place.

Families Together is for parents/grandparents/carers
Children's services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place.
Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE: Wednesday, 26 March 2014
TIME: 6.30 - 9.00pm
PLACE: The Horsley Room & Lounge
City of Fairfield RSL Memorial Club Ltd
14 Anzac Avenue
Fairfield 2165

CHILD MINDING is not available for this course. Please make alternative arrangements.

Please note: if you do not wish to receive these flyers or would like to have them emailed to you please contact the number above.

Families Together is funded by the Department of Education and Communities and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.
Families Together invites mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers to
Raising Girls for Academic and Personal Success

Presented by
Dr. Andrew Martin

Andrew Martin, PhD, MAPS, is a Registered Psychologist specialising in educational psychology. His work focuses on motivation, engagement, and achievements as well as work into boys' and girls' education, gifted and talented, disengagement, academic buoyancy and courage, pedagogy, parenting, teach-student relationships and Aboriginal education. He was listed in The Bulletin magazine's SMART 100 Australians and in the Top 10 in the field of Education. His books, "How to Motivate Your Child for School and Beyond" (Bantam) and "How to Help Your child Fly Through Life: The 20 Big Issues" (Bantam) are published in five languages and have been enthusiastically received by schools and parents across Australia and beyond. His latest book, "Building Classroom Success, Eliminating Academic Fear and Failure" (Continuum) was published in early 2010.

Girls face distinct challenges and opportunities as they move through school and beyond. This workshop provides practical strategies to help girls realise their academic and personal potential. It focuses on ways to help girls:

+ Reduce anxiety
+ Increase self confidence in school and beyond
+ Build resilience for tests and other performance situations
+ Develop and sustain high personal expectations for school and the future
+ Address fear of success and self-doubt
+ Manage technology, the Internet and social networking
+ Build good parent-child relationships

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call 0407 708 626 to book your place.

Families Together is for parents/grandparents/carers.
Children’s services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place.
Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE: Wednesday, 12 March 2014
TIME: 6.30 - 9.00pm
PLACE: Memories
Bankstown Trotting Recreational Club Ltd
178 Eldridge Road
Bankstown
(entrance to Memories is on the left hand side - no need to enter the club)

CHILD MINDING is not available for this course. Please make alternative arrangements.

Please note: if you do not wish to receive these flyers or would like to have them emailed to you please contact the number above.
Families Together is funded by the Department of Education and Communities and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.