Dear Parents

Welcome to our first formal newsletter of the academic year. Once again, welcome to all our new families in Year 7 and the 25 families who have joined us in Years 8-10. The growth in numbers attending St Benedict’s College this year has been quite significant as we establish a reputation locally as a place where our students receive an authentic Catholic education with an emphasis on personalized learning. For the first time we have, unfortunately for the many Catholic families moving into the area, a waiting list for Years 8 & 9 as we have reached maximum capacity in those Year Groups.

Congratulations to the students of Year 10 who presented themselves so well on the first day in their new Senior College uniforms. General feedback is that the look is very smart and very “grown up”. We would welcome any feedback about the new uniform.

This week we also sent home to parents of Years 8-10 our annual ‘satisfaction survey’. Please take the time to tell us what you think on a range of issues pertaining to your child’s education. Results are published in the annual school report which will be on our website and also visible through the “My School” page.

At this time of year transport arrangements always rear their ugly head. We ask for your patience if there are delays or unexpected changes. Bus Companies do not change their rosters/timetables over until February 17. New timetables will be visible on the Busways and Busabout websites in the days before and drivers will hand a printed copy of the changes to all students as they get on the bus in the days beforehand. The current pause allows all the routes to take stock of changing student numbers. It does mean some of our buses are quite crowded, but we have received information from Busways about a number of changes, with additional buses, particularly through Harrington Park, from the February 17.

All family members are invited to our Opening College Mass on Monday 10 February at 9:30 at St Paul’s Camden. Student Middle School Leaders from Year 9 will have their badges blessed and then be presented to the community. A significant part of the Mass will be the blessing of, and use of a new chalice, paten, linen and cruets set that was purchased with the generosity of the Campbelltown Catholic Club and we thank them again for providing us the resources with which to celebrate the Eucharist.

As you would imagine, living adjacent to a building site means plenty of dust. So it’s the time of year again for our annual Working Bee. On Saturday 15 February we will open at about 6:45am for first registrations to begin work on a variety of tasks. A full list of tasks is currently being compiled and we will post them in next weeks “Benny’s Bites” together with equipment we might be looking to source. Thanks in advance to the Building and Maintenance Sub Committee of the P&F for their help.

Just on the P&F, a reminder that the Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting will be held at the College on Tuesday 25 February. Elections will be held for Executive Positions for 2014 at that time. It is a busy time for the P&F at the moment with the Working Bee, the Welcome Evening for Year 7 2014 Parents and plans underway for a Christmas in July Trivia Evening mid year.

I hope to see you around the College at one of these events very soon.

Michael Hanratty
Principal
### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### TERM 1

**February**
- **Mon 10**: Opening School Mass
- **Wed 12**: Yr 7 PAT testing
- **Sat 15**: P&F Working Bee
- **Wed 19**: Welcome Evening for Year 7 2014 Parents
- **Tues 25**: P&F AGM

**March**
- **Wed 5**: Ash Wednesday
- **Fri 7**: Staff Development Day
- **Mon 10**: 1st Vaccination
- **Wed 12**: Year 7 2015 Information Evening
- **Thur 13**: Swimming Carnival

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**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**

Parents and friends are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the beginning of the 2014 school year with Mass to be held at

**St Paul’s Catholic Church, John Street, Camden**

on

**Monday 10 February**

commencing at

**9:15am**

Students are to arrive at school at normal school time and after Pastoral Class will be transported to and from St Paul’s by bus.

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**P&F Working Bee**

**Saturday 15 February**

*(see attached flyer)*

**6:45am—11am**

There are plenty of jobs to be done. We welcome any assistance you can offer on Saturday morning. Could you please indicate by completing the slip at the bottom of the attached flyer and returning it to the College. Alternatively you could email or phone with your numbers to info@sbccdow.catholic.edu.au or phone 4631 5300.

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**St Benedict’s P&F Association**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 25 February**

**7pm at the College.**

All parents/carers are invited to attend.

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**The P&F warmly invite**

**Parents of Year 7 2014**

to a

**Welcome Evening**

to be held on

**Wednesday 19 February**

**6:30pm—8pm**

Come and meet the staff and inspect the new buildings. Light refreshments will be provided.

More details to follow next week.
St Benedict’s Catholic College - Skoolbag App

Are you using the Skoolbag App? Many parents are now making use of this valuable addition to our communication outlets. Available now for iPhone and Android is the St Benedict’s Skoolbag App. This will provide links to the College calendars, coming events, newsletters and important notes and announcements. There is also the ability to notify us of Student Absences and of Changes to Address and phone number details.

You can download this **FREE** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play site (for Android phones). Use the search: **Skoolbag St Benedict** and download.

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.

PAT TESTS

**Year 7**

**Wednesday 12 February**

The PAT tests that will be undertaken by Year 7’s next week, are nationally benchmarked tests in Comprehension, Mathematics and Science. These results are used for indications to teachers for the individual learning of students.

Testing will be done in their normal classes. They will need their laptop in class. Please make sure that the laptop is fully charged.
**BIG BENNIES CLEAN UP 2014!**

From 6:45am in the temporary school. 7am - 11am

**BBQ breakfast from 9am**

Jobs to do include window cleaning, weeding, mowing, removing cobwebs, painting doors and general cleaning.

Bring your buckets, cleaning cloths, mowers, edgers, wheelbarrows, gloves a hat and some sunscreen.

[Email: info@sbcc.catholic.edu.au]

**P&F WORKING BEE—Please return to College by Wednesday 13 March**

For catering purposes could you please indicate the number of people who will be attending.

Name (please print): .............................................................. Number of helpers: ..............................