Dear Parents

On Friday, the staff gathered with spiritual director Fr. David Orr, a Benedictine priest from the community at Arcadia in the north west of Sydney. As well as leading us in an experience of Benedictine prayer, Fr. David challenged us to live out our Mission Statement that has been built around the 10 “Benedictine Hallmarks of Education” of which hospitality is one. This is of particular interest in the light of this week’s Gospel reading around the events of Pentecost. The disciples were going against centuries of tradition by locking themselves away. Hospitality and a sense of welcome had ceased in their community. In a community based on hospitality, the disciples behavior was sure to draw comment.

In his gospel, John gives the reason the followers gathered together behind locked doors. They simply feared the Jewish leadership. “If they killed Jesus,” the followers reasoned, ‘the leadership would certainly be looking for us.” [20:19a]

Barred doors made Jesus’ followers look even more suspicious. At the time, trust within the Jewish community was built upon open access. Doors were never locked. Neighbours’ children could enter one’s house at will. Older family members, who lived in a different period in Australia, and those of us who have lived in smaller (possibly rural) communities would know that feeling well. Jews lived private lives in the open. Anyone who locked their doors cut themselves off from the community.

Suddenly Jesus appeared in the locked room and greeted his followers with "Shalom." [20:19b] Shalom (‘peace’ in Hebrew) meant God was working in the world. When God worked, he put the world in balance. The disciples were shamed by their fear and lack of hospitality and welcome.

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It was wonderful to join over 30 parents at the second Parenting Teens evening last Tuesday night. Presenter Gloria Melham provided some thought provoking insights into the teenage brain and the different styles of parenting we adopt as different circumstances arise with the young adults in our homes. Assisting your child at home to work through educational and social issues as they arise is a simultaneously exasperating and rewarding experience. In particular, trying to balance the need to be the uber-parent (who does everything for their child) and being a “Sparent” (standing back and allowing your child to stand on their own two feet and learn from their mistakes) is a challenging one. When it comes to completing schoolwork, where do you stand? It is not uncommon for parents to unconsciously undermine their child’s progress by completely doing their assessment tasks and deskilling them. Teachers regularly hear parents complaining that they, the parents, didn’t get full marks! Assisting with, rather than doing tasks is the key.

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continued ……

Work is well under way in preparation for our first Stage 6/HSC cohort. Cheryl Russell, our Board of Studies’ liaison officer will be speaking with our Year 10 parents on Wednesday evening about the Record of School Achievement and the relevance of Year 10 to the HSC. Following that evening, we will be opening enrolments for Year 11 and advertising places in the local media. It is an exciting time at the College as we reach the halfway point to our maximum enrolments.

Michael Hanratty
Principal

**Letter from Bishop Peter Ingham regarding**

**The Royal Commission**

An email has been sent today to all families with a copy of the letter from Director of Schools of the Diocese of Wollongong, Mr Peter Turner. The email also contains a link to a letter from Bishop Peter Ingham, which is also available on the school website.

If you have specific questions about this letter, please contact Mr Hanratty, or Mr Tim Gilmour, at the Catholic Education Office on 4253 0938. Should you feel that pastoral support or counselling would be of assistance please contact the Diocese on 1800 225 922.

A hard copy of the letters has been sent home with students who do not have access to the College website or emails.

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**Year 10 RoSA**

**Information Evening**

**Wednesday 11 June**

**7pm (sharp)**

St Justin’s Library

This is a compulsory evening for all Year 10 students. Key information on the evening will include:

- How the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) works
- Eligibility requirements for the RoSA
- HSC pathways and
- Leaving before the HSC

**PARENT /TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

**Thursday evening 26 June**

**Friday 27 June**

Bookings for Parent/Teacher Interviews are booked through an online site. Details will be sent home with your child on how to access the site closer to the date. If you don’t have access to the online site then arrangements can be made through the College office.

Reports will be distributed on Tuesday 24 June, prior to the interview times.

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**ZOO EXCURSION**

**Year 7**

**Friday 20 June**

**Depart:** 7:00 am

**Return:** 2:30 pm

**Dress:** Full winter uniform, including blazers and hat.

Permission notes are to be returned by **Wednesday 11 June**. Copies of the excursion note can be downloaded from the College website. Students who do not return their note by the due date, will not be permitted to attend the excursion.
Please note the Amendments to the College Uniform Policy which are effective immediately.

Additional Notes for Boys
- **Only** the following jewellery is acceptable:
  - A watch
  - One plain ring
  - One plain fine, silver or gold neck chain with a religious symbol, to be worn under uniform.
- St Benedict’s caps or hats must be worn when not under covered structures.
- Any undergarment must be plain and not be visible, and not a substitute for jumper or blazer.
- Shorts and trousers must be worn on the waist.
- St Benedict’s jumper in NOT to be worn with the Sport Uniform.
- NO visible body art of any description.
- No visible piercings of any description.

Additional Notes for Girls
- **Only** the following jewellery is acceptable:
  - A watch
  - One pair of plain, small studs or sleepers (maximum diameter 1cm). No more than 1 in each ear. Earrings are only to be worn in the earlobe.
  - One plain ring.
  - One plain, fine silver or gold neck chain with a religious symbol, to be worn under the uniform.
- No nail polish, make-up or acrylic/gel nails.
- Any undergarment must be plain and not visible, and not a substitute for a jumper or blazer.
- St Benedict’s caps or hats must be worn when not under covered structures.
- St Benedict’s jumper is NOT to be worn with the Sport Uniform.
- NO visible body art of any description.
- No visible piercings, except for earrings as above.

**PHONE CALLS AND MESSAGES**
Students are not permitted to access their mobile phones at any time at school. Students who are found to be using their phones will have them confiscated.

For the first offence during the term the student may pick their phone up at the end of the day. For any further breaches a parent must pick the phone up from the College office.

If parents/carers need to contact their child in an emergency situation they should contact the office and a message will be passed on to the student. Please be aware that Tuesday afternoon is sport time and there may be difficulties getting a message to your child, particularly if they are off site.

**LOST PROPERTY**

It is amazing to see so many (expensive) items of winter uniform in Lost Property including blazers and tracksuits. They are in Lost Property because there are no names on any of the items.

Please make sure that ALL items of clothing are clearly marked with your child’s name.

School caps must be worn to all PDH practical classes and to sport. Whenever your child is in their sport uniform they must have their school cap.

Caps are available from the Uniform Shop or, in limited numbers, from the College Office for $15.

Ties are also for sale for $22 from the College Office.

**STUDENT LEAVE DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**
Parents who wish to take students on leave during normal school time should apply in writing to the Principal, Mr Hanratty. If the period of Approved Leave exceeds 15 days in the 12 month period, a form for Exemption from Attendance at School will be sent home. This should then be completed and returned to the College in time for a formal certificate to be issued.

If the number of leave days in the period is less than 15, the College will issue a letter of approval.

**VACCINATIONS**

The second dose of the HPV (Human Papillomavirus vaccine) is scheduled for **Wednesday 18 June**. This applies to all those Year 7 and Year 9 (boys only) who have received the first dose on the previous visit.
The Diocese of Wollongong Parent Forum is presenting a Parent Conference ‘How Do Our Children Find Meaning In Their Life?’ on Saturday 19th July at Chifley Hotel, Wollongong.

The 2014 Parent Conference is an opportunity to acknowledge, support and celebrate parent involvement in education. It allows parents and educators access to workshops, guest speakers and information to understand in more detail some of the initiatives happening in our Catholic Schools.

Throughout the day, parents will have the opportunity to attend two (2) of four (4) workshops on offer.

**Workshop A:** The Good News About Catholic Social Teaching

**Workshop B:** Anti-bullying and Cyber Safety

**Workshop C:** 21st Century Learning in the Australian Curriculum.

**Workshop D:** How can parents support the social and emotional wellbeing of their child?

Two high profile keynote speakers will also address parents and educators on issues relevant to families today.

Hugh Mackay, a renowned social researcher, author and highly engaging public speaker, will speak specifically about his most recent book, “The Good Life” – What Makes A Life Worth Living?

Fr Richard Leonard SJ, a Jesuit priest, author and educator will address the topic ‘Catholic Education in the Real World.’

The cost is $35 per person and registration closes Friday 4th July 2014.

Registration options:
1. Register online – Go to http://www.trybooking.com/84228 for electronic registration and payment
2. Collect the registration form from the school office

Further information on the workshops can be found at dow.catholic.edu.au/parentforum.htm

Clare-Ann Taylor
Parent Education Committee
St Benedict’s P&F
sleigh loads of fun....
...santa’s super raffles
...abundant enjoyment...
Copious Christmas Cheer

Mulled wine & mince pies, yum.....

Saturday
26 JULY 2014
7-11 PM
@ Camden Civic Centre
‘Undercroft’
(opposite Woolworths Camden)

Know your christmas carols?
Reindeer Crossing....

SBCC - our School’s
one and only fundraiser for classroom
Apple TVs

TRIVIA NIGHT

Christmas in July
Please join us...

Baby, it's cold outside.....

Come along for a great night of fun and entertainment
only $10 a ticket
Form your own table of 10 or let us seat you at a table of friendly
(& intelligent) parents and friends

COUNT ME IN!!
I/We would love to come along to the trivia night on Saturday 26 July at the Camden Civic Centre Undercroft.

Name: ___________________________ Contact phone no: ___________________________

Please find enclosed:
☐ Table of ten = $100 total

☐ _______ single tickets required @ $10 = $_______ total

Child(ren)'s name: ___________________________ Pastoral Class: ___________________________