Dear Parents

One of the most important elements of a successful school and one of the core elements in the promotion of learning is a positive relationship between the learner and the teacher. The simple but powerful act of even knowing a student’s name and of the students knowing all the staff creates a significant opportunity for enhancing learning. St. Benedict understood this in the way in which he constructed monastic life. Benedict states that an abbot "is to imitate the loving example of the Good Shepherd, who left the ninety-nine sheep in the mountains, and went in search of the one sheep that had strayed". In the time of the ancient Hebrews, sheep and other livestock were a cornerstone of civilized life, and shepherding was a common and decent profession. David himself, who went on to be King of Israel, had been a shepherd. In The Rule of St. Benedict, as in the Old Testament, there are many references to shepherding, likening the keeping of sheep to the guidance of God’s followers.

In this week’s Gospel, using the thief as background, Jesus introduced the image of the good shepherd. The good shepherd entered through the gate, as he was recognised by the gatekeeper. The good shepherd loved his sheep. He called them with a special sound and he had a name for each of them. Jesus evoked a sense of trust for the shepherd. The gatekeeper and the sheep both believed in the shepherd. In this simplest of stories we see illustrated the power in positive relationships based on trust and having knowledge of others.

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It is a very busy time at the College at the moment. The enrolment panel is working their way through our record number of enrolment applications for Year 7, 2015 and we are delighted with the level of interest and the quality of the applicants. Small personalized tours for interested parents are being held on the 20/21st of May and our new Hospitality Centre will be open for inspection as part of that process. For current families, inspection of the new facilities will occur following the Term 4 P&F Meeting on November 4.

Years 7 and 9 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests this week, generating results that will be used to inform further targets for improvement in Literacy and Numeracy. At the same time, Year 10 will be undertaking the Outdoor Education component of the Gold Leadership Diploma having satisfied the requirements for the Purple in Year 9. We wish Year 10 well as they venture out to the Colo River area. On Friday, Year 8 will be attending their Reflection Day at Mt Shoenstatt, Mulgoa and we wish them a fun and reflective community building day.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TERM 2**

**May**

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<tr>
<td>Tue 13</td>
<td>NAPLAN Yrs 7 &amp; 9 Day 1</td>
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<td>Year 8 Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Wed 14</td>
<td>NAPLAN Yrs 7 &amp; 9 Day 2</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp - Day 1</td>
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<td>Thurs 15</td>
<td>NAPLAN Yrs 7 &amp; 9 Day 3</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp - Day 2</td>
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<td>Fri 16</td>
<td>Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp - Day 3</td>
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<td>Yr 8 Reflection Day</td>
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<td>Tues 20</td>
<td>ICAS Science Competition</td>
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<td>Wed 21</td>
<td>Yr 10 Commerce Excursion</td>
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<td>Yrs 9 &amp; 10 Drama Excursion</td>
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<td>Mon 26</td>
<td>Yr 7 History &amp; Art Excursion</td>
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<td>Yrs 9 &amp; 10 Half Yearly examinations commence</td>
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<td>Wed 28</td>
<td>Parenting Your Teen evening 1</td>
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<td>Fri 30</td>
<td>Last day Yr 9 &amp; 10 Exams</td>
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**June**

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<tr>
<td>Wed 4</td>
<td>Parenting Your Teen evening 2</td>
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<td>ICAS Science Competition</td>
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<td>Thurs 5</td>
<td>Yr 10 Careers Expo</td>
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<td>Yr 7 MISA debating</td>
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<td>Fri 6</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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Our Equestrian Team competed for the very first time at the end of last term and a fantastic effort in our inaugural competition in the Southern Highlands brought ribbons galore:

Eliza Craig (Yr 9): 1st in Consolation (hacking) and 5th in Yr 9 Dressage

Taryn Poidevin (Yr 7): 1st in Pleasure, 2nd in Best Presented and 3rd in Best Educated (hacking)

Allirah Hill (Yr 7) 1st in Best Educated, 3rd in Best Presented and 4th in Rider (hacking)

Alise Channell (Yr 7) 5th in the 45cm Jumping Derby and 5th in Sporting

A huge thank you to our organizing parents Mrs Hill and Mrs Poidevin who have got the team off the ground this year. We look forward to seeing these girls and the many riders who were unable to make it on the day, competing again soon.

In another first, Maddy Crawford (Year 8) has become our most successful Public Speaker, now making it through to the Sydney Regional Final of the Rostrum Voice of Youth. Maddy will compete on 21 May against the best young speakers from all over Sydney. We congratulate her, wish her well and thank Miss O’Connor for her efforts in coaching Maddy to this stage of the competition.

Michael Hanratty
Principal

YEAR 8
Coastal Geography Excursion
Wednesday 14 May

Students are to wear full school sports uniform, including hat.
Students are to bring all their own food and drinks.

YEAR 8
Reflection Day
Friday 16 May
Students are to wear their full school sports uniform, including hat.
A sausage sizzle will be supplied for lunch. Students are to bring their own drinks and recess.

ATTENTION
YEAR 7 and YEAR 9
NAPLAN Numeracy
Thursday 15 May
ALL STUDENTS TO BRING THEIR CALCULATOR
**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT**

**SAVE THE DATE**
Saturday 26 July 2014
7-11p
**SBCC TRIVIA NIGHT**
(brought to you by the P&F)

Join us for our school community’s major fundraiser.
Lots of fun, loads of prizes, raffles galore.
Form tables of 10 OR let us seat you with (very intelligent) people.

If you have goods or services to offer as a prize, please contact the P&F through the College office.

YEARS 9 and 10
Formal Half Yearly Exams
Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

EXAMS
When was the last time you backed up your laptop?

Your laptop is the most important educational device you have. Treat your schoolwork like you would money in your wallet.

This image was taken from a student’s laptop last week. Some students have not backed up for longer periods than this!

Do you remember your last back up?
Check by clicking on the Time Machine logo.

Laptops are not immortal. Data can get lost at anytime. Are you going to lose all of your schoolwork, assessment tasks, music, photos etc.?

BACK UP WEEKLY
St Benedict’s Catholic College presents a two night seminar on coming to grips with the teenager in your house.

To be held in an informal and welcoming local setting and whether it’s your first teen or fourth, our experienced College Counsellor Gloria Melham, will walk you through some of the struggles of adolescence and the strategies in parenting to assist you in meeting each of the adolescent hurdles as they emerge at different stages.

**Understanding & Parenting Your Teen**

... for first timers and those who don’t want to forget!

Ever wondered what happened to the Angel at YOUR Table??

Can’t work out what’s “got into them”?

**VENUE**
St Benedict’s Catholic College

**DATES**
Wednesday 28 May 7:00pm—8:30pm
and
Wednesday 4 June 7:00pm—8:30pm

**COST**
The seminar is free to all parents.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

To register your attendance please ring the office on 4631 5300.