Dear Parents

Last week we marked two important days in our Church Year, All Saints on Saturday and All Souls on Sunday. Despite “All Hallows Eve” (Halloween) commercializing what is essentially a religious feast, The Solemnity of All Saints is a remembrance of all the saints and we find the origins of this practice in the first few centuries CE. During the time of the persecution of Christians by the Romans, the anniversaries of the martyrs were remembered, but as their numbers increased a particular day was set aside to remember all those ‘saints’ who had died, both those known and unknown. Now on this occasion, we remember all whose lives of faith are examples to us all.

The Feast of All Souls is a remembrance of all who have died and a time to offer prayers for them. Around the world there are many cultural-religious practices associated with this day and ways of honoring the dead. This commemoration leads us to think about life, death, and of course, immortality. What might this be? What language and images might we use to convey a sense of it? Throughout the history of secular thinking and philosophy, as well as religious thought and beliefs, many ideas and concepts of immortality have arisen and current thinking is no different, for today too there are many ways in which this is understood. There is a kind of immortality that some people achieve that comes from their contribution to humanity, to the world, to the Arts and Sciences. What they did or created continues to live on and to delight and bring joy, to improve people’s lives, to inspire, challenge and comfort. Then there is the immortality which resides in the hearts and memories of people as the stories of their ancestors and loved ones are told and retold with affection, passed on in the family history, listened to in awe and held dear. We take great delight in seeing the personality traits or the talents and gifts of family members who have passed away come to expression in ourselves or in our children generations after they have lived and passed on, and it is common to hear people console one another at times of loss with the comforting thought that their beloved mother or grandparent will live on in them. And all this makes life beautiful, rich and meaningful.

The legacy and creativity of so many gifted people and so many people of goodness and their self-sacrifice, enrich our world and make it a better place for their having been in it.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

You would have seen media reports this week about the St Justin’s staff member who was ‘hit’ by lightning during the second wave of storms that hit the area on Tuesday. Her umbrella became electrified as lightning strikes were very close at hand and she received quite a shock in her arm. Thankfully, all is well now, but it did raise the very concerning point about the parents who insisted in walking their children home, or to their cars from a dry classroom/verandah in the middle of a torrential downpour and in very dangerous conditions instead of waiting patiently for the students to be dismissed when it was safe.

Speaking of the storms.. A blackout following the storms meant we had to postpone this term’s P&F meeting at short notice. It was very dangerous in the car park in the dark and no real emergency lighting in the

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

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January

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February

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**Please note new date due to last weeks cancellation**

P&F Meeting tomorrow night
Wednesday 12 November 7pm at the College
All Welcome
school. We did put a message out on Skoolbag to alert families, but apologies to those who travelled to the College to find a message on the gate indicating it had been rescheduled. The new date is tomorrow, Wednesday (12th Nov) at 7pm.

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Can you help?
We are after some parent helpers to assist with the BBQ on the Year 7 Orientation Day for a few hours. If you can dazzle by cooking some (hundreds of) sausages we would be grateful for your assistance. With so many extra mouths to feed this year, we need a few more mums and dads to help with Hospitality on this important day.

Also, we did a shout out last week for about an hour of time with someone’s bobcat or digger to scrape back an earth mound at the front of the school that is causing mud run-off when it rains. Students cannot avoid walking through the mud and clay and dragging it through the new rooms. If you have a bobcat OR something similar or would like to come and have a look at the job, please give the school a ring.

+++++++  

The College was in examinations mode last week. It was very impressive to see our Years 9 &10 students working collaboratively sharing notes and “testing” each other during breaks. It is always a good sign when students emerge from the exam room saying “it was a fair paper” and can acknowledge and reflect upon their capacity to successfully attempt the questions. Although examinations are not the be-all-and-end-all, it is the world of the Higher School Certificate which finished this week and that most students will go on and complete. The skills and learning habits formed in the Middle School Years will hold them in good stead as they progress to Stage 6. We are 24 months out from our first HSC group. Like many of our parents, I wonder where those years went…

+++++++  

We join all the local Catholic schools in wishing Fr. Michael Williams congratulations on the 25th anniversary of his ordination this week. St. Benedict’s College students will be represented at the Camden Schools Mass which will be held on Friday to celebrate the occasion and I look forward to seeing many of our families at the formal celebrations at the Parish Mass and lunch on Sunday.

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Michael Hanratty  
Principal

Remembrance Day Commemoration

Today, Tuesday 11th November, was Remembrance Day. On this day, we at St Benedict’s commemorated the fallen and those who have served in all conflicts both past and present. I would like to thank Maddison Crawford, Mikayla Gauci and Jayde Bermingham for their eloquent presentation of the commemoration, Mr Andrew Lundy for his organisation and Mr Craig Davidson for his moving performance of ‘The Last Post’ and the ‘Reveille’. It is important to remember these significant occasions in our global and national history, so that we may learn from the past and honour those who have defended our rights and freedoms that we enjoy today. Please keep in your prayers those who are still affected by their involvement in conflict or the loss of a loved one. Also, consider those in active combat and peacekeeping missions today and pray for their safe return and the establishment of peace in our world.

Lest We Forget.

Natasha O’Flynn  
HSIE Co-ordinator

Year 7 2015  

Parent Information Evening  

Wednesday 19 November  
at the College  
In D Block

Due to the limited space and parking at this stage of the building programme, the information will be presented in two sessions. A letter has been sent home indicating the session that you are to attend.

The sessions will be held upstairs in the new two storey building, D Block. Each session is expected to last about 40 minutes.

Student Orientation Day  

Year 7 2015  

Friday 21 November  
commencing at  
8:15am for a 8:25am start  
and finishing at  
2:15pm

Students are to wear their present school sports uniform, including a hat, and to bring their own Morning Tea.

A sausage sizzle and a drink will be provided for lunch. If your child has any special dietary requirements, please contact the College to discuss these needs.
MISA Sport

Last week our MISA Oztag teams competed against John Therry Catholic High School. A special mention to the Girls Basketball team who came away with a 14-14 draw!

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as the Most Valuable Player for their team;

Courtney Schonell (7-9 Girls Oztag)
Noah Weaver (7-9 Boys Oztag)
Lachlan Abbott (9/10 Boys AFL)
Mickayla Dillon (7 Girls Basketball)
Diego Castro-Eastman (7 Boys Basketball)

School Sport

A reminder that all students need to have the necessary equipment each Tuesday for Sport;

Yr 7 Bodywar - College hat and drink bottle.
Yr 7 Zumba - College hat and drink bottle.
Yr 8 HYPE - College hat and drink bottle.
Yr 8 NRL - College hat and drink bottle.
Yr 9 Bowling - Drink bottle.
Yr 9 Soccer Clinic - College hat and drink bottle.
Yr 10 Gym and Cycling - Small sweat/hand towel and drink bottle.

Plans are well and truly underway for School Sport for 2015. If students and/or parents have any suggestions about possible venues/instructors please feel free to let me know.

Yours in Sport,

Mrs Pereira

Year 8 PDHPE Swim Safety Excursion

Friday 14 November
at Picton Pools

Travel will be by bus to Picton Pool. Students will leave school at 8.30am and return to school at approximately 2.15pm, in time for their normal afternoon buses.

Students are to wear full school sports uniform, including their hat. They may change in to appropriate swimwear once at the pools. Two piece swimsuits for girls are not appropriate for these activities. Thongs are permitted for use at the pool but sport shoes are to be worn to and from the pool.

Students are required to bring their recess and lunch and water for the day. The use of the kiosk may be permitted for a drink or an ice block, but student will not be permitted to purchase their lunch. Please ensure students bring a towel, hat and sunscreen and are appropriately attired for the day’s activities. A rash vest swim shirt would be ideal. A small black or blue backpack may be used.

Year 8 Science Excursion

Minnamurra Rainforest

Friday 21 November
(Permission notes due tomorrow, Wednesday 12 November)

Students will depart at 8:30 and return in time for normal afternoon transport arrangements.

College sport uniform is to be worn, including hat.

Beside their hat, students are to bring sunscreen, plenty of water, clipboard, pen/pencil, lunch and recess.

Year 9 PASS

Surfing Skills Excursion

Friday 28 November
(Permission notes due Friday 14 November)

Buses will depart the College at 8:10am and return in time for normal after school transport arrangements.

College sport uniform is to be worn, including hat.

Students are to bring their food, drinks, hat, sunscreen, towel and swimming costume.

Student Numbers for 2015

With a large number of applications presently on the waiting list for all grades, we would ask if any of our present families will not be returning to St Benedict’s next year that they contact us. This will enable us to offer a position to someone on the waiting list before the end of the year.

Thank you.
SUMMER COURSES

The Sydney Science Experience is from 14-16 in January at the University of Sydney, with one task - to solve a murder! The course demonstrates through hands-on lectures and presentations the reality behind a lot of popular forensic television shows. This is for students about to start year 10 or 11 in 2015. For more information visit http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/experience/index.shtml

The Summer School with Metro Screen is in January 2015. Learn to make a Documentary or a Drama in-class, under the watchful eye of the professional tutors. For details, visit http://metroscreen.org.au/summer-school/

The Summer Photography Short Courses @ Ultimo offers a summer series of short courses, in a range photography disciplines, from black and white to Photoshop. For details, visit http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/news/summer-photography-short-courses-ultimo

OPEN DAYS

The Sydney Film School Tour Day is on Sunday 16 November at 12pm. For more details visit http://www.sydneyfilmschool.com/school/tours.aspx or ring (02) 96982244.

The Australian Careers Business College last round of Open Days are at Wollongong on 18 December and Liverpool on 19 December and Parramatta on 22 December. For more information call 1300COLLEGE or visit www.openday2014.com.au

TAFE Illawarra’s Choices Day is on Saturday 6 December. For details, visit www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au, call 1300 766 123 or follow TAFE Illawarra on Facebook or Twitter for more information.

Use Caritas Australia’s 2014 Advent calendar to prepare for Christmas. This year the calendar uses the symbol of the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is a traditional centrepiece of the Christmas season with rich symbolic meaning around each candle, the circle of evergreen, the seedpods, nuts and cones, the laurel, pine, holly and fruits.

Throughout Advent you will learn more about the symbolic meanings and build your own wreath, lighting the candles as you Learn, Pray and Act daily with and for Caritas Australia’s partners around the world.

We have multiple versions to suit your needs:
- An App for both iPhone/iPad devices as well as Android phone/tablet devices
- A website version
- Primary School PowerPoint - includes the Advent wreath symbols that can be printed and used to create your own Advent wreath in the classroom and at home.

There is also a ‘how to’ guide on the website, including how to make your own Advent wreath, a traditional wreath blessing, and making it part of your daily Advent routine.

View and download the calendar from our website from mid-November; Advent begins on 30 November this year!
www.caritas.org.au/advent