



St Benedict's

Catholic College

Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 17 3 November 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

| | |
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| Wed 4 | P&F Meeting 7pm @ College |
| Fri 6 | Years 9 & 10 Final Exams end |
| Mon 9 | Year 9 English Excursion |
| Wed 11 | Yr 10 Commerce & Yr 11 Legal Studies Excursion |
| Thurs 12 | Yr 8 Science Excursion |
| Wed 18 | Yr 2016 Orientation Evening |
| Fri 20 | Yrs 7-10 Pupil Free Day Yr 7 2016 Student Orientation Day |
| Fri 27 | Yr 8 PDH Excursion |
| Mon 30 | Yr 9 PAT Tests |

December

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|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Wed 2 | Yr 8 PAT Tests |
| Thurs 3 | Yr 9 Duke of Ed |
| Fri 4 | Australian Catholic Youth Festival |
| Mon 7 | Australian Catholic Youth Festival |
| Wed 9 | Yrs 7-10 Final Reports distributed |
| Fri 11 | Closing Mass and Awards |
| Mon 14 | Beach Day |
| Tues 15 | Parent Teacher Day |

Dear Parents

The theme of the recent Senior Retreat was "Where Your Treasure Is, there your Heart Will Also Be". In this week's Gospel reading, this message, which was reflected upon by our first HSC candidates, is reinforced by Jesus challenging his listeners with The Beatitudes. Now, like then, the measurement of "my treasure" by most of the population is more akin to that which is sought in 'Pirates of The Caribbean' than something closer to the soul. Jesus contradicted then and now, the world's view on happiness.

The Beatitudes Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: No one can live without joy. That is why a person deprived of spiritual joy goes after worldly pleasures. Do you know the happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

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Congratulations go to Courtney Schonell (Year 9) who was recently awarded the highest Sport representative honours in being named in the U/16 Australian Hockey team. It has been a great week for the Schonell family, with Karley (Yr 10), not only being awarded a Diocesan medal at the Wollongong Sports Awards to be held next week, but winning the car at the St Justin's Country Fair last week!

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Thank you to the many parents who responded to the call for helpers for the Year 6 Orientation Day BBQ. The Hospitality Committee was overwhelmed with the response. A reminder that the P&F Meeting for this term is being held this Wednesday night in the College Administration building and will be followed (as has been the tradition at this meeting) with an inspection of the new facilities opened in 2015: Science Laboratories, Administration facilities and Staff Study.

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Yr. 11 Parents attended an Information Night on the Higher School Certificate and Assessment last Thursday evening. Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr. Bombardiere, presented an overview of all the rules and procedures governing assessment and credentialing. This evening will be followed early in Term 1 with a series of seminars and parent workshops which cater for the range of HSC options: from University Entry/ATAR information to TAFE and pathways to work, as well as managing those final few months at home. The countdown for our first HSC group has begun!

Michael Hanratty
Principal

P&F Meeting

Wednesday

4 November

6pm start

(NB earlier start)

Last meeting for the year. Following the meeting, parents will have the opportunity to view the latest stages of our building programme, including the Science labs, Administration building and the Staff Study.

All parents welcome.

YEAR 9 ENGLISH

Jewish Museum

Monday 9 November

Students are required to wear summer uniform, and should bring their College hat with them. They are also required to bring their own food and drink for the day as well as their school bag.

YEAR 8 SCIENCE

Minnamurra Rainforest

Thursday 12 November

Students are to be at school by 7:45am and are to wear their College sport uniform, including their hat. Those students not dressed correctly will not be permitted to attend the excursion.

Students will need to bring a clipboard, pen or pencil, and all food and drinks in a small, plain black or dark blue bag. As most of the activities are outdoors, sunscreen and a water bottle are also required.

YEAR 10 COMMERCE & YEAR 11 LEGAL STUDIES

Downing Centre Courts

Wednesday 11 November

Notes to be returned to Mr Costin by



Wednesday 4 November.

Full College summer uniform to be worn. Students are to bring food and drink in a small plain bag, as well as a clipboard, writing paper and a pen.



Year 7 2016

Orientation Day

Friday 20 November

Year 6 students are to arrive by 8:15am for an 8:25am start.

Students are to wear their present school sport uniform, including a hat.

A sausage sizzle lunch will be provided. Please contact the College if your child has special dietary requirements.

Parents/Carers are to collect their children from the Cloister at 2:15pm.

Year 7 2016

Parent and Student Orientation Evening

Wednesday 18 November

Information sessions to be held upstairs in D Block.

Session 1: 6:30pm

Session 2: 7:30pm

Please don't forget to return the completed bus pass forms.

Thank you

The P&F is grateful for the volunteers who have offered to help with the Orientation Day BBQ from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Friday 20 November

Pupil Free Day for Years 7 to 10

(due to Orientation Day)

Classes as normal for Year 11

MISA Leadership Seminar

St Benedict's College Captains, Lachlan Haidle and myself, as well as prefects, Taylor McGovern (Mission and Ministry) and Erin Coppin (Learning) recently attended a MISA Leadership Seminar at Macarthur Anglican School on Thursday 29 October. This afternoon allowed us to interact with other schools who are also a part of MISA.

We were taught about the excellence in teamwork and we were invited to present initiatives that take place in our College. This was an opportunity to provide other schools with ideas that could be initiated into their school as well as events that could be established in our College.

We were told that there are two types of leaders, a self-serving leader and a servant leader, where we were asked to visualise the leader that we thought we were. As a young individual and as a leader we were made aware that we look up to those who inspire us and those who are made out to be role models for us. Similarly, Jesus of Nazareth provides the cornerstone and faith of building blocks to become a good leader as he once said "Do you want to stand out? Then step down. If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty". Jesus was a servant leader who is a model for what we choose to do, as he was prepared to make a stand for an issue, and was concerned about people and what his goal was. In order for our College leadership to succeed, as Sir Winston Churchill once said "success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm".

Ebony Billett (College Captain)

Catholic Life and Mission Update

The Catholic Life and Mission of the College continues to be a busy one. There have been many events recently where students have been able to represent both their school and themselves, and to take the opportunity to develop their understanding of God.

Firstly, the College Prayer and Social Action focus this term will be on two main areas. Firstly, Catholic Mission's Socktober campaign, which aims to raise both funds and awareness of the plight of those in Madagascar and the significant impact that unclean water has on the lives of the people there. Secondly, we will look at supporting St Vincent De Paul and their Christmas appeal, and again, raise funds and awareness about the needs of those in our local community – especially at Christmas. I would ask both students and families to support these wonderful agencies in their mission to 'be the light' in times of need.

Recently we had students attend the formation day for the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival**. This is a great festival that will allow young people to deepen their faith in an engaging and enlivening manner. I have included here a report on the recent formation day from Ebony Billett:

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) aims to provide young people from Year 9 to young adults (up to 25) with the opportunity to engage with other people of the same age and to deepen their understanding and relationship with Jesus. It is a national gathering of Catholic young people, established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and was first held in 2013. On Thursday 15 October, I had the privilege of attending the second formation day with Lachlan Haidle and Taylor McGovern from Year 11, as well as Liberty Chiswick and Emily Winters from Year 10, who will be representing the College at this event. The idea of a formation day is to engage with students from a range of schools in the Wollongong Diocese and provides the opportunity to build on and enhance relationships before ACYF. We are extremely grateful and excited to have been given this opportunity and are fortunate that Ms Franciscus will be attending with us. This year the Festival is being held in Adelaide from the 3rd until the 6th of December.

Ebony Billett - (College Captain)

Recently, we held our first senior retreat. This was a fantastic opportunity for students in Year 11 to step back from the business of the day and take three days out to reflect on issues in their lives. The theme this year was "For where your treasure is, their your heart is also" and challenged students to find what is of value to them in their lives right now, cement the relationships with each other, as well as look at how they live the mission of the school – i.e show their Love of God, Love of Neighbour and Love of Learning. I include here a report from Lachlan Haidle in regards to his experience on retreat:

From Wednesday 21/10/2015 to Friday 23/10/2015, Year 11 students had the opportunity to take a step back from the business of life, as we travelled to Rathane Conference Centre in the Royal National Park. The retreat provided us with the opportunity to reflect on ourselves, with the theme of the retreat being "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also". Activities such as an Amazing Race, treasure-box painting, an inspiration talk from Sam Clear as well as the personal prayer and reflection provided us with multiple opportunities to stop and reflect. The Senior Retreat also allowed us to develop our relationship with the staff that attended. Overall it was a really great experience

Lachlan Haidle – Year 11

The College is also trialing an outreach program for yr 11 students during sport time. Students have had the opportunity to give back to the community either at the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable living or at Carrington. The early indication from students is that they have enjoyed these programs – and found them challenging at the same time.

Recently, students from St Benedict's also had the opportunity to partake in a Liturgical Ministers Training day. This day provides students with a chance to develop skills in a variety of liturgical ministries. These skills can then be applied to celebrations both at schools and in their own parishes. It was pleasing to see students take up this important invitation.

David Costin
Director of Mission and Vision



Youth Eco Summit Sustainability Festival

On 22 October, a group of Year 8, 9 and 10 students travelled to the Newington Armoury at Sydney Olympic Park to take part in the annual Youth Eco Summit's Sustainability festival. We learned about the concept of sustainability particularly in schools and cities and how we can bring sustainable action to life.

The students who attended from St Benedict's Catholic College participated in numerous hands-on projects and activities which taught us what we can do at our College to ensure we are creating an eco-friendly school environment. We were introduced to many initiatives such as re-cycling programs that can be implemented. A number of the students particularly enjoyed the Galston High Schools Agriculture display that included the opportunity to learn about the importance of chickens and how they are a sustainable pet!

Overall it was a great day and an excellent opportunity for the students to network, learn about the importance of our environment and, most importantly, learning how to lead sustainable lives.

By Mikayla and Maddison



Diocesan Girls' Basketball 2015

On Monday 26th October, a team of 11 girls in years 7-9 travelled to Illawarra Sports Stadium to represent St Benedict's Catholic College at the annual Diocesan Girls Basketball Championships. The tournament consisted of 7 other systemic schools within the Wollongong Diocese and 2 congregational schools, providing a great playing field for a competitive competition.

The St Benedict's team was made up of a range of girls with differing ages, abilities and knowledge of the sport of basketball, with most transferring their talents from other sporting backgrounds. The girls approached the day with a very positive attitude, and were willing to take on board any advice given throughout the day. After a 13 point loss in the first game and zero points on the board, the girls bounced back and should be commended on their effort to battle through the remaining games, continually displaying a 'never give up' attitude. They were unlucky not to make the semi finals after a marginal 4 point loss to John Therry Catholic in the dying minutes of the game.

A special thankyou must go to Portia Zuber of year 8, who, although injured the day prior in a sporting accident, showed a great level of commitment to the team, turning up to assist with the technical bench.

Miss Taylor Morley



Diocesan Boys' Basketball 2015

This year's Junior Boys Diocesan Basketball was a perfect day for the boys to show off the talent, discipline and sportsmanship St Benedict's have to offer. The boys were selected only the week earlier to participate in the competition with no training scheduled, and a range of students from years 7-10 made up the squad.

We were fortunate enough to come out with two comfortable wins on the day, and a narrow loss to Holy Spirit College, who are known for their Basketball success. The boys formed a tight bond from the opening match, and came up against some big, experienced teams and managed to put solid challenges to them, ending in respectful scores on the board.

Very special mention must go to Jonah Nader. Aside from his amazing ability to play Basketball, his leadership was exceptional.

Lachlan Parker, Charles Makufa and Marlon Font were a highlight: their support of the younger boys who were brought along for their future development and experience was inspiring.

Thank you to all the boys involved and Miss Morley for assisting in selections and organisation of the teams. It was a great sign of things to come for the future of Basketball at St Benedicts.

Mr Luke Eisenhuth

College Sport Week 1, 2 & 3

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as MVPs for Week 1, 2 and 3;

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| Zumba | Jordan Stanojev, Monica Smsarisan |
| AFL | Dylan Mifsud, Ashlee Stevens |
| Taekwondo | Yehia Bates |
| Bowling | Gabby Sarkis |
| Bodywar | Justin Waights, Marie Bull, Lachlan Parker |
| Skating | Leah Brown, Cooper Head |
| Crossfit | Jake Schloeffel |
| Cricket | Mikayla Gaudi |
| F45 | Joey Lombardo, Ella Almond |

MISA Sport

This term is the start of the MISA Term 4 competition with St Benedict's entering the Year 7 boys and girls Basketball and the 7-9 boys and girls Oztag competitions.

Week 1 proved to be a difficult week for us with both Basketball sides struggling with John Therry Catholic High School, however they bounced back in week 2 with a win and a draw against Wollondilly Anglican College.

Our Oztag sides have had a disrupted start to the competition with byes in the first round.

V John Therry Catholic High School

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Year 7 Boys Basketball | Lost 26 – 8 | MVP Mitchell Groot |
| Year 7 Girls Basketball | Lost 21 – 6 | MVP Chenoa Brimble |
| Year 7-9 Boys Oztag | No Game | |
| Years 7 – 9 Girls Oztag | No Game | |

V Wollondilly Anglican College

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Year 7 Boys Basketball | Won 8-6 | MVP Felix Muzirwa |
| Year 7 Girls Basketball | Drew 6-6 | MVP Caitlin Orridge |
| Year 7-9 Boys Oztag | Lost 3-1 | MVP Bryce Earnshaw |
| Years 7-9 Girls Oztag | No Game | |

Mr Michael Turton



Year 8 PDHPE Swim and Survive - Friday 27 November

Completed permission notes and payment of \$23 to be made by Wednesday 18 November.

CAREER NEWS

The **UNSW Minerals Summer School** is from 18 to 20 January for Year 10 and 11 students interested in science or engineering. Apply by 31 October at mining@unsw.edu.au. For more details go to <http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/mining-engineering/unsw-minerals-summer-school>

For information about **Commonwealth Scholarships** including ABSTUDY, Austudy, Youth Allowance, Fares Allowance, Education Entry Payments go to <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

The **Australian Institute of Architects NSW** has resources for students interested in architecture field with events and what University study is like. For details, go to <http://www.architecture.com.au/nsw/>

There are **65 traditional trades in skills shortage** across Australia. For details, visit <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/national-skills-needs-list>