



St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 5, Issue 16 20 October 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- Wed 21** Senior Retreat (Yr 11) starts
Thurs 22 Youth Eco Summit
Friday 23 Senior Retreat ends
Liturgical Ministers Training Day
Mon 26 Dio Basketball (boys & girls)
Wed 28 Preliminary Reports distributed
Dio Cricket (boys)
Thurs 29 HSC Intro Night
Year 11 Parent/Teacher Night

November

- Mon 2** Years 9 & 10 Final Exams start
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

- 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

With another changing of the guard in the Federal Cabinet and another change in Prime Minister, a lot of the commentary over the last two weeks has been about "Who is In/Who is Out" of favour with those now in positions of power. Who has been rewarded for allegiances and who has been demoted or marginalised. This is nothing new in politics (particularly in Australia!) but it is also nothing new in social life through the centuries. Many would argue it is almost human nature. Coincidentally, in this week's Gospel, we find Zebedee's two boys, James and John, asking Jesus straight out can they be rewarded for following him by having the top spots next to him in heaven. Thanks for asking boys.

Jesus points out that places in the kingdom are not allocated by favour. This common method of gaining positions of power has been in practice up to and including our own times.

The final scene in the Gospel has Jesus addressing another group of people who are (understandably) disgruntled by the queue jumping (and brazenness) of the brothers. Jesus attempts to turn the disciples' attitudes away from the idea that to be powerful means control, prestige and display.

Verse 45 could be the key to the whole message of the Gospel. It sums up the motive for the ministry of Jesus. We are called to serve others until we are poured out, emptied, so that many will be freed from all that imprisons them.

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Over the last week Year 9 have been attending the Somerset Outdoor Education Centre at Colo as part of the accreditation for the first stage of the Leadership Diploma. The Instructors commented on the great sense of teamwork and the spirit of camaraderie that was on display in all the activities that were undertaken. Congratulations to all the students on the way they represented the College and to Mr Lundy and the team for their efforts in providing a challenging, but rewarding time away.

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Parishoners of Mary McKillop Parish will have heard Fr David speak of the appointment of two Josephite sisters to our Parish for 2016. One of these, Sr Anne-Marie Gallagher, has also been appointed to St. Benedict's teaching staff and will be taking RE classes and will be an academic care tutor for a class next year. Anne-Marie had the opportunity to visit last week for an Orientation and is very excited to be working in a new, "new" school. She is currently working at McKillop College, Wakeley and actually was taught by Mrs Fama at Mount St Joseph, Milperra! We look forward to Sr Anne Marie becoming an integral part of our community next year.

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The P&F is seeking your help for an important upcoming event.

WHEN?

Friday 20 November

10:30am to 12:30pm

WHAT FOR?

Year 7 2016 Orientation Day BBQ

We would greatly appreciate the help with this annual event.

Please contact Clare-Ann Taylor on 0401 199 635

Prayer Focus this week

The prayer focus over the last 2 weeks, and for the next 3 weeks is on access to clean water in Madagascar. This is part of the focus of the current Catholic Mission Campaign and fundraising efforts to support those in need. Recently we learnt in class that although surrounded by water, Madagascar lacks access to clean water for washing, cleaning, cooking and most importantly, drinking. This forces the community to use dirty water, which is making them seriously ill. Alarmingly, each year, thousands of children die from preventable diseases like diarrhoea because of the lack of clean water and proper sanitation. The quote that Catholic Mission is using this year is "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink". We will continue to pray and focus on the needs of those in Madagascar throughout this term.

Senior Retreat

This week will see our first ever Senior Retreat take place. This is a special time for our senior students as they take 3 days out of their busy schooling schedule to contemplate their relationship with God, the journey to this point and the relationships they have built with those around them. We wish our senior students a fruitful and reflective retreat time.

Congratulations to Chaltu Etana (Year 10) who last week was awarded a prize in the Science Teachers Association (NSW) Science Fair for her project. Chaltu will be presented at UNSW on November 4 and her Science project now goes through to the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards for judging against National Finalists. Congratulations also to Miss Chalmers who supervised Chaltu's project through all its stages of development.

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During the week St Justin's students were able to make use of our newly surfaced Basketball courts as Year 10 PDHPE students put them through their paces with a series of lessons. Year 9 Drama recently visited Kindy to present their Clowning and Commedia performances that thoroughly entertained an enthusiastic group of 6 year olds! The College has been keen to work with staff and students of St Justin's and we are looking forward to our transition to high school programme beginning soon with Year 6. The College also congratulates two staff at St Justin's, Mr Mitchell Elks on his first appointment as Assistant Principal and to Mrs Margaret Foldes, who has been appointed as a Principal.

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Our Year 11s are attending their Senior Retreat at Rathane, in the Royal National Park, this week. This is a significant spiritual occasion and an opportunity to explore relationships with self, others and God at a much deeper level as young adults. It is a chance to take a breath and reflect before the HSC courses start in earnest. We wish them well.

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A reminder to all parents that for the next 3 months, the entrance to the College is via a path that begins at the St Justin's entrance, adjacent to St Benedict's previous Administration building. From there, simply follow the signs along the fence to the Reception area. If you are coming to the Office, the best place to park is at the Western (St Justin's) end of the Car Park.

Michael Hanratty
Principal



Preliminary Reports

Year 11 students will receive their Preliminary Reports on Wednesday 28 October.

**HSC Introduction Evening
and
Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews**

Thursday 29 October

Students will receive a note this week with details of the evening as well as a flyer for booking the interviews online.

This is a compulsory evening for Year 11. Students are to wear their full summer uniform.



Year 9 & 10 Semester 2 Exams

Monday 2 November
to
Friday 6 November

CAREERS NEWS

Skillsroad have launched a new jobs kit that is designed to assist school leavers prepare for the workforce. Students assess their suitability across more than 300 different job roles and a report is generated that offers personalised guidance. For details, visit <http://www.skillsroad.com.au/students/job-fit-test>

The short course division of the Australian Film Television and Radio School has short courses over the Summer break for HSC students graduating this year. Courses run between late November and mid-February. They include: Three Week Film School, Six Week Doco School and Three Week Radio School. For details, visit <http://www.aftrs.edu.au/short-courses/summer-school>

The UTS are holding a Men in Nursing Course on 12 November at 5.30pm. For details, visit <http://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-health/events/men-nursing>

Woolworths, Big W and BWS have apprenticeships and casual, part time or full time positions available. For details, visit www.wowcareers.com.au

The Fellowship of Australian Writers Literary Awards closes on 30 November. Enter poetry or short stories under 3,000 words. For details, visit <http://writers.asn.au/national-literary-awards/>



YEAR 9

**OUTDOOR ED
CAMP**

