



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 14 21 October 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 4. I trust that you have had a wonderful time reconnecting with your children over the break. Since our last Newsletter we have not only farewelled Year 12 in a moving Assembly, held their Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony, but they have also now begun their HSC exams. Our foundation students ended their time at the College with a number of rituals including the Captains Handover, a Blessing from the rest of the students and a final procession from the school to their parents who were waiting outside the gates. The first students enrolled at St. Benedicts College, Nathan Parnell and Georgia Dore, symbolically locked the gates behind Year 12 as they moved into the outside world.

As the term nears the end of Week 2, Year 12 have put those first nerves behind them with 7 exams already completed. We wish them well over the next few weeks as the HSC continues.

Year 10 travelled to our Outdoor Education site at the Colo River Valley last week as part of the Gold Leadership Diploma Programme. Over the three days they worked with their in-house camp leader and our own teachers in a series of team building and cooperative exercises. I was delighted to spend time with the students on Wednesday afternoon and evening and they were having a great (if dirty) time. They were blessed with the weather although a couple were found out with quite cold night time temperatures on Tuesday night. Congratulations to Mr Lundy, Mrs Scott, Mrs Brown and Mr. Gavin on what was a great experience for the students. This week Year 9 attended the shorter Purple Leadership Diploma Programme at the same location and we wished them well as they ventured out to Colo for the first time. Doing without any form of internet and telephone communication and "being present in the moment" is often the first hurdle the students have to overcome!

Our Year 11 Construction students are moving into the next phase of their course with Work Placement this week. Vocational Education courses (such as Construction and Hospitality which we offer) are increasingly popular in Stage 6 education as it offers a TAFE pathway into the mix for students. We wished our students well as they entered the workforce full time this week.

There has been a lot written and said in the media over the last few weeks about inappropriate sexist behaviour – at the highest levels. Education about appropriate behaviours obviously starts at home but the school takes its role in this very seriously as part of its student wellbeing programme. Today, Friday, Year 8 boys participated in the "Rock 'n Water" Programme and the girls in the "Free to Be" Body Esteem Programme which we hold annually to both teach skills that are age appropriate and to raise awareness about socially (un)acceptable behaviours in relation to the opposite sex. It would be a great idea to have a discussion with your son or daughter about these issues next week.

Michael Hanratty  
Principal

## OCTOBER

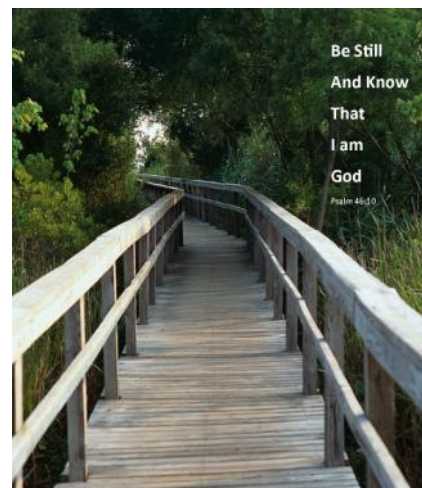
<b>Wed 26</b>	Yr 11 Retreat-Day 1
<b>Thurs 27</b>	Yr 11 Retreat-Day 2
<b>Fri 28</b>	Yr 11 Retreat-Day 3

## NOVEMBER

<b>Thurs 3</b>	Prelim Reports distributed
<b>Mon 7</b>	2017 HSC Information Night Yr 11 Parent/Teacher Night
<b>Tue 8</b>	Yr 9 & 10 Exams commence Yr 12 Sign Out day
<b>Fri 11</b>	Yr 9 & 10 Exams finish
<b>Fri 18</b>	Yr 8 Science Excursion
<b>Wed 23</b>	Yr 7 2017 Orientation Evening
<b>Fri 25</b>	Yr 7 2017 Student Orientation

## DECEMBER

<b>Thurs 8</b>	Duke of Ed - Canberra Day 1
<b>Fri 9</b>	Duke of Ed - Canberra Day 2
<b>Mon 12</b>	Yrs 7-10 Reports distributed
<b>Wed 14</b>	College Closing Mass
<b>Thurs 15</b>	Beach Day
<b>Fri 16</b>	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Pupil Free)



## CATHOLIC MISSION and VISION

At the end of last term we celebrated our first Year 12 Graduation Mass. This was a really special way to recognise the many achievements of our Year 12 students and to celebrate the journey that they have made during their schooling at St Benedict's. The Mass was centred on the theme of mercy, which of course is very appropriate with this being the Year of Mercy. It was amazing to celebrate with our first ever graduating class and I think that the students were overwhelmed by the experience.

I must express my thanks to the many people involved in the Mass. Particular mention to Mr Davidson for liaising with both Fr David and Fr Michael in organising our Mass, and providing some beautiful music. A special thanks to Isabelle Brown Rogers of Year 8 who attended the Mass and performed beautifully as Cantor, and to Grace Cremen and Kai Straub of Year 7 who were altar servers during the Mass, but also for their efforts in setting up beforehand and clearing the Church afterwards. The Graduation and Awards ceremony followed the Mass. Again this was a wonderful way to celebrate the many successes of our students.

Last Friday, we held our first High School Engagement Program called 'Live'. This is a great event organised by both the Catholic Education Office, Wollongong and the Office of the Bishop. A band played at lunchtime and was joined by the Youth Mission Team from Wollongong. The main event took place after school. This was a combination of activities, including personal testimony, music, games and supper. The presentation was really well done and the teams should be congratulated on their efforts. The 35 St Benedict's students were joined by about 47 year 6 students from St Justin's. It was great to see so many students involved and the feedback from the students was very positive. They enjoyed all aspects of the day and really enjoyed the personal testimony – provided by one of the Youth Mission Team. It was great to see the YMT also mixing with the students and just simply having a chat and being present to them. Overall, it was a great day and thanks to all students who attended and the staff from both schools for supporting this initiative.

Next week we will be holding our senior retreat for our Year 11 students. This will be a significant experience for them and be a wonderful way to begin the HSC course. The theme for our senior retreat is 'For where your treasure is, there your heart is also'. In the many engaging, enjoyable and challenging activities that will be held, we will be exploring what this means, in conjunction with the College Mission Statement of Love of God, Love of Neighbour and Love of Learning. I am certainly looking forward to this opportunity and I know that the students are excited as well.

On Monday, the Parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr David Catterall were able to engage the services of Fr Rob Galea. Fr Rob is an amazing man who provides such a wonderful example. He has performed on X-Factor and not only is an excellent entertainer but has such a special way of connecting with the students, helping to provide them with a wonderful evangelical experience. Three Year 7 classes were able to attend this and we are grateful to Fr David for providing us with this opportunity.

There are some very exciting opportunities coming up for our students, including training as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and student catechists. I would encourage all students to keep an ear out for the morning messages and get involved in some of these opportunities.

Mr David Costin  
Director of Mission and Vision



**Year 12**

**Graduation Mass**

## STUDENT PICK UPS ...

We are noticing that some parents are picking their children up at the bus bay of an afternoon. THIS IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS. Apart from the No Standing signs in Hollows Drive, there are no road crossings for students and the area is now beset with concrete trucks, B-Double trucks and trades appear to be paying little attention to school zones. The school buses act as a screen and students cannot be seen crossing the road.

Should you wish to drive your child home of an afternoon, please pick them up in the designated area at the front of the school. Students will be sent back to the Library if they are seen looking for a parent pick up. I am sure you join with us in not wanting a tragic accident to save 5 minutes joining the queue in the car park.

### CATHOLIC MISSION LAUNCH

On the Thursday 22nd September, two Stewardship and two Social Action Leaders attended the Catholic Mission Launch, which was held at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, in Warrawong. The main focus of the day was to raise awareness of the conditions which are faced by those over in Cambodia. This made us realise just how well off we are in Australia. In the past Cambodia has faced genocide at the hands of Pol Pot. This was aimed at those who were deemed to have an education (teachers, doctors, those who wore glasses, priests and others) and would stand up to the idea of a communist country.

As a result of this genocide, Sister Eulie and the Daughters of Charity have since counteracted the significant losses of those in Cambodia by traveling in a Tuk Tuk and providing an education to those less fortunate, teaching safe hygiene practises and also providing fresh meals for these kids. Currently the Tuk Tuk is only able to visit a village once a week due to insufficient funds. The Daughters of Charity are trying to raise \$106 000 to be able to visit more than once a week. An education is important for the kids of Cambodia to break out of the cycle of poverty and to be able to move beyond the events of the past.



At St Benedict's Catholic College, we were fortunate enough to attend this event and learn about what is happening beyond our local community. We have been presented with an opportunity to create an awareness within our local school community about disadvantages faced by many around the world. We look forward to working with the broader community to help raise awareness and assist in improving living standards and education conditions in places such as Cambodia.

Justin Waights, Jordan Flood, Portia Zuber, Claude Abdulla

### Changes to Busabout Timetable (MOUNT ANNAN)

We have been notified by Busabout that from 24 October there will be a change to the timetable for bus numbers 6009 and 6516, of particular interest for Mount Annan families.

The change to the morning trip for bus number 6009 is:

Left turn from Welling Drive onto Mount Annan Drive; proceed to Swansona Avenue; turn at roundabout back along Mount Annan Drive; left turn onto Willing Drive.

This is then reversed for the afternoon trip on bus number 6516.

It is hoped that this change will greatly reduce the distance to the nearest bus stop for many families in this area.

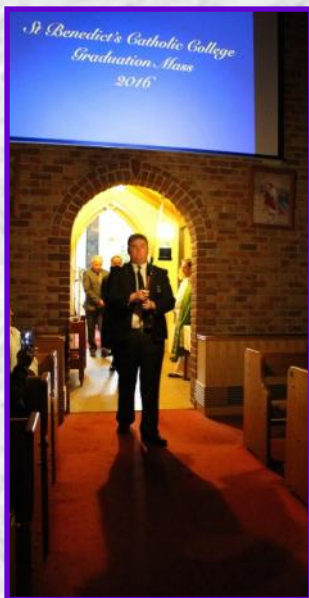
### ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2017

As so many people are already preparing their 2017 diaries, Fr David Catterall PP (Oran Park) has decided to publish, before the end of the school year, the dates for the St Mary MacKillop Parish celebrations of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Eucharist) in 2017.

**The 2017 dates for these sacraments are to be found on the flyer that is also available on the parish website**

[www.marymackillopparish.org.au](http://www.marymackillopparish.org.au)

It is essential that any families who want their child/ren to receive any of these sacraments, attend the Parent Information Night for the relevant sacrament. **Please note: that the Parent Information Night for Confirmation 2017 will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2016.** For more information on the St Mary MacKillop Parish 2017 sacramental program please email [oranparksacraments@dow.org.au](mailto:oranparksacraments@dow.org.au)



## Year 12 Presentations



2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017



## Year 12 2016 Farewell Assembly



### Fantastic Achievements Jared Madsen

Jared Madsen of Year 10 represented the College last week at the NSW All Schools Athletics. He competed in the 1500m run on the Thursday and 3km run the following day. Jared came 9<sup>th</sup> in his 1500m heat and 13<sup>th</sup> in the 3km run. This is an amazing achievement made by Jared considering he came back from camp where he had just finished walking for two days.



Congratulations Jared, we are very proud of your achievements and we look forward to seeing you one day representing Australia at the Olympics.

### **YEAR 10 PDHPE**

During our Year 10 PDHPE lessons, students have been working towards planning a Basketball skills coaching session to deliver to younger children. These lessons were then carried out for the St Justin's Year 4 students.

Thank you to the St Justin's teachers for allowing the students to come across to St Benedict's to participate in these practical lessons. These students led sessions were well received, with both the teachers and students enjoying the experience thoroughly.

Well done to our Year 10 cohort who prepared well and delivered valuable lessons to the Primary school students. They were organised and professional in their application to the task.



### Year 9 Food Technology

The Year 9 class have been studying the unit "Food in Australia", looking at the evolution of cuisine, cooking techniques and ingredients available in Australia. As a part of the unit, students investigated a culture of their choice and were asked to plan and prepare a recipe to share with the class that reflected their chosen culture. The class thoroughly enjoyed sampling all of the recipes prepared and are to be commended for their attention to consistency and presentation.



### **Café News From Week 2**

#### **Made Fresh to order from the Salad Bar:**

Yoghurt cups with fruit puree, sliced fruit or muesli topping	\$2.80
Fresh Fruit Salad and yoghurt cups	\$3.00
Fresh Fruit Salad and yoghurt in small dome	\$4.50
Fresh garden salads also available from the Salad Bar	

#### **New in the freezer:**

Ice cream cups	\$2.50
Frozen jelly cups	\$1.00
Moosies choc milk freeze	\$2.50

## YEAR 10 CAMP - CAMP SOMERSET, COLO VALLEY

With only one day to readjust to school after the holidays, Year 10 embarked on their outdoor education camp at Colo Vale.

Split into four groups, the students spent the whole time working in that small group of 15-16, tackling some physical challenges such as low and high ropes courses, kayaking, obstacle courses and an arduous expedition through the mountains above the camp.

Apart from the physical activities, there was also an opportunity for the students to practise teamwork and leadership, in tasks such as camp cooking, tent construction, outdoor health and safety and the art of following instructions in an outdoor environment.

The Somerset Camp staff were very impressed by Year 10, commenting on their exemplary behaviour, their teamwork and their obvious friendship with each other.

Andy Lundy  
Year 10 Coordinator



The WAC (Warhammer appreciation club) met for the first time this week and it was a raging success. Warhammer is a strategy game where players build and paint their own figurines of space marines, orcs and many more to do battle. The game is very complex with players spending hours on end memorising the rules that combine strategy, math and chance, dictating how the game is played. Students showed off their armies, our first battle was fought and we took our first casualties. Wad will meet once a week and all students are welcome to come and check it out.





## Would \$500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, **up to \$500** for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- TAFE, traineeship and apprenticeship costs
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

**Contact Saver Plus Coordinator Liz Tinney at the Benevolent Society**

**Phone: 02 4633 3722 or 0407 310 205**

**Email: [liz.tinney@benevolent.org.au](mailto:liz.tinney@benevolent.org.au)**



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in your local area by the Benevolent Society.

The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. Find out more at [bsl.org.au/saver-plus](http://bsl.org.au/saver-plus).