Dear Parents

On Sunday the Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross. St Benedict held Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross in the greatest reverence. For the early Christians, the cross was a favourite symbol and badge of their faith in Christ. From the writings of St. Gregory the Great (540-604), we know that St. Benedict had a deep faith in the Cross and worked miracles with the sign of the cross. This faith in, and special devotion to, the Cross was passed on to succeeding generations of Benedictines.

In recognition of that fact, the College crest has taken the lines from St. Benedict which appears on the Benedictine medallion. Hence “(May the Cross) Be My Light” appears on the school crest with the Benedictine Cross appearing within the flame (the light). It is a powerful symbol of the

This week we begin the next phase of changes in the Temporary School with the removal of the link road portable classroom buildings as well as the line of portables on the eastern side of the College. These buildings will now be set up adjacent to the basketball courts for use next term and in 2014. Most classes at the College will now be on our own site as we slowly migrate buildings from the front of St Justin’s to enable their building programme to continue. The current Administration area will remain as is until mid 2015.

Meanwhile, Stage 3 of the building programme is underway and rapid progress is being made on our carpark extension and staff facilities. It is our intention to have the car park completed for use by the end of Term 4 this year.

During the week we will be conducting Middle School Leader interviews with Year 8 students. We wish them all the best in their applications. Successful applicants will be notified early next term.

We have been receiving some excellent feedback on the range and quality of the food at the cafe. No doubt it is a relief to many parents not to have to make lunch anymore but of course, the price you pay is the price you pay! Hopefully your child’s rush of enthusiasm won’t bankrupt your entire family so ensure you are aware that limits can be placed on spending as well as the types of food purchased.

A reminder to those who have not used the service yet that the student ID card must be linked to the account with Flexischools.

Next term students are expected to wear their Summer Uniform. The time for checking lengths of dresses, correct pants and shirts sizing is now. For Year 9 students, appointments should be made now with the Uniform Shop to purchase the Senior Uniform which will be worn in Year 10.

Michael Hanratty
Principal
On Thursday 4 September, Year 10 embarked on a fieldtrip to Cronulla and Wanda Beaches to study the effects of overdevelopment on sand dune systems and the strategies of coastal management as part of our Research Action Plan. After the 1½-hour bus trip, the day commenced at Dunningham Park to view the effects of overdevelopment on the foreshore of Cronulla Beach. We took photos of the different residential, commercial and recreational developments that showed the human effects on the area.

After observing the overdevelopment of the foreshore, we were given a fieldwork booklet to assist with collecting primary data. This booklet had a number of activities to complete which involved observing and collecting primary data including photographing the heavy development of the foreshore, sketching coastal features and measuring the human and physical impacts of erosion on the dune systems, as well as the different preservation techniques that have been implemented to date.

We then walked down the shoreline of Cronulla Beach to view the Sea Bee wall which has been constructed to prevent further destruction of the unstable dune systems. We learnt that the original Sea Bee wall was destroyed in 1974 due to severe storms and that it cost the state and federal governments $1.7 million to complete this new and much bigger wall. We also learnt that the reason that it is called the Sea Bee wall is because of the 200 hexagonal Sea Bee blocks that are in the wall.

After viewing the effects the Sea Bee wall has on preserving the coast, we trekked across the sand to document the coastal preservation techniques that have been implemented at Wanda Beach. Wanda Beach proved to be extremely cold and windy due to the very strong prevailing South-easterly winds on the day so we were very happy once the staff allowed us to have lunch and buy hot food from a nearby café.

This excursion would not have been such a success if it wasn’t for the many hours of organisation and preparation by Mr Bombardiere, Mr Lundy, and Mrs O’Flynn which resulted in this insightful and beneficial excursion.

Astrid Turner
MISA Sport

Last Tuesday saw our MISA students compete in the last round for Term 3 against St Patrick’s College. A special mention to our Basketball Team who came away with a narrow win, 15-14, against Mt Carmel, well done! I would like to congratulate all of the students who represented the College in MISA this Term - thank you for your efforts week in and week out. A special thank you to the students who stepped up at short notice when teams were short of players and also thanks to our Year 10 Team Assistants.

It would be remiss of me not to thank our MISA Coaches who, in addition to leading and supporting the team, take the team jerseys home each week and wash them. Thank you for all of your efforts.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as the Most Valuable Player for their team;
Leah Brown (7-9 Girls Soccer)
Jonah Boughton (9/10 Basketball)
Skye Slattery (7 Girls Netball)
Brooke Daley (8 Girls Netball)

School Sport

On behalf of Mrs Brown and Mrs Lemaire I would like to thank and congratulate the Year 10 Rollerskating group for their increased participation and enthusiasm during sport. It is wonderful to see so many students who were initially a little apprehensive about participating in an activity that was out of their comfort zone, take the rink and make the most of the opportunity.

Well done Year 10 - what a great example to set for your younger peers.

Term 4 MISA Trials will take place during sport next week. Any student that isn’t trialling will be attending their normal Tuesday sport.

Mrs Pereira

Athletics Carnival

The annual College Athletics Carnival was held earlier this Term and was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many talents and skills of our students on and off the track. Despite some intermittent showers, we were blessed with fine weather on the day and a fantastic venue.

The level of participation from students meant that overall House points were very close. Big congratulations to the Polding House group who were the overall winners for this event.

Once again, the day would not have been such a success without the hard work of the staff, as well as the assistance of the parents who gave up their time to help with the events of the day. Thank you very much to those parents who helped with the timekeeping, recording and judging. Your time and efforts were a huge contribution to the successful running of the carnival and the College Community are very grateful.

Congratulations to the following students who are our 2014 Athletics Age Champions:

12 Girls
- Kaitlyn Sapienza
12 Boys
- Antonio Papaleo
13 Girls
- Hannah Elborough
13 Boys
- Cameron Almond
14 Girls
- Maddison Evans
14 Boys
- Joshua Irons
15 Girls
- Abigail Grovenor
15 Boys
- Reece Meredith
16 Girls
- Stephanie Krause
16 Boys
- Gabriel Ciappa

ICAS Science Competition Results

Earlier this year, 18 students from our College participated in the ICAS Science Competition. Congratulations to each of these students on their willingness to be involved in this co-curricular opportunity. These students not only challenged themselves to achieve personal bests, but by participating in the competition they were also testing their understanding of scientific knowledge and processes against thousands of students from all around Australia. All should be proud of their achievement awards:

Chelsea Barnes - Participation
Wylie Button - Participation
Anthony Conlon - Merit
Bianca Dunn - Participation
Chaltu Etana - Participation
Jason Ertl - Merit
Kody Fletcher - Credit
Isaac Hobman - Distinction
Gabrielle Hooton - Distinction
Joshua Irons - Merit
Alex Mougios - Merit
Manish Nath - Participation
Jayden Price - Participation
Jenna Sarkis - Participation
Jake Schloeffel - Credit
Darren Turner - Participation
Jessica Xerri - Participation
Portia Zuber - Credit
**Benny’s Bring A Blanket**

Friday, 29th August marked the date of St Benedict's second Benny’s Bring A Blanket. Over 40 dedicated students from Years 7-10 stayed back in the cold to experience the life of a homeless person. Students participated in a variety of activities including an information session, survival games, and an identity game (where students got a new identity and came to speak to their fellow peers hoping that someone would help them out). Alex Popov, the President from the Camden/Wollondilly St. Vincent De Paul Society, came in to speak to students about the statistics of homelessness and the issues related to homelessness in the local area. The students had what the homeless would call a luxurious dinner which consisted of Hotdogs with Cordial. They even had the luxury of having ice cream after dinner. Their next challenge was to find a box to make a home from. We also had a quiet liturgy to celebrate the occasion. As the night progressed students then had the opportunity to write a heartfelt message which they would display to the public if they were homeless. The night finished with a reflection for the remaining Years 9 and 10 students. The night was a real eye opener and brought awareness to everybody about homelessness in Australia. A massive thank you to all the teachers and staff that helped out on the night. Also a big thanks to Mrs. Wardley and Mr. Costin for planning and organizing the night.

Ebony Billett and Taylor McGovern
Social Action Leaders

---

**Catholic Mission Launch**

On Thursday 11th September four students from St Benedict’s Catholic College had the opportunity to attend the Catholic Mission Launch held at Magdalene. This year’s fundraising is aimed at supporting work currently in Jamaica. Jamaica, despite having beautiful beaches and resorts, suffers from overwhelming poverty and excessive gun related crime. Students were able to view a presentation highlighting the wonderful work of Catholic Mission in this area in bringing justice and peace to people. Catholic Mission are providing these people with education and training that will aid them in obtaining a job, and so enable them to escape the cycle of poverty and crime and to lead a happy and peaceful life.

This worthy cause will be the focus of fundraising in Term 4. Thanks to Emily Winters, Sean Todd, Jackson Bartulovic and Zoe Rodriguez for attending the event.

Mr David Costin
Religious Education Coordinator

---

**Conversation With the Bishop**

On Friday 12 September, four Year 10 students, Ebony Billett, Lachlan Haidle, Taylor McGovern and Ashleigh Robinson, set out for Wollongong to meet and converse with the Bishop, along with students from every secondary school in the Wollongong Diocese. When we arrived at The Xavier Conference Centre, we were split into groups with students from other schools with the aim of writing a prayer of intercession. In doing this, past friends were seen, and many more friends were made. Once the prayers were written, students and the accompanying teachers came together to have a short time to pray together. The next activity was another group game where students were required to use their communication skills.

For the rest of the day we were split into different groups. The afternoon session enabled us to ask open-ended questions of the Bishop. We finished the day with Mass at St. Francis Xavier’s Cathedral.

Ashleigh Robinson

---

**Breakfast with the Premier**

Mr Lo Cascio and 3 of our senior students, Stephannie Krause, Nathan Parnell and Darren Turner, were guests of the Narellan Chamber of Commerce at a (delicious) breakfast with the Premier at the Camden Civic Centre. Premier Mr Mike Baird addressed senior students on the growth of the local area.
Celia Lashlie - Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men!

- Adolescent boys – they seem to disappear into another world where they barely communicate, and where fast cars, alcohol and drugs are constant temptations.

- Will they survive to become good men?

- How can parents and schools understand and help them through this difficult and dangerous time?

Celia knows what can happen when boys make the wrong choices. As the first female prison officer and during her "Good Man Project" she talked to 180 classes of boys throughout. The result was a significant insight into the minds of teenage boys and what they are feeling in this period of their lives. There are challenging suggestions for parents if they want to see their sons become the good men they want them to be. Celia gives parents food for thought and plenty of hints to work with their teenage sons. All parents will find something valuable in this talk - regardless of whether they have sons or not.

Wednesday 29th October
6:00pm-8:00pm
Wollongong Hospital Auditorium, Level 8 Block C.

Bookings Essential: Ph. Donna Forknall: (02) 4254 2700
(Places may be limited)  Donna.forknall@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
St Benedict’s Uniform Shop

Term 4 – Full summer uniform

Please check now if any items are needed for the start of term 4

Last trading day for Term 3 Thursday 18th September

First trading day for Term 4 Tuesday 7th October

Please note this shop will be open on Tuesday 30th September and Thursday 2nd October for fittings during these holidays by appointment only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trading hours during each term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9:00am to 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1:00pm to 5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1st and 3rd of the month)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To make an appointment

Book Online

[www.ranier.com.au](http://www.ranier.com.au) use school password :**stb2570**

Call Mrs Maureen Thorpe 02 4620 9688

(During shop hours or please leave a message at anytime and your call will be returned on the next trading day)

St Benedict’s Uniform Shop

Shop 1/186 Queen St. Campbelltown NW 2560
Mater Dei Country Fair
Sunday 12th October 2014 ~ 9am-3pm

Attractions include the Chocolate Wheel, Plants, Cakes, Face Painting, Ice Cream, Rides, White Elephant Stall, Shetland Pony Rides, Kids Farmyard Nursery, Second Hand Books, plus so much more !!!!

Mater Dei Raffle to be drawn on the day.

- Our Devonshire Tea in Wivenhoe House Gardens is always very popular
- Have something to eat at our fabulous BBQ
- Meet and greet with Elsa from Frozen
- Check out the Fresh Produce Stall
- Farm Fresh Eggs and Ice-creams too
- Sydney Wood Turners
- Highland Vintage Farm Machinery,
- Fairfield Spinners and Weavers
- Vintage Cars
- Visit our beautiful Chapel if you’re planning a wedding or special day
- Get information on organising that special event
- Come along and have a great time at Mater Dei!

Mater Dei School
Camden
229 Macquarie Grove Rd
9am to 3pm
Over 20 Stalls