



# St Benedict's Catholic College Newsletter

Vol 6, Issue 13 20 September 2016

Dear Parents

Last week we held the induction of the 2017 College Captains and Prefect group. I thank Fr. David Catterall for his presence and inspiring words to our new College Leaders and for the Blessing of the Badges. School Captains for 2017, Madison-Leigh Colmenar and Jackson Lewis spoke about the role of Captain and some of the hopes they have for the College and outlined some of the challenges in leadership they might face. In this week's Year 12 farewell, 2016 Captains Ebony Billett and Lachlan Haidle will formally pass over the Captains Diary and relinquish their roles. I thank Ebony and Lachlan for the work they have done and our Prefects Chelsea, Ashleigh, Erin and Taylor for the roles they have played in being our first senior student leadership team.

The biggest news this week is the first Year 12 students concluding their time at the College and their graduation on Thursday night at St Paul's Camden. The Farewell Assembly, with a range of student and staff speakers as well as presentations, will be held on Wednesday morning following the Year 12 Breakfast at Camden Valley Inn. Although more will be said during the week, I would like to formally acknowledge the families who so bravely believed in us and entrusted us with their children in those early, difficult years. Looking around this week at the fine young men and women who will be walking through the gate for the last time, I think we are all proud of the results of that trust and commitment.

In more mundane, but very important news, all families would have received a note by email during the week about the impending works on Oran Park Drive. This will mean significant, and, in many cases frustrating, changes to exiting the school for some families. Those who depart towards Oran Park will be inconvenienced by having to drive down to Catherine Park Drive/Forest Grove Drive and do a U Turn at the roundabouts, until the College's internal roadways near St Justin's are completed after Christmas. At that time the exit will be on to Hollows Drive. It is important to understand that the *right hand turn into and out of the College from Oran Park Drive is closed permanently*. I ask for your patience, and, if you do pick your child up or drop them off, to familiarize yourself during the holidays with what the changes mean and add appropriate travel times.

The College will take possession of the first instalment of its new Oval at the beginning of next term. With the builders still requiring access to Stage 5 works, the complete version will not be available to us for another 12 months. However, I am sure the students will be delighted, now that the weather is warmer, to be able to have an area to run around and play at lunchtimes. Long suffering teachers of PDHPE have been seen celebrating all over the school.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful break over the school holidays.

Michael Hanratty  
Principal

**STOP PRESS** ..... An announcement regarding St Francis, St Benedict's and St Justin's is being sent home today. Please check your emails for further communication from the College.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Wed 21** Yr 12 Breakfast, Assembly  
**Thurs 22** Year 12 Graduation Mass  
**Fri 23** **Last Day of Term 3**

### OCTOBER

**Mon 10** **First day of Term 4**  
**Tues 11** Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp-Day  
**Wed 12** Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp-Day 2  
**Thurs 13** Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp-Day 3  
**Mon 17** Yr 9 Outdoor Ed Camp-Day 1  
**Tues 18** Yr 9 Outdoor Ed Camp-Day 2  
**Wed 19** Yr 7 Vaccinations #3 (final)  
**Fri 21** Yr 8 Pastoral Day  
**Wed 26** Yr 11 Retreat-Day 1  
**Thurs 27** Yr 11 Retreat-Day 2  
**Fri 28** Yr 11 Retreat-Day 3

### NOVEMBER

**Thurs 3** Prelim Reports distributed  
**Mon 7** 2017 HSC Information Night  
Yr 11 Parent/Teacher Night  
**Tue 8** Yr 9 & 10 Exams commence  
Yr 12 Sign Out day  
**Fri 11** Yr 9 & 10 Exams finish  
**Fri 18** Yr 8 Science Excursion  
**Wed 23** Yr 7 2017 Orientation Evening  
**Fri 24** Yr 7 2017 Student Orientation

## MISSION AND VISION

Last week, the Year 12 Leaders induction was held, where the importance of leadership qualities was highlighted. As I was reflecting on these qualities, I was reminded of the great modeling that Jesus provided as a leader. Certainly in times of turmoil, Jesus preaches to the people of the importance of being compassionate and showing mercy to all. In fact, Jesus modeled this beautifully, by associating with the outcasts and downtrodden, which carried a social stigma in society at the time. Despite this, Jesus helps all who are in need, in spite of their apparent social standing. Certainly, Jesus provides a truly authentic model for leadership to which we can aspire.

Our Year 9 students attended their Reflection Day last week. This day provides a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with their faith and to be entertained along the way. Guest presenter Chris Doyle has a superb way of engaging the students in understanding the importance of accepting ourselves and others as well as being mindful of the needs of those around us, and for being gracious for what we have. Included in the newsletter is a report from a Year 9 student about this day.

The Year 7 Reflection Day which was held recently was a great day for our Year 7 students. They were able to experience many different ways and forms of prayer and understand the significance of prayer in our lives. This was experienced through a variety of ways such as music, art, every day items, prayer cards, and praying the Rosary. It is really inspiring to see the students enjoying themselves on this day, and I certainly enjoyed participating in the Rosary sessions with them. Students had a great time and included in this newsletter is a student report of the day.

This week we will be sending students to Catholic Mission's launch of its annual 'Soktober' Campaign. Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the international Pontifical Mission Societies, who operate in over 160 countries. In Australia and overseas, they answer the call to love God and love our neighbor. This is a very important campaign that allows the Church to support those in need. Next term we will be raising funds to support this cause.

The Year 12 Graduation Mass draws near. Just a reminder to families that this will be held this Thursday night at St Paul's, Camden starting at 7.00pm. Year 12 students are asked to arrive by no later than 6.30pm.

This Friday is the cut off date to return notes for the 'Live' event, which is happening in Week 1 of next term. This event will see a live band performing at school and an afternoon twilight retreat. This will be a great opportunity for students and I encourage all to attend. Last Friday at lunchtime, part of the band was at Bennies to perform a lunchtime concert. We look forward to welcoming them back next term and engaging in this exciting program.

And finally, a reminder to all students and families that there is a Parish Mass on every Friday at the St Mary of the Cross MacKillop parish starting at 12:20pm. A class from St Benedict's will be in attendance every week and all are welcomed to attend.

Mr David Costin  
Director of Mission and Vision

## Year 8 Reflection Day

On the 26th August, the Year 8 students took part in a Reflection Day at Mount Schoenstatt. The theme was 'The Value in Me, the Value in Others'. We took part in activities focusing on how we can use our values to help others in our everyday life. We watched clips about belonging and finding our worth. It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone in Year 8 had a great time reflecting on their life outside of school.

Mia Gibbs-White  
Year 8

### FRIDAY MASS

#### St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Each Friday at 12:20pm rostered classes from St Benedict's and St Justin's attend the Parish Mass at St Mary MacKillop church.

An invitation is extended to all families and students to join in this weekly celebration.



**St Mary MacKillop**  
Catholic Parish  
ORAN PARK

## Yr 9 Reflection Day

The 15th September was an enlightening experience for Year 9 at the beautiful Mt Schoenstatt for our Reflection Day. Through the words of our guest speaker, Chris Doyle, this experience helped open our eyes, to not take for granted what we have, and gave us further insight into the central values in ourselves and others.

All the activities we went through made us work together in a team. Whether it be finding song lyrics about love or strutting down the room in front of the whole student body, we all smiled and laughed. It helped us find the value in ourselves, in our peers and in our teachers. We learned to be thankful for all the effort our teachers put into allowing us to have an education.

I remember how Chris Doyle's words just captured us. One moment, he is telling cheesy jokes and anecdotes, making every one of us laugh or chuckle. Then the next moment, it is all silent as he speaks of his own life, and how we all have to live with the consequences of our choices.

The main moral is that we should never take things for granted and that we should treat our neighbours the way we want to be treated ourselves. Through the words of Chris Doyle, we learn that there is value in everyone, no matter what they look like or how they act, and that we should cherish these qualities forever.

Marie Bull  
Yr 9 Student



**Congratulations** to our 2017 College Captains and Prefects who were presented with their badges at the recent Induction Ceremony.

Shanae Slattery, Maddison Maher, Maddison-Leigh Colmenar, Jackson Lewis, Karley Schonell, Chaltu Etana, Maddison Evans and Cate Ives.



### The Newsletter is Moving

This is the last Newsletter published on a Tuesday. From the commencement of Term 4 the Newsletter/Benny's Bites will be published on Fridays.

### Uniform Matters

Bookings are now open for fittings at the Uniform Shop for all **Year 7 2017** students, and for **Year 9** students who will require the senior uniform next year for Year 10.

Please note that the Uniform Shop is not opened during the holidays.

### P&F Request .....

#### WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

In recognition of World Teachers' Day, the P&F will be hosting a morning tea for the College staff on **Thursday 20 October**.

If you are able to provide home baked cakes or treats for the morning tea could you please contact Rachael Zappia on 0402 247 088.

It would be appreciated if all baked goods could be left at the Front Office on the Thursday morning between 7:45am and 8:30am.

Many thanks

Clare-Ann Taylor  
P&F Secretary

### Changes to Traffic Arrangements commencing 24 September

As previously flagged in the newsletter, TRN and the developers of Catherine Park are now ready to widen the road at the front of the school on Oran Park Drive. This will mean significant changes to the way we enter and exit the site.

This is the first of TWO major traffic changes that will occur on site this year. The other change involves the relocation of demountables and the extension of the roadway on the old bus bay through to the existing car park over the Christmas holidays.

A more detailed explanation of these changes was sent to all families last week.

## CAMPBELLTOWN TERM 4, 2016

**WORKSHOP BOOKINGS: 4628 0044**

All workshops are at our Campbelltown Office (35A Cordeaux Street Campbelltown) unless stated otherwise.

#### BRINGING UP GREAT TEENS

A workshop for parents of teenagers covering connecting with teens, managing conflict, big issues and psychological challenges.

4 Tuesday mornings  
10am - 12:30pm  
1, 8, 15 & 22 November

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

#### KIDS & BULLYING

This course aims to help parents better understand a range of issues associated with bullying and cyberbullying and to equip them with strategies on how to best deal with them.

2 Tuesday mornings  
9:30am - 11:45am  
11 & 18 October

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

#### SEASONS PARENTING

This workshop gives an understanding of divorce/separation from a child's perspective and helps parents to support their children through family change.

2 Friday mornings  
10am - 12:30pm  
9 & 16 December

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

#### CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Helping parents understand their child's world by learning to read their emotional needs. Secure children have empathy, greater self esteem, better relationships and increased capacity to handle their emotions. This program is a must for all parents.

6 Thursday evenings  
6pm - 8:30pm  
3, 10, 17, 24 November 1 & 8 December

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

#### KEEPING KIDS IN MIND

A post-separation parenting program which helps parents learn how to deal with the emotional and practical issues of parenting after separation. The program helps explore grief and loss and the impact separation has on parents and their children.

5 Monday mornings  
17, 24, 31 October 7 & 14 November: 10am - 12:30pm  
OR  
5 Friday afternoons  
4, 11, 18, 25 November & 2 December: 12:30-2:30pm  
OR

5 Tuesday evenings, 6pm - 8:30pm  
8, 15, 22, 29 November & 6 December

Workshop Fee: \$20 per session

#### MORE HARMONY NO HARM (FOR MEN)

Topics covered include understanding and managing strong emotions, effective communication, assertiveness skills & positive behaviours for healthy relationships.

5 Tuesday evenings  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
8, 15, 22, 29 November & 6 December

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session



*Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances  
Limited childcare may be available*