Our Confirmation was a blessing. We enjoyed a Fashion Parade, spread out thousands of coins, applauded the creative ability of our theatrical Year 10s and 9s and I’ve had a chance to read the College Magazine.

**Confirmation**

Confirmation became for our community a wonderful moment of holiness. On Pentecost Sunday our Bishop welcomed the 37 Year 7 students into the Cathedral for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a packed Cathedral filled with expectation. The parents and grandparents, families and friends, squashed into the pews and embodied all that is important about family life and Church. They affirmed the choice and faith of their children. The Year 7s had been under the guidance of their teachers for many weeks in lessons and reflections. These teachers shared an important story, communicated a theology and offered an understanding of God through Sacrament. Most importantly these teachers taught from their hearts full of care and wise guidance. Significantly there was a sponsor sitting next to 37 young people and that sponsor publically placed a hand on a shoulder. There is something about the tenderness of that moment. There is such faith and such deep connection. Our Cathedral Parish had worked very hard on behalf of the school and on behalf of our families for the organisation. We were very grateful because it is a big occasion. And a wonderful element of this liturgy is the ability of the Bishop to make it so intimate when there were so many of us, squashed in, ‘for so long’. His welcome of us to holiness has a warmth and sincerity. He made us laugh, offered us challenge and he recognised each child individually. We are so grateful. He even popped over to school a couple of days later just to check on the Year 7s and how they had processed the whole event.

It’s humbling to see the faith of a child expressed as they kneel with closed eyes and a gentle half embarrassed smile with our Bishop. I congratulate the children. They have inspired us. They have our prayers and love. This was a wonderful occasion for Port Pirie.

**The Fashion Parade**

I sat stunned and thrilled for nearly two hours of the St Mark’s Fashion Parade. The night was polished, fun, elegant and stylish. The organisation was superb. The entertainment was a delight. And it was all planned and realised by two Year 11 students who simply thought it would be a good idea. It was a good idea but it wasn’t simple and what it became was a wonderful reflection of initiative and creativity. Erini Seindanis and Faye Greig, with the help of teacher Deb McArthur, organised 60 models, support teachers and students, lights and music and flourishing fashion as they managed to raise over $1000 for Caritas and Project Compassion. I entered the Bishop Gallagher Centre and there were masses of students milling around excited, in huddles and groups. They were buzzing. There was the thud of bass techno music and the gentle flashing of lights. The showcase was about to begin. The catwalk was lined with many mums who sat with a feminine authority. They have judiciousness in their judgement about fashion. They could see colours and cuts, fabric and bargains and the place had been transformed into a universe very far away from a school room. Erini and Faye had done a marvellous job with light, shadow and
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Benedict students on the hockey turf preparing for the Coin Line.

Ambience and had organised a stunning warm up vocal group Michaela Dimopoulos, Samantha Simpson, Esther Window. When the models finally arrived we were cheering. There were male and female students with a scattering of brave teachers representing the fashion houses of Port Pirie. What surprised us all was the grace, the confidence, the sophistication as they swept along the catwalk, swayed and swung and permitted us to enjoy the fabrics and designs of nearly 200 outfits. We laughed and clapped as students wore remarkable combinations and styles. It is amazing how varied the combinations were and we reserved our biggest applause for Mr Cronin who appealed to our conservative gentlemanly taste. The night was a triumph and certainly my favourite was when Mrs Deb Harmer and Miss Collette Salerno came out in 1970s outfits from Vinnies. Ah! Now that was a time! They looked the goods in orange tangerine and bare feet and reminded me of quality fashion in my youth. Unfortunately the next outfit saw the models were wearing jeans with slits and slashes. “They won’t be able to sell those jeans” I thought. “They have been ripped.” The girls didn’t seem to notice the disrepair! I cheered for the ‘men in black’ with their sunglasses and suave confidence and sat amazed at the poise of the Year 8 and 9 girls. I thought they were supposed to be just little kids. I laughed at the handsome nearly gangly self-consciousness of a few of the boys and watched their mischief and laughter on stage. There was a sophistication from the senior girls. They controlled the catwalk with their poise. For us watching it was the best of St Mark’s. It was about community and fun, excellence and cooperation. I was very proud. (However, I don’t know if we will have to pay for those ripped jeans)

Secondly, a lot of coins weigh a lot. Thirdly, a teller smiles delightfully at every customer, even those with a lot of heavy coins and we thank Tracy Curnow. Fourthly, it’s easier to create a line of a hundred metres of coins than it is to pick them up. Fifthly, Mr Jordan has a great sense of humour and endless patience in his organisation. There was lots of fun for lots of us at Benedict and I wonder if the Hockey players are still finding coins. Thanks to all.

Year 9 and 10 Drama Night
I want to congratulate the Year 9 and the Year 10 Drama classes on what became a wonderful night of theatre last week. The Year 9s produced a piece that powerfully confronted the issues of body image and growing up. They had us laughing and crying and disturbed all at once. We were amazed at the accomplishment of the actors. Ms Sandy Lee seems to be able to bring out a discipline and commitment from her ensembles. Year 9s made a powerful statement about individuality and we were touched by their performance. Ms Fiona Clark had developed a terrific ensemble piece with her Year 10s based on the 16th century tradition of the Commedia dell Arte. There was frolic and farce, beauty and innocence and unforgivable betrayal, even as love somehow clumsily triumphed. There was much pace and skill in the performance of the Year 10s. They worked hard with timing and characterisation. I was riveted to the story and laughed and booed with the audience and felt very assured that the dramatic arts at St Mark’s are in good, happy, enthusiastic hands.

Coin Line
Mr Damian Smith, Mrs Denise Morgan and four students from St Joseph’s Peterborough joined us to try and actually create a kilometre of coins now that all the Catholic schools in the Port Pirie diocese had pooled their money from Catholic Education Week. We laid out the coins on the Hockey turf and gained a few insights. Firstly, it takes a lot of coins to make a kilometre.

College Magazine
I’ve had a chance to read the recently distributed 2013 College Magazine. It is a beautiful production and a fascinating reflection of the life and joy of St Mark’s. I congratulate Mrs Sharon Sard and the team on such a publication. It honours and acknowledges. It is visually stunning and highlights our sacredness. It is a valuable piece of history and a celebration all at once.

Greg Hay, Principal
From the APRIM

Pentecost Sunday saw 37 of our students Confirmed by Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ in St Mark’s Cathedral. It was a truly moving service and the response from the students and their families has been heart-warming. I’d like to acknowledge the wonderful work of the Year 7 teachers; Toni Boulton, Kathryn Crouch, Lyn Ellbourn and Jack Jordan in their thorough preparation of not only the students but of the Cathedral as well! Also, many thanks to Fr Francis for some beautiful new additions to the Confirmation Mass which helped us to have a better understanding of the Feast of Pentecost. The Confirmation Mass was also the first official day of altar serving for many of our Year 5 students who should be commended on their excellent work.

As part of the Year 7 Confirmation Program, the students were encouraged to be of service to others. They have been just amazing in the way in which they have organised and undertaken their vast variety of service. A group of students organised a Winter Appeal after hearing of the plight of the homeless during winter from the President of the local St Vinnies branch, Mr Keith Colyer. Crenie Kumar, Tanya Scarman, Suzi Tattoli, Damian Turci and Jordan Williams were the driving force behind 7 Blue’s very successful appeal. Many thanks to our generous families and friends for their support in donating the goods.

Clem Stanley and Leo Taylor organised to volunteer in the local St Vinnies store and Leo writes;

When I got to Vinnies, I was amazed at how big it was inside since I had never been inside. Clem and I were greeted by very nice ladies as we came in. We sorted through clothes, books, shoes and more. I was amazed at how they volunteer and use their time to help others in need. While Clem and I were sorting through shoes, we were blown away by how many shoes had to be thrown away because they couldn’t be worn. If you are donating to Vinnies please donate clean and not too badly used items.

May the Holy Spirit continue to be with the students as they endeavour to be of service to others.

Melissa Gadaleta, APRIM

St Vinnies Volunteers

Clem and Leo volunteered their services at our local St Vinnies Store as part of their Confirmation Program.

Coin Line

This year for Catholic Education week each child or family, was asked to stick coins onto a 30cm length of paper and the money raised was to form a coin line. The money collected goes to Caritas Australia. Year 7 Red started the coin line and other classes came and joined us. We formed 7 lines that were 43 metres each! A total of approx. 300 metres and 12,282 coins!! Four students from St Joseph’s School in Peterborough came with their coins and helped form the lines. It took a while but we finally finished the lines just before lunch. It was great fun and all for a worthy cause! Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Ivy Caputo and Shanmadhi Santhosh, Year 7 students
From the Deputy Principal

End of Semester Reports
This year you will see a change in the Benedict Campus reporting format. Grades for Year 1-7 students will no longer be on a separate sheet and are now imbedded into the report under each learning area. For each learning area, the curriculum content in the report has been condensed and will show achievements recorded per curriculum strand. Each student’s personal development will be reported using our five areas of focus for pastoral care: resilience, organisation, persistence, getting along and confidence.

Our Visitors
On Wednesday we were delighted to welcome Bishop O’Kelly and our Director of Catholic Education in the Port Pirie Diocese, Ms Brenda Keenan, to the Campus. The Bishop spoke with our Year 7 students about their Confirmation celebration. I believe there may have been a tinge of disappointment from Bishop Greg when the students failed to include the Bishop’s homily in the many highlights of the celebration!

Staffing
Next week we welcome Miss Jenna Howell back from leave. In Week 9 Mrs Pia Keain will be taking Long Service Leave, and in Week 9 and 10, Mrs Annie Keane will likewise be taking Long Service Leave. Miss Kylie Capurso will be covering Annie’s teaching duties and Miss Louise Kitto will be teaching in 4 Red in Pia’s absence.

Year 6 and 7 Bring Your Own Device
On Wednesday 23 July, Year 6 and 7 parents are invited to a meeting to discuss a BYOD initiative for next year. Students will be required to have learning enhanced through the use of a tablet. This will be important for parents to attend.

Helen McKeough
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus

Congratulations to all of our students who made their Confirmation recently.

Year 7 students had a visit from Bishop O’Kelly and Director of Catholic Education Brenda Keenan to talk about and reflect upon their Confirmation experience.
We went for a walk on the Port Germein Jetty. We saw big purple jellyfish, grey bobbing dolphins and slimy squids. The squid were on the jetty. Next we went down off the jetty onto the rocks and the splodgy sand. Everyone went looking for mud crabs. The mud crab I found was angry!

Noah Gebert, Year 3 student

When we were at Port Germein, Scarlett was amazing at spotting jellyfish. There was heaps of them and they were a purpley pink colour. When we looked at the horizon we saw four dolphins. I found a live mud crab and it bit me. Then I found lots under rocks. There were a lot of spotty ones. It was really fun pottering around in the rocks. This was my favourite excursion yet!

Marcus Meaney, Year 3 student

At Mambray Creek we saw some kangaroos and there was lots of water in the creeks. We went for a very very long walk! We used charcoal to sketch trees. Jesslynn and I sat on rocks to do the sketching. Mambray Creek was very very green and nice. It smelled really nice too. Our class had so much fun there!

Paris White, Year 3 student

On their recent excursion the Year 3 students had fun exploring the seaside at Port Germein where they spotted a variety of sea creatures and the bush at Mambray Creek where they encountered lots of different wildlife.

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Paris White, Year 3 student

Next stop was Mambray Creek. The kangaroos were cute, funny and they loved to scratch! On our big walk up the hill we saw emus at the top and they looked quite scary. We also saw a cute rock wallaby that looked like it was wailing to us. As we were walking there were kookaburras flying around. They were noisy and their laugh sounded scary and loud!

Mia Williams, Year 3 student
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From the Deputy Principal

Senior Students
We wish our Year 10 students every success as they look to explore possible vocations during their work experience placements in Week 10. From Wednesday - Friday of the same week, our Year 12s will travel to Pt Hughes to attend the highly anticipated 3-day spiritual retreat. I am grateful to Jane Gibson and Melissa Gadaleta respectively for their hard work in preparing these two events.

A request from the Bosco Office
In order that we may keep accurate records, could families please advise the College when contact numbers change or are no longer in use? This is especially important when text message advisories are sent and immediate or urgent contact is required. Thank you.

Report Collection
With so much activity in our final week of term, report collection reflects student movement on the final day - please refer to the table below.

Brett Czechowski
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus

9 Aside Football

Anthony, Gabriella and Darcy proudly display the Winning Shields.

On the 22 May this term, nearly all the Year 8 and 9 students competed in the Mark Jamar 9 Aside Football Carnival at the Senate Road Complex. Saint Mark’s played against teams from John Pirie Secondary School, Mid North Christian College and Port Broughton Area School. The day was a huge success in providing fun and enjoyment to all of the students involved. On the day St Mark’s was lucky enough to win shields in the Year 8 boys and the Year 9 boys competition as well as the overall shield for the most successful school.

A big thank you goes to all the Year 10 students who helped to coach and umpire all of the St Mark’s teams, as well as to the students who participated in the spirit of the competition. It was a successful day, enjoyed by all.

Jesslyn Oxford,
Sports Coordinator

Report Collection on Friday 4 July

Year 8, 9 and Year 11
Reports issued during Afternoon Caregroup (approx 12:25pm).

Year 10
Students (or sibling) may collect from Bosco Office until 3pm.

Year 12
Issued to students on their return from Retreat.
The Drama department has been kept busy in recent weeks with the combined Year 9/10 performance last Wednesday evening. The Year 9 class performed ‘Hoodie’, a story about friendship, self image and individuality. The Year 10 class performed ‘Hoodwinked’, a play of love, trickery and deception. Congratulations to all of the students involved and many thanks to everyone who came and supported the students during the performance.

Miss Sandy Lee and Ms Fiona Clarke
Drama Teachers
Sports News

SAPSASA Football

In Week 5, 22 boys from Risdon Park and St Marks went down to Adelaide for a week to play footy, led by Mitch Alchin and Lawson Collins as the Port Pirie SAPSASA Footy team. To start the week we came straight out of the gates and had two great wins, one over Murray Mallee and another win over Kangaroo Island. It was starting to look like what would already be an excellent week would become an even better one. Then we let a few games slip, but we still held our heads high. On Wednesday night most of the team went to the West Beach Surf Club for dinner with the netball girls. When Thursday came around we pushed for a win against APY Lands which was good to get ready for the final day. On Friday we all came early and ready to play. We lost the first game but finished the week on a high with a 4-point win over Whyalla, who finished second in our division. Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the parents and supporters for getting us there and helping out when needed and also to three men that the week would not have been possible without. First, Damien Freer, who was our runner. Henry Whiting, who was our team manager and made sure everyone had a fair go. Finally to Trevor (Beaver) Combe, who coached us this year. Well done Pirie and good luck to next year’s team.

Will Taylor, Year 7 student

SAPSASA Netball

SAPSASA this year was really fun. We took 2 teams down to Adelaide, Division 1 and Division 5. The Division 1 team was included St Mark’s students Darcey Roberts, Millie Tubb, Holly Reid, Caitlin Gaudio, Peggy Jackson, Bethany Castle, Lucee Bessen, Caitlin Oliphant and I. The Division 5 team was made up of Shamadhi Santhosh, Indea Sparks, Sarah Newman, Chelsea White and Emerson Heidrich. The competition was hard and had really strong teams. We didn’t win any games but we all still enjoyed it! I bought lots of merchandise and mini melts! I got my merchandise signed by 2 thunderbirds, Rebecca Bulley and Laura Packard. On Wednesday night we went out for tea with the footy boys. It was a really good experience and we thank all the parents and coaches for making it possible.

Chelsea McBride, Year 7 student

SMC Netball

Congratulations to the following SMC players who represented Port Pirie in the Spencer Gulf Netball Carnival in May:
Sophie Farrugia, Georgia Pryor, Hannah Mark, Alana Reid, Dakota Petagna, Kayla Pisani, Tia Sciangalepore, Emma Perry, Millie Tubb, Alana Mathews, Holly Reid, Eden Smith, Angel Allan, Lucee Bessen, Caitlin Gaudio, Chelsea McBride, Ellie Todd, Caitlin Tee, Darcey Roberts, Danika Walsh, Georgia Tefanis, Maddison Pryor, Maddison Caputo, Yasmin Bishop, Georgia Afford, Sarah Horsnell and Ella Gibson.

We are again holding our Junior Disco Night this year. It will be on Thursday 3 July. Details will be distributed next week.

Parents and senior players are reminded that we are holding a Progressive Dinner on 5 July and Tickets are available from Northern Caravans, Soul Lifestyle or at the courts from the Committee.

Katie Pole
SMC Netball Coordinator

SAPSASA Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent the Port Pirie District in Hockey:
Jordan Gorey, Shannon Doyle, Alana Zubrinich, Tia Sciangalepore, Emma Perry, Millie Tubb, Alana Mathews, Holly Reid, Eden Smith, Angel Allan, Lucee Bessen, Caitlin Gaudio, Chelsea McBride, Ellie Todd, Caitlin Tee, Darcey Roberts, Danika Walsh, Georgia Tefanis, Maddison Pryor, Maddison Caputo, Yasmin Bishop, Georgia Afford, Sarah Horsnell and Ella Gibson.

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Katie Pole
SMC Netball Coordinator

Bernie Kelly
Benedict Sports Coordinator
M Team Cupcake Stall

This week the Benedict M Team held a cake stall to raise money for St Joseph’s. The members of the M Team bought in yummy cakes to sell. We held the cake stall during recess and lunch. We were very happy because we sold out of cakes and raised a total of $384. Thankyou to everyone who bought our cakes and supported our fund raiser.

The Benedict M Team

St Mark’s Fashion Parade

The St Mark’s Fashion Parade was a lovely evening where the hard work of Erini Seindanis and Faye Greig culminated in a great presentation of garments from local clothing stores. The audience was delighted with the professionalism and enthusiasm of the models and the Year 9 singers and with the seamless flow of events throughout the evening. Our thanks go to not only the students and staff who modelled and helped backstage but also to the generosity and support of the local businesses and individuals who assisted us in any way.

Deb McArthur, Teacher

Staff and students strutt ed the catwalk and pulled out their best moves to showcase fashions from local retailers at the St Mark’s College Fashion Parade recently.

The Benedict M Team held a Cupcake Stall recently to raise funds for St Joseph’s House.
Trade Skills Centre

Barry Ramsay Construction commenced work on the new Trades Skills Centre last month. The $1.6m project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and will deliver vocational education and training to students on the College Campus.

The new facilities which will be operational from the start of the 2015 school year has mainly been funded by the Australian Government and will include Engineering and Automotive workshops, a new implement shed and shearing facilities which will enable students to complete an industry endorsed Certificate 2 in Rural Operations. Shearing Courses run by Roseworthy TAFE will now also be offered as part of the new Trade Skills Centre. Completion of Certificate 2 will also contribute to the student’s SACE and Year 9 and 10 students will have the opportunity to begin studies in this area via Certificate One.

New Agriculture and Workshop equipment that reflect current practice in nearby rural communities will be purchased as part of the project. Practical training in Agriculture, Engineering and Automotive will provide students with new skills ready for immediate work in Agricultural and Pastoral at Certificate 3 level. The training units delivered will also articulate into Engineering, Automotive and Resources (Mining/Civil) fields through credit transfer. This will be achieved through partnership arrangements with local industry and training providers.

Dominic LoBasso, Business Manager

Notices

Make A Wish Quiz Night

On Friday 25 July at the Northern Festival Centre at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Cost is $15 per person. Please purchase your tickets from Northern Festival Centre (Phone 86 33 8500) by 23 July. Bar facilities provided (no BYO drinks), BYO supper. Get a team together for a fun night of games, prizes and auctions to support a very worthy cause.

Fun A Plenty

Port Pirie Baptist Church is hosting ‘Fun A Plenty’ for primary aged children and families. It will be held on Sunday 29 June from 2.30 to 4pm at Plenty Street Park, Port Pirie. Free games, bible stories, craft and sausage sizzle. Enquiries to Pastor Roger Kleinig 0427 399 244.

Singing Lessons at School and Piano Lessons available

For more information phone Anne Hansen on 0429 866 242.