Our Grandparents and Grandfriends visited as did Rowan Ramsey MHR and Senator Penny Wright. We acclaimed Bosco scholarship, announced a digital plan and received an important decision from Helen McKeough.

Grandparents Day
Our Good Samaritan Hall filled with Benedict Grandparents and Grandfriends last week. They came to visit and to watch. They came to support the learning of their Grandchildren and then to grab a little hand and be led around the school. They assembled in the Hall and waved to innocent gesturing children sitting ready, animated wanting to make connection before the assembly. The Grandparents chatted and watched the assembly; allowed themselves to become engaged in a prayer of welcome and there was simply lots of smiling. The students were just so excited and the atmosphere was cohesive, loving really. It was a remarkable time in the gathering of the St Mark’s community.

Teachers had prepared activities and the P+F had the cup of tea and biscuit system working. Grandparents then did what they do best. They attended. They listened. They watched in awe at a Grandchild’s unsophisticated enthusiasm, innocent demonstrations, enthusiastic pride. These important Grandpeople represented the safety of family. The certainty of love. They were the safe nurturing voice, the person who listens and gently, patiently… mostly patiently, guides and supports our wonderful children.

The grandparents involved themselves in St Mark’s life and glowed with love just because these children exist. We were able to celebrate this sense of family beautifully last week at St Mark’s

Senator Wright Visit
The College had an opportunity to welcome Senator Penny Wright, a Green’s senator from South Australia. We enjoyed a wonderful tour of both campuses. The College Captains played host and we also toured with the Director of Catholic Education for our Diocese Ms Brenda Keenan. We walked around to meet students in class and view the excellent facilities. I was buzzing with pride along the way. The students said the right things; they were gracious and respectful. The school looked in good shape and even the animals at McNally Farm performed as they should. The visit was in stark contrast to the turbulent world from which Senator Wright works and lives in Canberra. We certainly appreciated her explanation of the collaborative way in which the parliament works when the cameras are not trained on individuals. I think that the Senator has a good sense of how we collaborate and work together.

Benedict students were very excited to have their Grandparents visit them at the College.
SAPSASA Winter Carnival
Friday 1 August

Benedict Assembly
Monday 4 August

Fr Dennis Handley Cup
Wednesday 6 August

Senior School Information Night
Thursday 7 August at 7.30pm in the BGC

Crystal Brook Show
Saturday 9 August

Foundation to Year 12 Mass
Friday 15 August at 10am
Parents Welcome!

Bosco Assembly
I attended a Bosco assembly at the start of the term and was able to receive Mr Rowan Ramsey MHR as a guest who gave a certificate to Nathan Crouch in recognition of being one of the outstanding School Based Apprentices in South Australia. I had a chance to publically congratulate Nathan and welcome back our students who returned from holidays. Of course they returned with that adolescent range of enthusiasm for the term. They returned with some memory of a Report Card, some moment of reflection about the achievement of Semester One and I trust a continued commitment to their learning. I know that they returned with a memory of a discussion about the Report with parents and perhaps there was a new encouragement to keep doing their best. And that is what happens at St Mark’s ‘we do our best’. Even as we might say ‘I should try harder’ we do keep trying. So, I welcomed Mr Rowan Ramsey, Nathan and all students to a new term, refreshed and encouraged to keep going.

Helen McKeough concludes as Deputy Principal
The 12 year tenure of Helen McKeough as Deputy Principal has now come to an end. After all the opportunities of leadership and the vast achievements at Benedict, Helen will step away from the role. There will be an opportunity to offer thanks and congratulations at a later time. What happens now is a process of consultation with our community and then an advertisement to offer the position of Deputy Principal to someone else. We will search for a suitable replacement with a sense that Helen has a unique and valued legacy in the life of this College.

Greg Hay, Principal

Digital Device Announcement
Nearly 70 parents and teachers gathered last week to hear of developments in the ‘Bring Your Own Digital Device’ initiative for Year 7s and Year 8s. It is an important learning initiative. We gathered with interest and with questions, all witnessing a revolution in the way teaching and learning happens in every classroom. We spoke about students being connected powerfully with the world around them through a lap top, the Cloud, a little telephone, a Wi Fi. And those students are fearless. They don’t seem to have to know what something means to embrace the technology. They want vast amounts of information at their fingertips. And whilst our best teachers are not abandoning traditional teaching methodology they are now adapting the new opportunities presented by digital technology. The assembly spoke about how our children have taken up learning differently and how they have high expectations of teachers who they expect to embrace and design learning experiences using technologies. It’s exciting. The teachers are changing. That’s the inspiring bit. Technologies have changed classroom procedure but also there is a change in understanding of how we learn and what we learn. The teachers have responded by developing learning environments which are rich and relevant, contemporary and designed to engage. Our St Mark’s students are part of this as we will explore this and bring out the best learning outcomes for our students.

Senator Penny Wright having a chat to students at Bosco Campus.

Ag Manager Joel Head giving Senator Penny Wright a tour of our McNally Farm.

Principal Mr Greg Hay and Ag Manager Mr Joel Head with Rowan Ramsey who presented Nathan Crouch with a certificate for being an Outstanding School Based Apprentice.
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Initiative for 2015

On Wednesday 23 July, Year 6 and 7 parents attended a meeting where the BYOD initiative for 2015 was presented. The speakers were Greg Hay, Jim Scavarelli and Dominic LoBasso.

BYOD or Bring Your Own Device is a technology model where students bring a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning.

At the start of 2015, students who are enrolled in Years 7 and 8 will be required to bring such a device to school as part of their everyday routine. The device will be the same for every student.

At the meeting Greg Hay spoke about the changing nature of education, the way students learn in the 21st century and why the College is embarking on a BYOD program.

Jim Scavarelli spoke in depth of the aims of the program, the benefits of BYOD in the classroom, the preferred platform for BYOD and what the College has done so far to make BYOD a reality in 2015.

Dominic LoBasso outlined the cost to parents of a device, three payment options and other administrative details related to the implementation of the BYOD plan.

At the end of the presentation parents were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the BYOD program. Some parents also took the opportunity to have hands on experience of three devices that the College is evaluating for the program.

If you were unable to make the meeting you can download a pdf of the presentation given to parents from this link: BYOD Parent Information 2014

More information will be given to parents, students and staff as things develop in the coming months.

If you have any questions regarding the BYOD initiative, please phone the College on 8633 8812 or alternatively email your questions to byod@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au

Jim Scavarelli, ICT Coordinator F-12

Something to think about ...

**From the Deputy Principal**

Each term I think I write that we have had a busy start and this term is certainly no exception!

Last Wednesday we welcomed Senator Penny Wright and on Friday we celebrated a very successful Grandparents and Grandfriends Day. Close to 500 grandparents and grandparents visited our Campus and joined with our young people for a prayer service, tours of the campus and classroom activities. We sincerely thank all of our Grandparents and Grandfriends for joining with us on the day. A thank you to our staff for their assistance with the organisation and smooth running of the day, all students involved in the prayer service, and a special thanks goes to our two School Captains, Ellie and Cooper, for their wonderful leadership during our prayer services and their willing help with the morning and afternoon tea. A special thank you is also extended to our P and F volunteers who served many cups of tea and coffee and who washed many cups and saucers during the day!

This week we have our Year 6 students involved the RAVE dance competition on Friday evening. This is a culmination of many hours of preparation and we wish them, and organising staff members Karen Davison and Pia Keain, all the best. Our Year 7 students, and some Year 6 students as well, will be involved in a local SAPSASA Football and Netball Carnival also on Friday. Our Year 3, 5, 6 and 7 students earlier this week certainly enjoyed the Ausdance Workshops.

We farewelled Tegan Hazlett (6/7 Gold) last week and have welcomed Sophia Yin (Foundation Red) and Orlando Krommendijk (Foundation Green) into our school community. As we commenced the term we have welcomed Sue Holze from Bosco Campus, who has filled in for Lyn Howell whilst she has been on Long Service Leave, and Hannah Lavis, who will be working to support students in the Early Years, to our Benedict Campus staff. We also welcome back from leave Teresa Gadaleta, and Meredyn Bell from Long Service Leave.

A busy start to the term indeed!

_Helen McKeough_  
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus

**Parents and Friends Donation**

Parent and Friends gave Year 1 Blue some new headphones for us to use on our classroom computers and when we borrow the ipads. It helps stop the noise.

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**Blessing of the Fleet Procession and Dance Performance**

_Sunday 14 September_

Any Year 3 girls who are interested in walking in the Blessing of the Fleet Procession wearing ‘Italian costumes’ and learning the traditional Tarantella dance to perform at the picnic lunch during the Procession lunch break - please contact Mrs Tina Amato on 86330560 or 0407 782 625 for further details. Costumes are provided.

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*They are awesome because I can hear my iPad really really well and I am not distracting anyone!!*

_By Maveric Connelly_  
Year 1 Blue
On Grandparents Day I invited Nana and Papa and they came to the Liturgy. Then I gave them a little tour around the school. After I did an activity. Then we had a photo together. I gave them a hug and then they left. It was awesome!

By Eliza Harris, Year 2 Blue

On the 25 July it was Grandparents Day. First we had a liturgy and we had two songs. They were called Gather Together and One Family. I liked Gather Together!

After we took our Grandparents for a tour of our school. My Grandparents loved it! Then I took them back to my class and showed them my books. They liked the Religion and Maths. Then the SRC’s took them to an afternoon tea.

I loved Grandparents Day!

By Jessica Evely, Year 2 Blue

I liked Grandparents Day because I could show my Nana my classroom and around the school. We had fun!

By Charlie Dickeson, Year 1 Blue

Grandparents day was special because my Nana and Pa came. I got to show them my classroom and we went on a treasure hunt.

By Alex Spolding, Year 1 Blue

My Nana and Pa came to visit. It was Pa’s first time at my school. He read me a book. Nana and I play a game together. It was really fun!!

By Eva Christensen-Lauder, Year 1 Blue
Fr Dennis Handley Cup
Wednesday 6 August

Senior School Information Night
Thursday 7 August at 7.30pm in the BGC

Crystal Brook Show
Saturday 9 August

Foundation to Year 12 Mass
Friday 15 August at 10am
Parents Welcome!

Acknowledging Excellence
Our first Principal’s assembly this term acknowledged those students who worked hard to achieve a high level of academic excellence over their course of study last semester. The following students were presented with a certificate from Mr Hay. Please join with me in congratulating...

Year 8 – Angel Allan, Aleisha Finlay, Jessie LaForgia, Maya Bessen, Mia Dennis, Dale Hayward, Cooper Lane, Alanna Mathews, Talia Phillips and Eden Smith

Year 9 – Nicola Turci, Eliza Watt, Ellen Wauchope and Esther Window

Year 10 – Chloe Anderson, Alanah Barr, Maddison Caputo, Michaela Cullen, Annie Ford, Ella Gibson, Millie Johnson, Georgia Payne, Maddison Pryan, Molly Smith, Jessie Veitch, Annalize Venables, Patrick Williams and Lucy Wood

Year 11 – Kelsey Fetherstonhaugh, Molly Head, Jane Murphy, Brooke North and Georgia-Rose Scarman

Year 12 – Darcy Blieschke, Sean Blieschke, Chloe Buchanan, Brooke Caputo, Sasha de Vries, Olivia Demarco, George Ford, Maddison Gibson, Amy Mark, Daniel Mezzino, Sarah Noonan, Dylan Raftery, Tiana Ramsay, Deanna Sofia, Emily-Rose Turci, Alexander Young and Jack Fraser.

From the Deputy Principal

Senior School Information (SACE) Evening
A letter detailing the importance of the above gathering should have reached Year 10 and Year 11 families earlier this week. Please note the date is Thursday, August 7 at 7.30pm. The evening concerns subject selection information for 2015. As there is a limited amount of seating in each venue, I ask that where possible, only one parent attends with his or her son/daughter. Thank you.

2015 Philippine Immersion
Following the success of our inaugural Immersion experience a little over a year ago, the College was pleased to officially launch the 2015 Philippine Immersion at last week’s campus assembly. The Immersion is open to students currently in Year 9 and Year 10. An expression of interest meeting will be held for students next Monday in the BGC for those thinking of signing up. An Information Evening for prospective students and their families is planned for Tuesday, August 26 at 7.30pm in the Bishop Gallagher Centre. More information in our next week newsletter.

Brett Czechowski
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Bosco Resource Centre

Start of Term Reminder

A friendly reminder for all students to record the barcode of each Text Book issued in the back of their College Diary. This is to ensure that all books that are issued at the start and throughout the year, are the books that must be returned at the end of the year.

Please also note that all water damaged, damaged beyond repair and lost Library and Text Books will incur a replacement charge.

Sharon Sard, Librarian

National Self-Detection Program for Scoliosis (NSDP)

Scoliosis (spinal curvature) is an important health problem for adolescent girls and 25 per thousand are at risk of developing a significant curve. Three girls per thousand require active treatment (spinal brace or surgery). Because in the early stages the condition is most often asymptomatic, screening in the age range 11-13 years is a sound preventative health measure.

The website contains comprehensive credible information about the symptoms and treatment of scoliosis. Through the forum, girls and their parents can obtain general advice from certified specialists who manage patients with spinal curvature.

More information can be accessed directly via a link on the Scoliosis Australia Home Page at www.scoliosis-australia.org

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who achieved academic excellence.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who achieved academic excellence.

Congratulations to our Year 9 students who achieved academic excellence.

Trade Skills Centre

The construction of the new Trade Skills Centre is starting to take shape. The College is currently working with TAFE in preparing 2015 courses.

Dominic LoBasso, Business Manager

The framework is up for the new Trade Skills Centre.
On Monday July 28, 27 keen and talented netballers participated in the state Knockout Netball Carnivals. The Open Girls played in Kadina with some success, beating Eudunda by 15 goals; unfortunately they did not make the finals. The Year 8 and 9 and Year 10 teams played in a round robin competition, at Trinity College in Gawler. The 8 and 9 girls won 3 of their games, however, lost by a mere 4 goals to the talented and physical Trinity side. The Year 10 team was victorious, convincingly winning all their games. This was highlighted by a very thrilling final game against Trinity to cement their place in the state finals. This exceptionally talented team will now go on to play in the finals at Netball SA Stadium.

Special thanks to old scholar, Georgia Eades for umpiring along with Year 12 student Caitlin Brooks. Also, Mrs Ulanda de Villiers for assisting to transport students to Kadina.

Jesslyn Oxford, Ann Russack and Jane Gibson
Knockout Netball Coaches
Year 8 Art - Blind Continuous Line Self Portraits

SMC Uniform
Online Survey

The Uniform Committee in conjunction with Sportscene will soon be running an online survey. Our hope is to better understand parents requirements and keep our students feeling comfortable and looking great.

If you have any suggestions for questions or advice in going forward we would love to hear it.

Please email info@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au
Crystal Brook Show - Pet Section
9 August 2014

It is time to get your entries in to the Crystal Brook Show pet section.
If you think your pet is something special (and aren't they all?) there are plenty of great prizes to be won in a number of categories in this year’s Show from Best Cat, Best Dog, Best Bird, Best Reptile and lots more. This year the section will be judged by YP Vets veterinarian Dr Natalie Olding and Dr John Olding who will face the difficult challenge of crowning the Champion Pet and selecting all other category winners. Pets will be supervised in the pet section all day. For more information contact Ann Redden on 8636 2194 or 0427288020 or email on annmredden@bigpond.com.

Port Pirie Tennis Mega Draw - Enter to win cash prizes

Tickets available from SportScene Super Warehouse or Grant Hanlon on 0414 320 840. Cost of $25 per ticket includes Free “All You Can Eat” Lunch and Afternoon Tea at the Tennis Centre on the day of the draw - Sunday, 10th August, from 12noon. Also discounted prices on all drinks. Blue tennis courts (1-15) will be open for families to have a social hit of tennis.

Cash prizes: $2,500 First Prize, $1,000 Second Prize, $500 Third Prize, $250 Fourth Prize, $100 Fifth Prize. $1 of every ticket sold goes to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Proceeds of Mega Draw to assist the large scale upgrade of the Port Pirie Tennis Centre facilities. For more information contact Grant Hanlon on 0414 320 840.

Homeless Persons’ Week
Monday 4 - Sunday 10 August 2014

Homelessness: we can’t afford to ignore it.
Uniting Care Wesley Country SA Cares and Supports the Homeless. Homeless Persons’ Week aims to raise awareness of homelessness and the people it affects as well as celebrate the work that organisations and individuals do to help those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Be a Supporter
Use your connections to spread the word there is No Test, No Exam. Sometimes being Homeless Can Just Happen. Supporters can use spoken, written and social media to spread the word about in their local community. Think about it, Talk about it – In class, at Work, at Home – Understand how Homelessness can Hurt. Some People Need Help and Support. Even in your own Community.

You could fundraise, choose a local charity or community organisation to support. Hold a morning/afternoon tea or dinner. Organise a blanket/food can collection/toiletry drive/casual clothes day, with proceeds to a local organisation/charity.

Homeless Persons’ Week is an annual themed week coordinated by Homelessness Australia. Homelessness: we can’t afford to ignore it.

It is to raise awareness. It is held in the first full week of August each year.
Homelessness Australia: General email: info@homelessnessaustralia.org.au
UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
Homelessness Service Port Pirie 8633 8600 is your local service provider.

Applications NOW OPEN for Nyrstar Apprenticeships 2015

Applications are now open for full time & School Based Apprenticeships in the following trades:

- Metal Fabrication
- Fitting & Turning
- Electrical

Minimal standard for all positions is completion of year 11 by the end of 2014.
To register your interest please email pp_apprentices@nyrstar.com to receive further information and an application form.

Applications close 22nd August 2014