Feast of the Assumption
We gathered as a whole school for a Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. It became a time of sacredness. It was a day to honour the motherhood of Mary and to celebrate that Our Lady experienced the miracle and joy of a birth. She carried the deep responsibility and mystery that any mother carries when loving someone and allowing them to journey into life. So, we celebrated the nurturing and care of Our Lady and how she allowed Jesus to grow into his divinity. It struck me as we prayed that our spirituality is deeply connected to our experience of motherhood. Mothers allow us to grow into insight about ourselves. It’s a hard job and there is nothing more selflessly loving than a mother who is so determined to do that job. No-one instinctually protects like a mother. There are none who nurture and care more powerfully than a mother. The Foundations and Year 1s know that because their mothers gently release them from a hand that is always there when they trip over. The Primary’s know it because asms drive them everywhere, listen to them, offer advice and make them clean their rooms. The Secondary’s know about motherhood as their mums allow them to grow into adulthood skilfully with steadfastness. Mothers teach the capacity to love. The Life of Mary teaches us that capacity. And our sense of faith is tied up in loving and growing.

Book Week
Our Good Samaritan Hall filled last week with Benedict’s response to the joys of reading. We gathered to the imaginative response to literacy. Some of the great book characters of literature paraded in front of many parents. There were the scariest of monsters and the most courageous of sports champions on show. There were comic book crusaders and some delightfully cheeky villains. There was the classic Disney gallery of creatures and creations wonderfully costumed. There were Dr Seuss characters, Cats in Hats, Things both 1 and 2, and then the array of J.K. Rowling’s world of Hogwarts all on parade. There were wizards, magicians and gorgeous little Harry’s and Hermione’s. There were other favourite characters from stories; the odd and unconventional, Vikings, astronauts and beings from outer space. There were creatures from Forests: Enchanted, Forbidden, Evil, Haunted and Sherwood. In fact I was amazed at how forestry has such an important place in the literature of the young. There were princesses and pirates, animals and ‘Where’s Wally?’ – Well...
he was everywhere. There were Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales all dressed up and we had ‘onesies’, and blocks out of Minecraft, Hulks and heroes. And most innovative was the blue silk and ice magic of Elsa, princess of Arendelle, with those cryokinetic powers from Frozen. Ah! These were the lovely princesses at St Mark’s who had made such an effort. We had teachers looking glamorous or humorous or somewhere in between. I thought that the time together was a joy. It was a fantasy fantastic. Just fun. Just a community expressing a sense of play, dressing up, making a statement, bringing words and imagination to life. This was made more special by the gathering of so many parents. I trust that we all now read a little more enthusiastically.

**First Holy Communion**

There is such an excitement about a Mass that celebrates a Sacrament. Families are present; even the reluctant teenager turns up with little resistance. People are dressed up. Mother’s fuss a bit and they plan feasts for afterwards. Fathers get the camera ready. Grandmothers watch, smile, pray from that heart of deep faithfulness. The aunties and uncles travel up from Adelaide. At a Mass that celebrates a Sacrament the children are a bit starry eyed; a bit in awe. But they know something important is happening. And it is important.

Last weekend I saw our Year 4 community take the opportunity to make a deep commitment to the mystery of the Eucharist. The Cathedral Choir sang beautifully, Father Paul welcomed, we all watched the procession of Year 4s dressed in that ancient vestment named from the Latin phrase *tunica alba*, ‘white tunic’. The children processed. I felt that innocent kind of holiness and connection to sacred mystery. That’s what faithful children seem to generate.

The College felt a strong obligation to support families with the preparation of the Year 4s in the First Communion process. There was good teaching and a gentle reconnection with Sunday Mass. There was theology and faith and an understanding of commitment. I am aware that the process towards this important sacrament involves teacher and family support. I thank the teachers for their work in preparation and join with families in wishing our students congratulations in receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I watched them return to their seats, glowing, faithful. I think that they help put the Saint into St Mark’s.

**Bosco Parent and Student Subject Counselling**

I thought that the number of parents who attended our Subject Selection Counselling night was truly an indication of the strength of our partnership. There were teachers available and students introduced mums and dads to the counsellors and then the mystery of the SACE, the pathway of scholarship, and possible careers that they wanted to take. The outcomes have been good. There was discernment and decision. A learning program has been created. We want to maintain that connection. We want what is best for the learning of the senior secondary students and the opportunities that they create for the future.

**Kindergarten Visit and Agriculture Open Day**

We welcomed over 100 four year olds to the McNally farm last week. The kindergartens came to visit. It is called ‘Ag Open Day’ and the enclosures are swept out, the goats are told to behave, the cows are tethered and the pigs get a chance to grunt their indifference to the dozens of cooing, calling little children. A feature of this Ag Open Day was the birth of nearly 35 lambs. Some were born that day and there were ewes still carrying. The sheep were corralled in for better observation and little lambs were scurrying everywhere inviting a chorus baa baa from the excited visitors. The children were entranced and just stood for minutes going baa at the sheep. Fascinating really. Then they climbed the tractor, peered into the aquaculture tanks, smelt the fermenting wine and offered saltbush to the delight of the goats. Farmer Joel and Farmer Monique had the place looking sharp, clean and efficient. Well as clean as possible even if a dozen cow pats and discussing its potential disaster. Thanks to Deb Slade who makes all of this happen with such a sense of fun and exploration.

Greg Hay, Principal
**Around the College**

**From the APRIM**

**First Holy Communion**

Last weekend we rejoiced with 34 of our Benedict students as they made their First Holy Communion. I'd especially like to thank their teachers; Lauren Cooke, Pia Keain, Bernie Kelly and Helen McKeough for preparing them so well and supporting them at each of the Masses. Fr Quirk celebrated each of the Masses and Deacon Gary ensured the Homily was befitting of the occasion, whilst his wonderfully supportive wife, Nita Stokes played beautiful hymns for our services. Thank you also to the Cathedral choir for so generously giving of their time, along with talented musicians Danny and Carla Shaw and the ladies who organise the flowers. I'd also like to thank a number of our students who kindly offered to altar serve, and who did so with much reverence. And, an extremely grateful thank you to Mrs Faye Maynard who so carefully prepares the alb for the First Communicants. It is a real joy being a part of a community where so many people share their talents so that the celebration of First Holy Communion is a special time in the lives of our young ones and their families. We hope that by this living example of faith, more children and families may also offer their gifts and talents for the benefit of others.

**Year 10 and Year 11 Retreats**

Information and consent forms have been distributed to the Year 10s and 11s. Please ensure that your child’s consent form has been returned to the Bosco Office.

*Melissa Gadaleta, APRIM*

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**SMC Uniform**

As previously communicated the new student uniform will become compulsory from the start of Term 2, 2015.

It has been decided that the 2015 Year 12’s will be exempt because they have only two terms before they leave the College.

A reminder that whilst the refreshed logo is being transitioned onto the student uniform, the old logo can be worn indefinitely.

*SMC Uniform Committee*

**School Transport Review**

The Department for Education and Child Development will undertake a review of the School Transport Policy in 2014/15.

The review will explore common issues that have been raised about perceived inequalities in bus services for regional students.

Interested individuals and organisations are able to register their interest in participating in the review process by sending an email to:

decd.schooltransportreview@sa.gov.au

The Link to the Current School Transport Policy is:


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Benedict students recently made their First Holy Communion in a beautiful service at the Cathedral.
From the Deputy Principal

First Communion

Last weekend many of our Year 4 students celebrated their First Communion. After reading the reflection below I think Tyson summarises the occasion perfectly…

On Saturday at 6pm I celebrated my First Communion. I went to go to the Cathedral to get changed into my alb with my friends. We had photos taken and then came the important part of walking into the Cathedral. I went to my pew and sat with my family. Deacon Gary Stokes called all the people making their First Communion to come to the front of the church and talked about what it means to make your communion. The most special part of the Mass was when I walked up with my Mum and Dad and Fr Paul said “The Body of Christ” and I said “Amen.” Then I went to where the wine was and the parishioner said “Blood of Christ” and I said “Amen.” My family were so proud of me and the best part was I felt that I was special and that Jesus and God love me.

Tyson Hanlon, Year 4 Red student

School Visits

Three staff will be visiting Adelaide schools next week to look at ways classroom space can be utilised and talk to staff in these schools about teaching methodologies. They will then return and share their experiences.

Festival of Music

We wish our choristers and Mr Bret Swensson, all the best for their Festival of Music involvement next week.

Sports Day

Our Campus Sports Day, on September 19, is fast approaching. Students, over the coming weeks, will be involved in preparing for the day and planning by our PE staff is well under way. More details will be distributed as the date draws closer.

Helen McKeough
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus

Tyson at his First Holy Communion

Benedict students had fun dressing up in a variety of costumes to celebrate Book Week 2014.

Book Week fun!
Pt Pirie Festival of Music

In Week 7, the Primary School Choir will participate in the Port Pirie Festival of Music. Together with over 200 students from seven local schools, students from Benedict Campus will perform on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 September at the Keith Michell Theatre. Tickets are available from the box office. This event requires dedication from students who committed to hours of preparation and practice over many months. Their efforts are to be commended. Good luck!

Bret Swensson,
Music Teacher/Choir Coordinator

International Writing Competition Results

Merit
Jonas Blight

Participation
Ayeisha Everett
Kamsionwuchikwa
Madeleine Denny
Tyla McNamara
Tien Nguyen
Henri Phillipps
Sophie Farrugia
Laura Watt
Mollie Watt

Star Students

Foundation Blue
Flyn Jaeschke
Evelyn Mieglich

Foundation Red
Jaxon Lee
Sienna Sheasby

Foundation Green
Charlie Kendall
Orlando Krommendijk

Year 1 Blue
Adelle Mieglich
Cohan Dwyer

Year 1 Red
Daniella Thompson
Alicia Farrugia

Year 1 Green
Molly Lavis
Mason Smallacombe

Year 2 Blue
Dakota Kendall
Noah Mathews

Year 2 Red
Taya Smith
Zak Wehrmann

Year 3 Red
Kirra Stringer
Grace McBride

Year 3 Blue
Jesslyn Dite
Khaelen Head

Year 3 Green
Milana Tattoli
Ayeisha Everett

Year 4 Blue
Ryan Hunt
Bree Farrugia

Year 4 Red
Aiden Blieschke
Katie Doyle

Year 5 Blue
Georgia Murray
Louis Lucivero

Year 5 Red
Kayla Pisani
Brianna Taylor

Year 5 Green
Rebecca Connor
Sarah DeGioia

Year 6 Blue
Danielle Greig
Rhys Stodulka

Year 6 Red
Kasey McDonald
Bailey Congdon

Year 6/7 Gold
Chelsea White
Alice Hubert

Year 7 Blue
Andrew Guy
Suzi Tattoli

Year 7 Red
Declan Combe
Millie Tubb
Hannah Bentley

Do you want to be Deputy Principal for the day?

The Year 4 to 7s are invited to enter a competition to be Deputy Principal for the day. Some of the duties you will do during the day are writing a newsletter article, visiting classrooms, answering questions and solving problems, yard duty, check diaries, etc. You can enter the competition by buying a raffle ticket for $1. Tickets will be sold at lunchtimes during Weeks 7 and 8 in the quadrangle. Entries will close at recess time on Wednesday, Week 9. The winner will be announced at our next assembly on Wednesday, Week 9. The money raised from the raffle will be used to buy supplies for St. Joseph’s Nursing Home.

SMC M Team

SAPSASA Basketball

On Friday Week 4 some Benedict students were chosen to go to Kadina for SAPSASA Basketball. We played against Kadina, Minlaton DS, Crystal Brook, Balaklava, Roxby Downs, Yorketown AS and St James. We played 4 matches of 20 minutes. The Boys won 2 games and the girls won 3 games. Both boys and girls came 2nd overall and we all had a great time. We would like to thank Mel Promnitz and Miss Cooke.

Darcey, Hannah, Lawson and Jacob, Year 7 students
From the Deputy Principal

Subject Counselling
It was wonderful to see so many families attend the subject counselling information evenings last week. The process is an important one as we begin to explore a world of possibility as students move into the senior secondary curriculum and beyond. If you were unable to attend, please contact the Bosco office and a member of the leadership team will arrange to meet with you. All handouts, forms and PowerPoints distributed at either the SACE Information Evening or at Subject Counselling are now available to download from the Secondary tab on the College website.

Parent / Teacher Interviews
We have decided to offer our Semester Two Parent/Teacher Interviews a little earlier this year. Traditionally, interviews have been conducted in Week 2 or 3 of Term 4. This is not an ideal time for Year 12 as most courses have been completed and exam preparation is well underway. We are now offering interviews next Thursday, September 3. Interview time sheets will be sent home soon so that all students, including those in Year 12, have an opportunity to reflect on and plan for the learning opportunities available in the second half of the semester. An electronic copy of the Time Sheet is attached to this SMC Newsletter and is also available to download from the College Website.

Blitzing the Campus
Over the past few weeks we have been ‘blitzing’ various breaches of the Uniform and Grooming policy as outlined in the College diary. Our primary focus has been the number and style of ear rings (one in each lobe, a discrete stud or sleeper) and facial hair for boys (students must present to school each day clean-shaven). I am pleased to report our students have responded very well. They are aware of the guidelines and are compliant when responding to reminders or admonishment by staff. We will soon move to length of hair for boys. I am asking for the support of families as we move to the next phase, length of hair for boys – hair falling onto the face must be tied back or cut. If ASADA were running the school they’d probably issue ‘show cause’ notices, in our community, however, a simple reminder seems to work just fine. Thank you, in anticipation of your continuing support.

Deputy Leave
I will be on leave for the remaining two weeks of this term (from Thursday, September 11). Janet Haskett will move into an Acting position during this time. Please join with me in congratulating Janet as she assumes this important leadership role within the College.

Brett Czechowski
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Ice Bucket Challenge

Our Year 12 Coordinator John Gibson showed his good sportsmanship when he completed the ‘Ice bucket Challenge’ at school recently to raise funds for Motor Neuron Disease. He was nominated by one of his Year 12 students.

Year 12 Ag Excursion

Thanks to Kerin Agencies Agronomists Chris Fogarty and David Stacey who used their expertise to help explain to our Year 12 Ag students issues involved in establishment and crop care and marketing of canola and chick pea crops.

Thanks to Damien Tiller of Warnertown for making his paddock available.

Mr Joel Head, McNally Farm Manager

Science and Engineering Challenge

On Tuesday 5 August, 32 students from St Mark’s College attended the Port Pirie Science and Engineering Challenge, presented by The University of Newcastle. The Science and Engineering Challenge is a day-long competition designed to provide Year 10 High School students with a positive experience of science and engineering. Each school team is divided into 8 groups of 2 to 4 students. Each group works on either 1 full-day activity or 2 half-day activities. These activities included: ElectraCITY, Flight, Helter Skelter Shelter, Puff Puff Golf, Hover Frenzy, Mission to Mars, Catapult and the grand finale of Bridge Building.

At half way during the day, St Mark’s were in first place, with our team competing in Helter Skelter Shelter winning that event for the morning. However, we couldn’t continue this good fortune and although all participants put in maximum effort, we came in 5th overall on the day.

Thanks must go to Miss Bennett for assisting me with supervision and organisation, but also thanks to the students for representing the school in a professional light.

Mr Matthew Ryan, Year 10 Teacher

Year 9 Initiative

I have been delighted to witness some wonderful acts of generosity and initiative over the last two weeks. It all began with two boys talking about how they could practically make a difference to the horrific reality of poverty in the world, and from there, “No Wax Wednesday” came into being. Every Wednesday, boys can donate, if they wish, for the option of not using any hair products! What a great idea and so enthusiastically supported by the Year 9 cohort. In a world where so much seems to be awry and in chaos, our students are aware of their responsibility to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. They have set a great example and I am impressed by their initiative, organisation and commitment.

In their first week, the Year 9 students raised over $200.00; their acts of care and kindness will have a ripple effect that will touch the lives of many people.

Ms Deborah McArthur, Year 9 Teacher
SMC Tennis

Tennis registrations for St Mark’s were due last Wednesday 27 August.
Team selection will begin shortly with teams being released in Week 10 after nominations and Association gradings have been completed.

Des McKeough,
SMC Tennis Coordinator

SMC Soccer

The end of the soccer season is fast approaching and our finals series is well under way.
Congratulations to Under 10 Victory and Primary United who finished top in their respective grades after the minor round.
Under 8’s play their final game this week – a huge thank you to all the coaches and helpers who have given their time to coach these students throughout the season.
There will be a medal presentation on Saturday morning for Under 8’s after their last game.

SMC Soccer Presentation Night

This will be held on Thursday 4 September from 4:45 – 5:30pm at Benedict on the lawn area outside the library. Players can come along for pizza, hot chips and a soft drink to receive their medal.
Parents and family are welcome to attend but please note that due to the large number of soccer players we are unable to cater for parents/younger children.
Notes have been distributed this week and are due back by Tuesday 2 September with payment.
Soccer grand final will be played on Friday 5 September at Byrne Park. Times as follows:
Under 10 – 4:30pm
Primary – 6:00pm
High School – 7:30pm

Guernseys

Players are reminded to return guernseys in a named bag to Mrs Keain at school after they have played their last game. Bosco students please return your guernseys to Mrs Sard in the Bosco library.
Good luck to those teams who are still playing this weekend for a spot in the Grand Final.

Matt Mead, SMC Football Committee

SMC Football

Overall SMC football has enjoyed a successful season in all grades. The U9’s AND U11’s applied themselves extremely well during the season.
Congratulations to the U13’s, who will play in the Preliminary Final on Wednesday for a berth in the Grand Final on Friday.
Thank you to our coaches and support staff for your commitment throughout the season.
Thank you also to those who volunteered their time on the BBQ roster which was a huge success.

SMC Netball

Congratulations to the St Mark’s Celtic teams playing off in the Grand Final Saturday:
A reminder that our Presentation Night is on Saturday 6 September. Details have been distributed to all teams

Katie Pole, SMC Netball Coordinator

SMC Hockey

After a great season of enjoyment and learning, the Under 9’s played their last game on Saturday morning.
Thanks to all the players, and parents for being part of the competition this year.
Also a big thank you to Olivia Smart, Andrew Gebert, Sasha Smith, Kendra Smith and Rob Jeffries who coached and looked after our younger players this year. We really appreciate the time and effort that you have put into coaching this season. Each child has had the opportunity to learn new skills and has developed throughout the season.
We hope to see you all back playing for the College next year.
Also Could all Under 9 players please return their hockey tops to Mr Jordan as soon as possible.

Jack Jordan, SMC Hockey Coordinator

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Jack Jordan, SMC Hockey Coordinator

Congratulations Kallis

Congratulations to SMC Under 13 Footballer Kallis Freer who was recently awarded the Yates Medal and Association Best and Fairest.

St Mark’s Sport proudly sponsored by
The theme for Book Week 2014 was “Connect to Reading”! Benedict Campus came alive with colour and excitement as students came to school dressed up as a character they connected with.

On Wednesday 18 August we dressed up for Book Week. I dressed up as Robin. I connected to him because he fights crime and evil and I don’t like people doing bad things. We had a parade in the hall where we showed everyone our costumes. **Kobi Ganley, Year 1 Blue student**

For Book Week I dressed up as the Little Italian Chef, from Peter Pan. It was cool because Maveric was dressed up as Peter Pan, so we were partners. It was fun! **Charlie Dickeson, Year 1 Blue student**

On Wednesday 18 August we dressed up for Book Week. I dressed up as Elsa from Frozen. My sister Evelyn was dressed up the same as me. I really like Elsa that’s why I was dressed up as her. **Adelle Meiglich, Year 1 Blue student**

Last week was Book Week and we all got to dress up. I dressed up as Olaf the snowman from Frozen! My mum made my costume for me! I connected to him because he is funny and I am funny sometimes too. **Alex Spolding, Year 1 Blue student**
Australian Veteran’s Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) Scholarships

AVCAT is a national independent charity administering tertiary scholarships for children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women. Our 2015 scholarship applications open on 18 August 2014 and close on 31 October 2014. For more information please visit www.avcat.org.au or email us on avcat@dva.gov.au

Join the new Port Pirie 18/U Super League Tennis Competition

A new 18 and Under Super League Social Tennis Competition will commence mid October 2014. Ages 15 to 18 years welcome. A great opportunity to play tennis and have fun with your friends while enjoying songs on the PA during play. Games will be fast 1 hour only play and there is no need to join a club. We are also seeking help to design 4 team shirts. Phone Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840 or email piriетennis@bigpond.com

Warnertown Cricket Club

Junior Registration and first training at Port Oval Club SA Nets on Monday 15 September from 4.30 to 5.30pm. Contact Jamie McNamara 0427 205 665.

Port Pirie Youth Theatre Presents:

Shadowville

By Valerie Lane

Keith Michell Theatre
11th, 12th, 13th September

Tickets on sale at the Northern Festival Centre, Port Pirie
Adults $20, Concession/Student/Child $15