There was ritual, deep care and joy on the Year 12 final day. We welcomed new families and celebrated World Teachers’ Day. There was Protectionist who won us a dollar for charity and Mission Day at Benedict which topped up the coffers as we celebrated opportunities for learning with an international speaker.

Year 12 Farewell
I was deeply touched by the farewell rituals that expressed our College care and hope for the Year 12s. The Year 12 parents and many Bosco teachers gathered at the Cathedral on Thursday night. The Year 12s themselves dressed for the last time in uniform (and that shirt just made it mum!). They all gathered for their final night of school. There was a procession into the Cathedral, led by Captains George and Brooke and we were welcomed by our Bishop. He offered the Eucharist with his characteristic warmth and humour. He brought a rich understanding of the journey of so many years of education and reminded us of that gentle demand to service and integrity which is our Baptismal call. He had our Year 12s thinking, smiling and listening to their hearts and we all quietly prayed for these people of service and integrity. There was a tissue or two needed to dab the eyes as Brooke and George spoke of the importance of the Cathedral, the journey with the teachers and the significance of friendship.

The group gathered again in the morning for a delicious Bacon and Egg breakfast and they looked truly beautiful. Hats, colour, fashion, smiles, chatter, laughter: there was such a sense of achievement and cohesion. They were excited about finishing and they were sad about leaving. There was a last Bosco assembly and encouraging words from Mr Czechowski. There were exchanges of gifts, dancing practice and each Year 12 was publicly named, gifted and affirmed by their House Leader. Mr Gibson delivered a farewell acknowledgement of their uniqueness, their impulsiveness, their laughter and their foolishness. We laughed our way through the stumbles and the joys of a Year 12 life. I must say that I didn’t know about some of those romances and I assume that mums and dads didn’t know about some other bits. (Hmmm…. God bless them. They made it). They left for exams, last assignments and perhaps a long holiday to celebrate. They left us with rich, blessed memories.

Welcome to our new families
In the inexorable cycle of a school life, as the Year 12s left, so arrived the parents of the Foundation students for 2015. We gathered under the guidance of Benedict leaders Helen McKeough and Angela Jordan and heard a little of the experience for next year. It was the transition meeting that you may well remember. We heard some of the details of the life in Foundation. The gathering was all about support and hope and vulnerability and opportunity. It was exciting to welcome. It was a bit sad and perhaps intimidating for some visitors who are giving over their precious child to a large system. However, I spoke with a confidence of seeing the Year 12s finishing and knowing that St Mark’s is an outstanding learning and community experience.
Celebrating World Teachers’ Day
World Teachers’ Day celebrates the extraordinary contributions and achievements of teachers. It was held last Friday and gave us a chance to pay tribute to the thousands of teachers who work in schools across Australia. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and affirm the work and effort of our teachers at St Mark’s. I see their commitment every day and marvel at their enthusiasm and deep love for our children. We offered our gratitude and we also offered a box of ‘drumsticks’ in the staffroom at lunch to celebrate.

The Race that Stops Australia
I enjoyed the race that stops Australia with 450 people in the Bishop Gallagher Centre. We watched the Melbourne Cup on the big screen crammed together with the thud of subwoofer horse hooves making it so real. The Bosco group clutched tickets naming horses who were hitherto unknown. Who is Shot Thebarman, Fawkner, Red Cadeaux? Once meaningless they now meant a few dollars, 3,200 metres of excitement and sharing in the celebration of the glorious racing culture of Australia. The Bosco staff had a recess time draw and Mr Cronin looked very organised and mathematical. (He relaxed at the end of the race – phew not the favourite again). The Benedict staff wore fascinators and celebratory hats, and bubbles of soft drink were consumed at a lunch time soiree. One teacher, a renowned Collingwood supporter, put a dollar or two on the ‘Black and White’ coloured Protectionist and was much happier than throughout the entire footy season. Much staff money circulated, students cheered at the sweeps and finally it was the selected charities who won from this day with the sport of kings.

Mission Day at Benedict
There was a brimming excitement around Benedict as they arrived at school on Mission Day with crazy socks, cupcakes, water balloons and prizes to entice. They arrived with loose change, creative ideas and plans for a festive money raising lunchtime. There was a carnival atmosphere as lunchtime arrived. Soccer balls and wet sponges, ghost houses and lucky dips, face painting and obstacle courses all created this wonderful festive atmosphere. I’m certain that dividends in the sugar industry rose as every type of lolly was there to tempt me to throw, dig, kick, or burst a balloon for a prize. Only 50 cents or three for a dollar and I couldn’t believe the bargains. Throw, dig and burst I did with 500 others. There were raffles, puzzles and face painters everywhere. There were dutiful teachers guiding and junior entrepreneurs amzing me with their charm. It was pure fairy floss fun and ‘Prizes. Prizes’. I have Chuppa Chups to last me for weeks and all of the money and all of the energy will make others’ lives a little more blessed, and a little more pleasant.

Dyslexia and Opportunity
Neil MacKay is a teacher and is entertaining and thought provoking. He visited St Mark’s from Wales. He has international renown as an expert educationalist and the Parents and Friends have worked with determination to get him here in Pirie. Neil has created the concept of Dyslexia Friendly Schools and is a remarkable speaker on AD(H)D, Asperger’s Syndrome and Dyspraxia. Over 100 people from the Port Pirie educational community were in attendance. He spoke about ways which we could meet diverse learning needs of students without affecting the work of the rest of the class. This is very much about allowing all students to access the curriculum. He spoke about practical, methodical and simple modifications that can bring better results for our students. The Benedict staff attended. Many from Bosco were there. The parents turned up and our colleagues from schools in Port Pirie and regions joined us. The catering for the three hour event was extraordinary and the learning that we shared was amazing. I congratulate the P+F for their sponsorship. I thank Neil for his wisdom and energy. This has been an extraordinary occasion.

Greg Hay, Principal
Attention Bus Students
If your child wishes to catch the Hanley Bus (Gladstone/Crystal Brook/Port Pirie) in 2015, please can you contact Mrs Deb Slade on 86 33-8836 to confirm your seat.
Thank you!

SMC Uniforms
The Boys short sleeve shirts are now in stock at Sportscene Super Warehouse
Thank you!
SMC Uniform Committee

From the APRIM

First Reconciliation
Last Wednesday evening 45 Year 3 students and their families gathered in the Cathedral for their First Reconciliation. Fr Paul, Fr Francis and Fr Jimmy celebrated the Liturgy and helped the students to understand the importance of Reconciliation. We are very blessed with the presence of these priests in our Diocese as they relate to the students so easily.
A few Year 3s offered their thoughts on the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

I thought it was fun helping my classmates prepare for Reconciliation. I learnt that you have to go and confess your sins. I also learnt that it is a Catholic Sacrament but you don’t have to be Catholic to forgive others.
Madeleine Dix

When I made my First Reconciliation we lined up at the entrance to walk in with the priests. We bowed to the altar. I was nervous but I liked making my First Reconciliation. It was great!
Scarlett Johns

Hello, my name is Kiera Skorpos. I have loved the experience this year of helping my friends with their First Reconciliation. I have learnt to help others in my everyday life. I hope the Year 2s love it as much as I did!
Kiera Skorpos

When I went to make my Reconciliation I felt nervous and excited. The people who went with me were Mum, Dad, my sister and Onon. The priest was Fr Francis. During my Reconciliation the priest and I spoke about the mistakes I’ve made. He asked me if I was sorry. I liked how I washed away my sins. Afterwards I felt happy.
Sophie Tattoli

I’d also like to thank the families for their support, the Year 3 teachers; Karen Davison, Angela Jordan, Louise Kitta and Louise Malchow for their thorough preparation of the students and Helen McKeaugh for her guidance.
Melissa Gadaleta, APRIM
Remembrance Day
Tuesday 11 November

Benedict Assembly
Monday 17 November

Orientation Morning for Foundation Group 1
Monday 24 November

Orientation Morning for Foundation Group 2
Tuesday 25 November

From the Deputy Principal

Meeting Deadlines
We remind our students constantly about the need to take responsibility for their actions and to not blame others for their behaviour. The same applies for taking responsibility for meeting work deadlines. Our older students, in particular, often have work that needs to be completed over a particular period of time e.g. assignment work. Students need to manage their time effectively to meet deadlines. This is a life skill—it translates from the school setting into many different areas of home life and later work life. Teachers give students multiple reminders about deadlines, however when work isn’t completed their needs to be the realisation that there are consequences and students need to take ownership of this responsibility. These consequences can result in a downgraded assessment result or work being completed in the students own time. Please reinforce the need to meet deadlines with your child and support teachers as they endeavour to help your child reach their full potential.

Interschool Sports Day
We congratulate the St Mark’s Salesian Team on their efforts in winning the HE Welch Championship Shield for the Pirie Division in the SAPSASA Interschool Sports Day held last Thursday. The Salesian Team also won the Mark Bickley Team Game Shield with our Samaritan Team coming runners up. We thank the PE staff, Bernie Kelly and Henry Whiting, and all other staff who supported the teams in their preparation for the day.

Benedict on Broadway
Students and staff are busily preparing for the Benedict Concert to be held at the end of the term. Ticket vouchers have been sent home with the youngest student in each family. Please carefully read the vouchers for ticket sales information. We look forward to entertaining our community and showcasing the talents of our students.

Helen McKeough
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus

Parish Participation
Four Year Seven students displayed wonderful leadership in our Parish by volunteering to read at the Parish Mass last Saturday evening. We thank Clem Stanley, Crenie Kumar, Sarah Newman, and Leo Taylor for their participation in the life of our Parish.
Benedict Literacy

Congratulations to Year 7 student Leo Taylor whose entry into the Schools Poetry and Short Story Competition has been chosen for publication. Leo’s short story ‘Up in the Air’ will be featured in ‘The Text Generation’, a collection of poems and short stories from students across Australia. Leo is still in the running to win the major prize of $1000. Good luck Leo and we are proud to have a published author here at Benedict!

Jenna Howell, Benedict Literacy Coordinator

Year 7 Excursion

On the 16 October Year 7 Blue went to the Pt Augusta Aquatics Centre. I personally had a lot of fun. When we got there we were separated into groups. My group went sailing first, it was challenging trying to get five people (Damien, Jacob, Cooper, Jordan, and I) onto a four person yacht. We did it though. We also went kayaking and canoeing.
I had a really fun experience and would do it again.

Lawson - Year 7 Blue student

At the start of Term 4 Week 1 on Wednesday, Year 7 Red went on an excursion to Pt Augusta Aquatic Centre. When we first arrived we learnt about water safety, then came the fun part of the day; kayaking, sailing and canoeing. Our 4 instructors helped us and taught us how to work the equipment. Overall we all had an amazing time and learnt a lot. We would also like to thank everyone who helped out on the day for our last excursion ever!

Ivy and Hannah - Year 7 Red students

International Maths Competition Results

Credit
Quinn Lane
Jonas Blight
Merit
Ethan Markham
Leo Taylor
Participation
Marcus Meaney
Kamsi Onwuchekwa
Marc Richards
Tien Nguyen
Henri Phillipps
Sophie Farrugia
Joseph McNamara
Laura Watt
Mollie Watt
From the Deputy Principal

St Albert’s, Loxton
Thank you for the many well-wishes and offers of support as I transition to the next phase of my vocation at St Albert’s school, Loxton. In some strange way, I feel like I’m graduating with the class of 2014 – we both started our Bosco experience at the same time in 2010. We have seen significant capital development and have learned a great deal about ourselves and about the new world we are about to enter into. My time here has been one of toil and reward, of heartache and joy and of context and international adventure! I’m so very grateful for the experience of working at St Mark’s College and hope I can share that with you in the weeks ahead. Thank you.

Year 12
Please join with me in wishing our Year 12s every success as they commence their final examinations. My thanks to so many of our staff who have spent countless hours providing extra tutoring both after school and during free lessons. The community of St Mark’s gathers on November 28 to farewell and honour our graduating class of 2014.

Subject Selection
We are approaching the final stages of constructing the 2015 timetable. The process is largely driven by subject choices of the student cohort. It is imperative all forms are returned by the due date. Failure to do so may result in preferences awarded other than the student’s first or second choice. Should you have any concerns regarding this process, please consult Meriam De Vries, Shane Fantinel or myself.

House Captains
Next week our new senior cohort will gather to nominate students to the position of House Captain. It is a careful and considered process for us. There will be nominations, interviews, recommendations and discernment. House Captains have an important role within the life of the College. They work with their House Leader and House Representatives to developing an ongoing philosophy in the areas of House spirit, ritual, sporting endeavour, faith and outreach. We anticipate announcing successful candidates in our next Newsletter.

Brett Czechowski
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Welcome Old Scholar Evan Casey

SMC Old scholar Evan Casey returned to the College for a visit last week with his partner Hannah Purss and their Camel Wagon.

Evan and Hannah have trekked 2000 kms from Alice Springs NT to Wandearah SA with their camels to raise funds for Drought Relief.

They left Alice Springs in late June on their trek and Wandearah was their final destination. They have raised around $10,000 over their journey.

Evan and Hannah shared some wonderful stories with our staff and students at Bosco Campus about living in the outback, working with Indigenous Australians, their camels, their journey and much more.

We greatly appreciate them visiting the College and sharing their experiences with us.

If you would like to read about Evan and Hannah’s amazing trek and/or make a donation to Camels for Drought Relief please go to: http://www.camelsfordrought.com.au/

SAPOL’s “The Fatal Five”!

Michael Lord, a police officer from SAPOL’s Road Safety Section recently attended Bosco Campus and delivered a road safety presentation to our Year 11 students entitled “The Fatal Five”. This powerful and interactive program discussed road safety issues, including the causes of road crashes such as fatigue, alcohol and drugs, speed, risk-taking, peer pressure, driver attitudes, and ways in which to reduce the risk of becoming a crash statistic. The program incorporated contemporary government road safety messaging through partnership with the Motor Accident Commission (MAC).

The Road Safety Section also provides a free bi-monthly e-newsletter ‘Talkin Road Safety’ to schools which provides articles on road safety which are of interest to drivers and other road-users.

There are a number of web sites which may be of further value to students and caregivers. These are:

- raa.com.au
- mylicence.sa.gov.au
- sapolice.sa.gov.au
- howsafeisyourcar.com.au

For any further information on Road Safety please feel free to contact:
Road Safety Section on 82076586 or via email - DLSAPOLRoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au

Graham Ford,
Year 11 Coordinator

Mick Penglase from The Smith Family and Year 10 Coordinator Jane Gibson recently presented Year 10 student volunteers with certificates for their involvement with the Student Reading Program. The students were reading buddies for younger children and assisted them to improve their reading development and literacy skills. Thank you to the students who were dedicated buddies to the program which ran over a 6 month period.

If you would like to read about Evan and Hannah’s amazing trek and/or make a donation to Camels for Drought Relief please go to: http://www.camelsfordrought.com.au/
Our Trade Skills Centre
When I explain to parents about the value of the Trade Skills Centre I say that it is for students ‘looking north’. It isn’t for the university graduates looking south to Adelaide but it anticipates a Certificate qualification for students who want to work in mines, engineering and mechanical apprenticeships and rural operations north of Port Pirie. The government gave us the money to build this extraordinary building because there are job vacancies up north. There are trade qualifications needed to service industry in rural regions. We have a class of students ready to begin next year. They will have a training advantage. They will be well trained and qualified to launch into formal apprenticeship. The progress of the building has made it all exciting. It is going to be fantastic. The students are ready. This is opportunity unfolding. They are looking north.

Greg Hay,
Principal

Trade Skills Centre

Our Trade Skills Centre is taking shape and exciting opportunity is unfolding.

SMC Tennis

White Tennis Shirts
This week, there will be a final opportunity for players to purchase white tennis shirts with the College logo on them for the 2014-15 season. The cost is $25 and orders and money need to be into the Benedict Office by Monday 10 November at the latest.

Rosters
The season has got off to a great start with the support of our parent community! However as life gets busier towards Christmas, parents are reminded to check canteen and supervision rosters so that you are aware of when you are required to fulfill duties. With such a large number of teams, we need everyone “doing their bit” to help with the smooth running of our club.

Country Carnival Nomination Form
All A-D Grade players have been given a nomination form to indicate whether they are available for selection for Pirie Association Tennis Teams in the S.A. Country Carnival to be played at Memorial Drive in Adelaide from 10-15 January 2015. Only those players who have returned their nomination form to the Tennis Centre will be considered for selection. Forms must be in by Saturday 8 November.

Inter-Association Tennis Match v Barossa, Light and Gawler Tennis Association
This annual inter-association match will be played in Port Pirie on Sunday 16 November, 2014. The team will comprise 16 & Under, 14 & Under, 12 & Under and 10 & under age groups for boys and girls. Players were notified of selection earlier this week via a note. Players need to notify Dennis Buchanan of their availability by this Saturday 8 November 2014.

Des McKeough,
SMC Tennis Coordinator

St Mark’s Sport proudly
sponsored by

alsanto constructions
Our Year 12’s Last Day

Graham Ford offering tips on BBQ technique.

Adam and Deanna - Gallagher winners!

Farewell Brooke.

Jack gets the moves to everyone’s surprise.

Simon is named, affirmed and gifted.

Dominic and Austin sign the Bosco flag.

Rhythm, cohesion, together.

A picnic breakfast to celebrate.

See ya girls!

Bye bye Adam and George.
Welcome to the latest update from the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities. Our Term 4 edition of Federation e-News has been posted on our website: www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au

Some of the articles in our newsletter include:

- Session for parents, teachers and young people: Re-Imagining an Education Worth Having – Book Now!
- PIE Grant applications – now open!
- Save the date for 2015 Parent Engagement conference
- Setting your child up for success
- Review of Australian Curriculum
- Interview with SACE Chief Executive about Year 12 end of year assessments
- Anxiety in Children – how you can help
- Welcome pack for families joining a Catholic school community
- Schools in Profile - St John Bosco and St Joseph’s, Hectorville
- Meet Federation Council member Monique Russell
- School Transport Policy Review – Federation’s submission
- Funding for Year 7 students – your views?
- And lots more!

Be connected. Be informed. Be heard.

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**Singing Coaching**

Individual and private lessons for all ages. Take just one, two or more singing lessons to improve your voice. Ring Anne for more information on 0429 866 242 or 86362231.

**Musical Tuition**

Marc Swensson, singer/guitarist from local band Thick as Thieves and previously Sideshow is offering musical tuition to students aged 12 to 18. If your child is interested in improving their musical knowledge and ability, please call Marc on 0413 336 407.

**Be at Gallipoli next Anzac Day**

Would you like a once in a lifetime opportunity to be at Gallipoli next Anzac Day. To be in the running just visit the Australia in the Great War Facebook Page. Anzac Day 2015 will be a special time as we commemorate 100 years since the Gallipoli landing and being there will be an amazing experience. Competition closes 11 November 2014 so hurry to enter. Any questions call Ian Paterson on 0410442236 and to enter simply go to: facebook.com/AustraliaGreatWar

**Moonlight Movies**

On Friday 14 November in Memorial Park, Port Pirie from 7pm to 10pm.
Storytime with Larryn from Port Pirie Regional Library from 7.30pm to 8pm
Disney Movie ‘Frozen’ from 8pm - 9.30pm
Free Community Event with food and drink stalls, children’s entertainment. BYO deck chairs and picnic rugs. For more information phone 86 33-8727 or specevents@pirie.sa.gov.au

**2014 Yearbook**

If you are after an extra copy of the College Yearbook, please place your order with payment at either our Benedict Front Office or Bosco Front Office.
Cost is $24-50 each.
Please note - one copy per family is automatically issued.

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**Port Football and Community Sporting Club**

Open daily from 10.00am