Greetings to our Boarding Community

I very much value the Salesian House Parent Council meeting. It gives me a really good chance to understand the Boarding House through the voices that share the wisdom and story of the place. The gathering is mostly mums and that ‘super mum’ Denise and myself. The agenda appears formal and we follow a defined process but there is always a relaxed and easy conversation. There is a commitment to the place that unifies us all. There is trust and truth. It is not the forum for debate nor complaint. It is the sharing of concerns and the reflection on what is happening. It is about care of the students and reflecting upon the tone of the place. The Committee is important because we get to gauge parent response, talk about the future and listen to a little of the stories that get told in the car driving for an hour either to or from St Mark’s.

The Boarding House report is always intimate and anecdotal. Denise Arbon gives a verbal report reading from notes. Denise speaks about the energy and growth of the young people at Salesian House. She tells their stories and reflects on their busy lives. She knows each one of them. She can’t help but bring an optimism and deep respect in her description. She has this profound sense of the worth of each child and a seeming endless patience that they ‘will be okay’ and that they ‘will grow’ and that they ‘might be going through a stage’. I always report on the big picture stuff. We hear about learning programs or building developments. We hear about the life of the school and the important influences on the students. I try and speak about the trends and movements in secondary school life and how we are working through a series of objectives connected to our Strategic Plan. At one level it is the serious side of school and notes the impact on the Boarding families. At another level it is about the excitement of a growing community. I watch for parent response. I am wanting them to be confident in what we are doing when it has an influence on their most treasured child.

Katrina Butterick gives the College Board Report and reflects back the big decisions that happen at that level. Our Committee is keen to hear about marketing or policy, building, budgets and teacher development. Katrina speaks with confidence and certainly acknowledges the responsibility of being the parents’ representative on the College Board. Her work at Board level is always a response to the concerns and nuances of having a child living away. She brings sensitivity and focus.

There are general agenda discussion items and we have tussled with issues such as Facebook for boarders; driving to Salesian House, the school uniform, developing the facilities like a gym or a new entrance. It is a good place to get an issue discussed. This gathering is a very important opportunity. It connects with the life of parents and the boarders. It continues to give me an understanding of the great responsibility that the College has in the care and formation of the children. It has Denise and myself working closely to make sure that we are on the right track. It is a foundation for growing a better boarding experience. It is a formal record of a wonderful boarding experience in an exceptional place.

Greg Hay
Principal
I begin my report by expressing my heartfelt thanks to Pauline Broekx for her support and friendship to me personally and for her support, caring and helpful commitment to the students and their families over the past seven years in Salesian House. Pauline has resigned to enable her to take time to be with her family members and hopefully make some time for herself too. The students put together some special words to Pauline and we will celebrate her time in Salesian House when she visits in a couple of weeks for a meal with us.

Recently some students approached me in gaining permission to go out with another student, students or friends. This is not an ideal situation as I do require written, faxed or emailed permission from parents for any student to do so, and go anywhere when leaving College grounds. It would be appreciated if notes are given to me on a Sunday night signed by parents if students have to go out during the week, or if I can gain immediate permission on the day of the student wanting to go out by way of email/fax. We cannot permit students to leave the Boarding House using verbal permission from parents, unless it is in conjunction with a fax or email asap on the day.

We all can experience stress, impatience, intolerance, tiredness and lack of enthusiasm, especially this time of the year, but generally I find most students are committed, excited, dedicated and respectful, with just a few needing to “sharpen up” on their organisational skills, I assume they may get “fed up” with Mrs Arbon nagging them!

Something to talk about with great excitement is the increase in the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in the Boarding House. This will be achieved by renovating the Chief’s kitchen area/office and the pool room. Chef will move out into the transportable building currently being renovated. This is the result of increasing numbers of enrolments for boarding in 2015.

We are in the process of purchasing some more gym equipment with money raised from the Mothers’ Day Raffle. The P & F Council are donating an exercise bike to the Boarders. Thanks to Katrina Butterick for mentioning our needs to the College Board Members. A couple of other items the students require are a weights rack and another treadmill. If you know of anyone willing to donate or sell can you please let me know.

Our condolences go to Ashleigh, Dylan and Georgia and their families who lost a grandparent sadly recently.

Thank you to teaching staff Mr Fitzon, Mr Mader and Sir for their time given to the Boarders in tutoring, and to Miss Lee for offering to supervise a cooking class to be held after school once a week.

The Year 12 students appear very calm approaching their exams so one would assume things are under control.

We wish Patrick Williams, Leah and Jack Ashe all the best in their performance with the Port Pirie Youth Theatre in the production of ‘Shadowville’.

*Denise Arbon*
*Boarding Coordinator*
Student News

Air Force Cadets
I have been doing Air Force Cadets for just over a year now, every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. I have had many experiences from bivouac’s (camps) on the weekend to flying simulators. It gives students a chance to participate in many activities like firearms training and powered flying. At times it requires some discipline to stick with it but it all paid off in the end. Overall I have found it very beneficial.

Sacha Weatherstone

On Monday nights from 6:30 until 9:30 pm I do Army cadets at the Port Pirie army depot. At Army cadets we do different activities ranging from theory lessons on navigation to camps at different army ranges. We also do a lot of drill, learning how to salute, how to march and how to march with weapons. I have been doing cadets for over 2 years now and I really enjoy it.

On the 9 August Dad and I travelled to the Crystal Brook show to show our chooks. We got to the show at about 8:00 and went straight to the poultry pavilion and unloaded the eight chooks 3 Rhode Island Red roosters, 2 Rhode Island Red hens, 1 Rhode Island White rooster and 2 Rhode Island White hens. Over all we had a pretty good day we got 2 firsts, 3 seconds and 1 third. By the time we got home it was about 6:30 so I locked the chooks up and had tea.

George Seppelt

My name is Patrick Williams, a Year 10 student at St Mark’s College and I have been involved in Port Pirie Youth Theatre for four years now. Youth Theatre is comprised of a group of people that are dedicated to performing arts. To enrol at Youth Theatre, you have to be between 10 years and 18 years of age. The year is a rollercoaster ride, with rehearsals every Wednesday night and extra rehearsals as the performance nears. It is a fantastic organisation to be part of, as we are able to perform at a massive venue on a professional and spectacular stage. As a result of the hard work and effort put in throughout the year, Youth Theatre puts on a show annually in September at the Keith Michell Theatre in Port Pirie. This year the performance is called ‘Shadowville’, a play about monsters, zombies, werewolves and vampires threatening to go to war. The performance will be staged at the Keith Michell Theatre on the 11, 12 and 13 September. There will be two matinee performances on the Thursday and an evening performance on both the Friday and Saturday. I believe that Youth Theatre is a wonderful outlet for current young and up-coming actors, and would definitely encourage anyone who has a flare for dramatic arts to join Youth Theatre.

Patrick Williams

Every Wednesday my friend Jenna picks me up from the Boarding House and takes me to the Northern Festival Centre for our tap dancing with Marika and our hip hop classes with Rusty. The dance classes start at 6.00 and then finish at 7.30 pm. At the start of the term when my friend and I started dance we have learnt a lot as well as meeting new friends. Both my friend and I have enjoyed dance a lot.

Alex Gove
Guess what Jade and Millie, you’re on dishes duty!

Will and James introduced their new roommates into the Boarding House

Archie is not convinced that Sir has come up with the right answer

Our budding musicians Jack and Will

The College Student Counsellor, Katrina, students Jordan, Patrick and Bernie are being shown a “trick or two” by George