Welcome
I welcome you all to the excitement of our first Newsletter and the beginning of this school year. We have now launched our educational challenge and for over 970 students there is a tremendous opportunity. There is much anticipation about this year. We have a school community that cares and a College which demands and where we will get caught up in effort and success. I welcome all students and our families. I welcome them to the demands and achievements, challenges and grace filled moments of being here. We have begun in the privilege of being a St Mark’s community member.

Year 12 results
The 2014 Year 12 results were outstanding. I extend congratulations to Dylan Raftery as Dux of the College with an ATAR of 99.00. This puts Dylan in the top 1% of Australian students and I also extend congratulations to Brooke Caputo (Biology), Sarah Noonan (Furniture Construction) and Dylan (Mathematics Studies) who were awarded Merit Certificates and will be presented to the Governor next week because of their elite scholarship. There were 14 students who scored in the 90s and 38 of our students received an A in at least one subject. That is a huge number of students and it says very clearly that our Year 12s are being challenged and are engaging in their learning. I congratulate the teachers and parents in the manner in which they set up the opportunity for our young people to succeed.

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Our Community Sadness
I share with you all the sadness of our community tragedy. There has been a car accident that has changed peoples’ lives. It has made a deep impact on many of you, and many of our community, and its impact is so profound on the Camporeale families. There are no answers, no easy way of managing this, except that we are together, that we search in faith, that we are together in loving support.

Lord there are moments when nothing seems to help the loss. Hearts are broken and spirits mourn. There is a St Mark’s family in grief. It is tragic. They are part of us. In the numbness and darkness somehow your grace is sufficient. This day, this hour, step by step, in this sadness, we look for that grace. Receive their souls and present them to God the Most High.

Bishop Greg O’Kelly blessed our statue of St John Bosco during the Commissioning Mass.

We welcomed and congratulated. We prayed and enjoyed. We commissioned and built. Some were awarded and the great St Mark’s enterprise was blessed.
**Year 8 and New Parent Information Night**
Monday 9 February at 7.30pm

**Bosco Student ID Photos**
Tuesday 10 February

**Year 8 Camp**
Wednesday 11 February to Friday 13 February

**Shrove Tuesday**
Tuesday 17 February

**Ash Wednesday**
Wednesday 18 February

**Rite Journey Launch**
Sunday 22 February

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**2016 Enrolments**
Enrolments for Foundation to Year 12 students close on Thursday 2 April

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**Acknowledging Janet Haskett and Kylie Smith**
I acknowledge and welcome our two new Deputies to the College. Kylie Smith has taken the reins at Benedict and Janet Haskett has assumed the Acting Deputy role at Bosco as we continue to look for a replacement. They are both very welcome to the positions and have begun with much determination. We will do well under their leadership.

**Buildings**
Our building endeavours over the school holidays have been significant and I acknowledge the extraordinary work of Dominic LoBasso and the Maintenance Team who have worked with three different construction companies. They have achieved:

- Bosco – relocation of Transportable Classrooms (to the Bosco House precinct), paved, ICT and wireless connection completed
- Bosco – new House notice boards
- Boarding House – new accommodation – 6 new bedrooms; refurbished hallways
- Trade Skills Centre completed.
- New Telephone system (Voice over IP) replaced existing and going into all classrooms
- Benedict Foundation Learning Space
- Benedict Library Refresh – carpet, chairs, painted
- Benedict – new teacher laptop installed in each classroom
- Benedict – 16 new Ipads installed in the Foundation area and 8 new desktop computers in the Foundation area

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**Congratulations to our SMC Farm Manager Joel Head who was awarded an OAM and Year 12 student Emily Noonan who was named as Port Pirie Young Citizen of the Year in the recent Australia Day honours.**

Our program of continuous improvement is reflected in the huge improvements in infrastructure. The benefits for the students will be enormous and the opportunities that have been provided will enhance outcomes.

**Joel Head OAM and Emily Noonan**
We are very proud of Joel Head, our Farm Manager who received an OAM in the recent Australia Day honours. We were also so delighted that the generous and courageous Emily Noonan was named as Young Citizen of the year for our district. Both have shown us a tremendous community spirit and they have been appropriately recognised.

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**Greg Hay, Principal**

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**College Board**

**College Board Nominations**
We invite members of the College Community to apply for a position on the College Board. There are three vacant positions. Nominations to be in writing addressed to "The Principal" before Wednesday 4 March.

**College AGM**
The College AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm in the Bosco Library.
Our Faith Life

Commissioning Mass
We gathered as a whole school in the Good Samaritan Hall to formally offer thanks for the beginning of the year. It was a time of formal ceremony and a time of unity. We shared reflection and gathered in hope. I was so very grateful that our Bishop was present to say Mass for the whole College and help us make sense of this place being an opportunity for sacredness. He was charming and encouraging when we all gathered. He was joined by Fathers Paul and Francis and they made the huge Benedict Hall a sacred space. There were over a thousand people present. Many parents joined us, students were seated and cooperative, and we responded to this moment with grace and reverence. The Bishop blessed a statue of St John Bosco and asked us to be reminded of God’s presence. This year is the 200th anniversary of St John Bosco, and our Bishop, in celebrating the legacy of the Salesians, asked us to see this statue as a reminder of goodness and care. His theme in speaking was about potential, about what we could possibly become. He asked us to see in Jesus someone who sees into our hearts and is not obsessed with our mistakes. There was a resounding enthusiasm about the potential of the moment. He defined spirituality as like a watermelon. It’s what is inside that counts. I went into my Year 10 Religious Education class that afternoon and said to the students “Now we must get on with things. We can’t be empty watermelons”. They laughed. They had been listening. During the service the staff stood as one and made a commitment to their vocation as educators and Erini Seindanis and James Ganley received badges as part of their Captaincy of the College. These were moments of great blessing. It was an important time of gathering. It seems to reflect so much of us that is so good. It will be a an outstanding year.

Greg Hay, Principal
From the Deputy Principal

A new year begins . . .
Benedict was abuzz last Tuesday morning with children and parents keen to start the new year. Staff had spent many hours in preparation and the classrooms, facilities and grounds were sparkling and fresh. Many smiling faces mingled with nervous ones as the students all came in a wave of excitement and expectation. Our new building has not disappointed with students and parents alike exclaiming how different and wonderful it all looks. It is indeed a contemporary space that will ensure all students are ready, willing and able to learn!

New Staff
We have some new staff here at Benedict. I, of course, am one of these. My role as Deputy Principal is both a new and exciting one. My experience prior to St Mark’s has been in both teaching and leadership. I am originally from NSW. Since arriving in SA 20 years ago, I have been teaching at St Joseph’s School, Clare and combined that during the last three years with an APRIM position at St James School, Jamestown. My experience most recently has been in Foundation, although I have taught in all primary grades. I am currently studying for my Masters of Theology at Australian Catholic University, having just two units to go!

Benedict welcomes back two of our relieving teachers from last year, Louise Kitt o and Kylie Capurso. Louise is teaching in Year 2 Red and Kylie in Year 1 Blue. Congratulations to them both on winning these positions.

We are very excited to have two brand new teaching staff and one new ESO – Nikki Caputo (an ex-student), Amber Kuhl and Michelle Malchow. This is Nikki’s first teaching position and she will be teaching our Music/Dance/Drama throughout the school as well as teaching in the Year 1 Red and Year 4 Blue classrooms. Amber has been teaching for a couple of years already, having come to us from St Columba’s Memorial School, Yorketown. Amber is teaching the Year 1 Green class in our new building. Michelle is new to our ESO staff and is very keen to be in with the students assisting them in their learning.

We welcome them all to our staff and hope that they will enjoy their time here at St Mark’s College.

New Students
We extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families to the Benedict Campus. We hope your association with our school community is an inviting one and your experiences with us will bring a lifetime of memories!

Morning Drop Off Notice
In the mornings I have noticed that there are many children and/or families arriving quite early to school. Even though I think this is wonderful that students are so keen to be here, it is also a concern. Our duty of care for students at Benedict begins officially each day at 8:25 am. Before this is the time when staff are preparing and organising their days, having meetings, photocopying and doing many number of things. After 8:25 am the staff are ready to open their classrooms for the day and there is someone on playground duty.
Please could you be respectful of this time of preparation and assist us in our duty of care by ensuring that if your child is coming to school before 8:25 am that they wait outside the classroom and are not playing on the playground. When the first teacher comes on duty at 8:25 am the classroom will be ready to enter and the playground ready to play on. We appreciate your co-operation and support.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy / School Captain and SRC Presentation
We will be having two important occasions happening at Benedict Campus on Wednesday 18 February (Week 4). At 10am there will be an Ash Wednesday Liturgy to mark the beginning of the Catholic Church’s season of Lent. After Recess at 11am our new Benedict School Captains and SRC’s for 2015 will be presented to the school community. Both these events will be in the Good Samaritan Hall. A warm welcome is extended to all families to join us and gather for a cup of tea or coffee in between.

Reminders
Morning drop off is to take place at the front of the school only. This is a supervised area and your children’s safety is our priority. We appreciate your support.
Please ensure you are aware of your child’s second PE Day. Speak with teachers if unsure.

Kylie Smith
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus
LAP Volunteers Needed!

LAP Meeting will be in Week 4 on Monday 16 February in the Benedict LAP Room 23 at 3.30pm.

Would you like to be involved with the LAP programme at St Mark's Benedict?

Would you like to work one to one with a student to help make their school life more rewarding and positive?

LAP stands for Learning Assistance Program and helps students to experience success with their learning, build self esteem, self confidence and social skill. It involves working with a student on a variety of tasks that the class teacher suggests.

If you are interested and would like more information about becoming a volunteer please feel free to come in and discuss this with me or contact me at Benedict, your help would be much appreciated.

You could also email me for more information. My email address is: lrichards@stmarkspride.catholic.edu.au or phone 863388862.

Kind regards,
Louise Richards, LAP Coordinator

Flat Pack Saga

At 2.30pm on the Friday just before school was to begin there were five trays carried in on the forklift filled with Flatpacks from the Educational Furniture Company. It was delivered to the Foundation teachers in their newly constructed space. The new space had been in planning for so many months and the builders had just left. The paint was hardly dry, the new carpets had just been cleaned and the ideas for learning in the Foundation years were blossoming. This was a place so full of promise – except now there was a mountain range of cardboard boxes. The teachers went pale. The construction job was enormous. It was nearly time to go home. Excitement drained and almost numbed they considered the challenge of a huge number of boxes. Certainly building and construction wasn’t in the teachers’ job description nor was it learned in their University degrees. Clearly, it would never be ready for our newest enrolments. A call was put out. Kylie Smith’s first directive. The whole Benedict staff flocked to the rescue. Screw drivers and drills appeared. Boxes were torn open and the mystery of planks and Allan keys, tongue and groove fittings and the genius of some European furniture architect were unfurled. There were nuts and bolts, wooden plugs, sci-fi screws spread across the rooms. Plastic padding was everywhere and people were counting into piles various components and measuring the number against the scratchily photocopied directives. The staff were trying not to let those mysteriously blurred step by step instructions batter their confidence. This was an emergency and they would not let befuddlement overwhelm resolve. The women worked in pairs chatting, laughing, challenged and getting the job done. They interpreted instructions and some very expensive nail polish took a beating. There were forty people sitting, kneeling (praying), working. The blokes knew what to do of course. They are the natural builders and gave cursory look at the directions. Well at least until they got into trouble when Paul Cagney, Pete Munday, Jack Jordan and Brodie Freer came to the rescue. They worked until 6.00pm. There was a huge buzz of concentration and an enormous energy for achievement. The job seemed endless. However, if the new Benedict Foundation Learning Space is meant to be about cooperation, fun, learning, thinking, teamwork and a sense of accomplishment then it couldn’t have been better launched. Hot but not vanquished, tired but not defeated the teachers made pieces of wood gradually come to furniture shape. Each triumph was met by a cheer and each piece allows a Foundation student to come into a world of learning. My only advice is that it is unwise to serve the ‘thank you drinks’ too early. However, the place was ready for the Foundation students. The teachers were ready for a drink.

Greg Hoy, Principal

Congratulations

We congratulate Katiana, Adam, Liam and Noah Saler on the arrival of their new daughter and sister Mia Marie on 15 December 2014.

We also congratulate Desiree and Glen Gearing on the arrival of their daughter Aria Frankie Dean on 13 January 2015.
From the Deputy Principal

Welcome to the 2015 school year. We trust that the summer holidays has given you time for relaxation and renewal. We look forward to another wonderful year with many opportunities for learning and growing. This year we welcome 5 new teaching staff to Bosco Campus: Stephanie Bordignon, Isaac Ellis, Ken Fay, Tamara Kelly, Briony Foley and student support officer Kim White. We hope you will feel comfortable and involved with your child’s learning throughout the year. We welcome your presence at school, encourage you to become active partners in the education process, and invite you to volunteer at school whenever possible. Please share your ideas, encouragements and concerns with us so that we can provide the best possible learning environment for your child.

Reminder: Year 8 and new Parents to Bosco Meeting next Monday night.
(see letter attached)

Janet Haskett
Acting Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus

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(see letter attached)

Janet Haskett
Acting Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Bosco Sports Day

Bosco Interhouse Sports Day will be held on Friday 27 February (Week 5) at the Bosco Oval. All students are required to attend school as normal, and must wear plain blue shorts and a plain polo shirt or plain T-shirt in their House colour (yellow, green, red or blue). Parents, family and friends are welcome to come and support the day. Due to the large number of participants at our Bosco Sports Day we need support from parents/family members to carry out some of the associated duties. You can assist for the whole or part of the day. Help is required in the following areas: place judges, timekeepers or assisting with field events, e.g. long jump, discus. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact me at the College via the Bosco Office or email your interest to joxford@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au as soon as possible.

Spencer Gulf Athletics - Billeting 2015

On 27 March (Week 9), St Mark’s College will be hosting the Spencer Gulf Athletics Carnival. We are asking for parent support in billeting students from St Joseph’s in Port Lincoln. Traditionally St Joseph’s College of Port Lincoln has arrived on the Thursday night prior to competition and students have been billeted by host families. Given new child protection regulations, it is necessary to initiate the organization of host families earlier than previous years. We anticipate that approximately 60-80 students will require billeting. Please note that families do not need to have a child participating in the carnival to have a billet. New regulations require all adults (18 years and over) residing with a host family have a Catholic police check and to complete a brief online training course. This will be free of charge, and organised through the College.

If you are interested in hosting a billet, please email your interest to Jesslyn Oxford – joxford@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au or contact Vicki Vella at the Bosco Office as soon as possible.

Boostr Resource Centre Start of Year 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 are 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

Jesslyn Oxford, Sports Coordinator - Bosco Campus

Ag students recently harvested our 2015 grapes. The students then put them through the crusher and destemmer and added yeast to the must. It is now going through primary fermentation.
SMC Tennis

Hot Shots Tennis
It is wonderful to see that over 50 players from St Mark’s have registered for the Hot Shots Program being run by Grant Hanlon this season. It is of great benefit for the development of strokes at an early age and will stand the players in good stead when they progress onto the modified F Grade Competition in future years. The support of parents in assisting and interacting with their children in the Saturday and Sunday morning sessions at the Tennis Centre is to be greatly admired.

Hot Weather Policy for Matches
Please refer to page 3 of the Programme Book for the Hot Weather Policy for matches as the forecast for this weekend is looking very sunny!

Crystal Brook Junior Doubles Tennis Tournament.
A tournament will be held for 16 & Under, 14 & Under and 12 & Under doubles combinations (boy/boy, boy/girl, girl/girl) in Crystal Brook on Sunday 1 March, 2015. Entries close on Tuesday 24 February. Please see Campus Noticeboards for further details.

Des McKeough, SMC Tennis Coordinator

Have you visited the St Mark’s College Website lately?
Have a look at what we have been up to at the College and find out the answers to all those school related questions by visiting the St Mark’s College Website.

www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au

St Mark’s Celtic Netball

Senior Registration
Senior Registration Night is Thursday 19 February at the Benedict Campus, Good Samaritan Hall from 6-8pm. All forms and payment must be completed on the night.

Junior Registration
Junior Registration Forms will be distributed from Tuesday 10 February. Forms and Payment will be due back at the Benedict Office by Friday 20 February. If hiring a Netball Dress the hire fee of $20 needs to be paid with registration. Socks $15 can also be ordered and paid for at registration.

Merchandise Order Night
Merchandise Order Night is one night only on Thursday 19 February from 6-8pm at the Benedict Campus Good Samaritan Hall. Payment to be made at Benedict Office within two weeks of order.

Katie Pole
SMC Netball Coordinator

St Mark’s Sport proudly sponsored by

alsanto constructions
School Card

A substantial fee discount (50%) on the Tuition Fee is now offered to families who qualify for School Card. Families who qualified for School Card in 2014, will be sent an Application Form directly. Those families who think they may be eligible for the School Card discount 2015 are asked to contact the Administration Office to obtain an application form. The school card income thresholds for 2015 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of Your Dependent Children</th>
<th>2013/2014 Annual School Card Income Limit</th>
<th>2013/2014 Average Weekly School Card Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$36,576</td>
<td>$704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$37,574</td>
<td>$724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$38,572</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$39,570</td>
<td>$764</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$40,568</td>
<td>$784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional dependent child</td>
<td>$998</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information about the School Card scheme can also be obtained from the Department of Education & Children Service's website www.schools.sa.gov.au.schlparents

Dominic LoBasso, Business Manager

SMC School Uniform

I wish to apologize for underestimating the sales for some items of the school uniform. I also wish to thank you for your patience.

The St Mark's College uniform has been our number one priority so we therefore have worked with our suppliers to have our stocks replenished as soon as possible.

We expect to be able to fulfill all outstanding orders on PE Polos and shorts by mid-February and the Short Sleeve Shirt by mid-March.

We also expect our first deliveries of the winter uniform to be in store mid-March.

I would also like to thank the SMC Uniform Committee for their support and understanding as we work to make further improvements to the uniform and put in measures to prevent any further short stock issues.

Kind regards,

Mark Hanlon,
Sportscene Super Warehouse
Port Pirie
**School Counselling Service**

Katrina Johns is a counsellor with a degree in Social Work, employed by Centacare Catholic Family Services Country South Australia (SA) to work across St Mark’s College.

Katrina works Wednesday at the Bosco Campus, Thursday at Benedict and Thursday after school at Salesian Boarding House. The counselling office hours are 8.30 to 5.00, however are flexible to assist collaboration with teachers, parents, carers and external organisations with the student’s permission.

Students may seek counselling for a wide range of issues such as worries, stress, lack of motivation, sadness, anger, conflict with others (including friends, teachers and family), grief and loss, study load, bullying, low self esteem, relationship issues, separation and addictions.

School counselling is a confidential service, and counsellors are NOT permitted to repeat content of sessions to anyone without permission unless there is risk to a person’s safety. This will be outlined in the first point of contact with students.

Students can make an appointment with the counsellor via the front office in both campuses or direct to Katrina by phone or email or via the House Parents. Parents are welcome to contact Katrina direct.

**Katrina Johns, Counsellor**

K.Johns@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au  
kjohns@centacarecdpp.org.au  
Work mobile - 0439162764  
Centacare office – 86 382 100

**Notices**

**Thinking about becoming a Catholic?**

St Mark’s Cathedral Parish is currently preparing for the next RCIA journey. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the next RCIA group, please leave your name, address and contact phone number at the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests.

**Nyrstar Crystal Brook Junior Tennis Tournament 2015**

Sunday 1 March 2015 at the Crystal Brook Tennis Courts, Brandis Street, Crystal Brook from 9.30am for a 10am start. Age Groups - 16 and under, 14 and under and 12 and under. Entrance fee $10 per child. BBQ lunch and refreshments for sale. Registrations by Tuesday 24 February to Anne Crouch 0437 629 951 or email llcrouch@bigpond.com

**Blue Light Disco Pool Party**

On Saturday 14 February from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Port Pirie Swimming Pool, Mary Elie Street. For ages 8 to 16 years. Cost $5 each. Food and Drink available. No Passouts. Prizes on the night!

**Hip Hop Bounce**

Do you have a passion for and a love of dance? Then come and make new friends and have fun whilst learning proper dance techniques at Hip Hop Bounce. Huge range of styles including hip hop, cheerleading, ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, tumbling and acrobatics as well as Bounce Sing. All aged! Contact Natasha on 0416 239 676 or natasha@hiphopbounce.com.au

**Nyrstar Port Pirie Tennis International Fun Family Night**

Thursday 5 March at the Port Pirie Tennis Courts from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Come and meet professional tennis players and enjoy a sausage sizzle. Bring along your rackets for a hit with family and friends.

**Piano lessons**

Beginner piano lessons by qualified teacher Grant Hanlon. Free trial lessons for interested boys or girls. Phone 0414 320 840.
3 February 2015

ATTENTION:
Parents of Year 8 Students & Parents of Students New to St. Marks Bosco Campus

It is with pleasure that the Principal, Deputy and Staff invite you to attend a New Parent Information Evening on Monday, February 9 at 7.30pm.

The purpose of the evening is to:
Welcome you to St Mark’s College and to meet our staff;
Show you the facilities of our secondary campus;
Provide information about how the school and your family can work together.

If you would like a tour of the campus, please assemble at the Chapel by 6.40pm. Staff will be available to show you around our campus.

The evening will commence at 7.40pm in the Bishop Gallagher Centre, a central meeting place of our school. We will talk about our expectations and provide information about the roles of teaching staff and our Religious Education programme. We will also speak about events specific to Year 8.

There will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teachers, to put some faces to names, and to discuss anything that you may feel the need to at this early stage of the year.

We welcome the opportunity to come together at the start of this year and I personally encourage all Parents/Caregivers to attend. The evening is intended for Parents/Caregivers only.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Janet Haskett
Deputy Principal