The Ordination of Harold

I was part of hundreds of members of the Diocese who attended the Ordination of Fr Harold Carmonias at the Cathedral last week. It became an inspiring occasion of something quite remarkable. The entry into the priesthood is significant, and it is joyous for the Church of Port Pirie. It was a gathering of many priests and parishioners and the Bishop led us beautifully in a time of faith, a time of commitment, a time of new direction. This was a seizing at God’s blessings through the life of Fr Harold Carmonias. We all felt privileged to be at the ceremony in this moment of consecration. It was a time of unity, a celebration of a life of service and challenge. We prayed for generosity and love.

The liturgy itself is full of ancient rituals and deep symbols of brotherhood and love, commitment and deep responsibility. It was inspiring to be there to see the mysterious faith filled moment of a priestly vocation. There were many there from the St Mark’s community and we were especially blessed that Fr Harold came to school the next day to say one of his first Masses at the Diocesan Youth Assembly at St Mark’s. He has been a great friend to the College and we have had him at Benedict for a Mass. Our prayers are with this person of faith and it will be a prayer of gratitude.

The AGM

One of the most important evenings in the College calendar, but sometimes it is one that quietly slips by, is the gathering and reporting at the College Annual General Meeting. It is where the College Board are accountable. It is where we have to stand before our community and say “this is what has been achieved”. It is where we look at accomplishments and answer questions about our future. It is where the Finance Committee tables a report that is legally audited and reflects our financial viability and the management of the money.

Last week the College held its Annual General Meeting where all of this formal business and reporting was tabled and where we held the election of the new Board for 2015. It was a seamless occasion and mostly quiet. I was really delighted with a good number in attendance and the reports reflected the stability and vision of the College. This wasn’t a stormy BHP Billiton or Qantas shareholders meeting. This was mums and dads genuinely caring about this place by their presence. I thank Father Paul Quirk for his management as President of the Board and I thank those people who felt it so necessary to attend and oversee the good management of our College. It didn’t slip quietly by.

When I was writing my official Principal Report in preparation I felt myself becoming very proud at what had been achieved. In fact I was astonished. The year in reflection was about excellence in learning and there was significant growth. It was about development of the Campus and we have built and improved. It was about the building of community and a real commitment to seeing how the sacred becomes present in our great moments and in each other. My sense is that it is the strength of this place. People care and people support. The meeting finally was about financial stability and good management of resources. Our
year was set against the context of the Bangor Bushfires, the election of a Commonwealth Government and uncertain educational funding (do remember Gonski?). There was the Nyrstar refurbishment announcement, the Same Day First Start and the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Abuse. There was even a Soccer World Cup that meant a few of us lost some sleep. It was a big year with so much going on and we achieved so much as our community evolved. I have included the Report as an attachment. You may like to read it. I only hope that it reflects the gratitude that I have for the people who led and served and dreamed and rolled up their sleeves. I hope that the report gives you a sense that this is indeed a very special educational community.

In am delighted to announce our new College Board: Chairperson - Kingslee Stanley who is a father of three St Mark’s children and a well known farmer. Kingslee is an old scholar of Salesian College and is deeply imbued with the spirit of Don Bosco. In a wonderful circularity Kingslee’s father Lawrence was also a Board Chair and I know that we are in good hands with this thoroughly St Mark’s family man. Kingslee is joined by Father Paul Quirk (President) Darryll Johnson (Deputy Chair) Greg Hay (Principal) Janet Haskett (Deputy Principal) Kylie Smith (Deputy Principal) Sarah Chadwick (Staff Representative) Catherine Caspers, Katrina Butterick, Damien Freer, Chris Rafanelli, Emily Williams, Daniel Lauder, Jo Court and Dominic LoBasso (Executive Officer).

I acknowledge the generosity and work of Allan Zubrinich, Sarah Watt and Jane Gibson who finish their time on the Board. They brought insight and a generosity of spirit to the group. Allan was an outstanding Chair and we thank him for his wisdom, collegiality and guidance. Sarah was an exemplary leader of the Parent and Friends. Jane gave us school insight and a determined common sense. We are in a good place to build on our success. We have a talented group to guide us. We launch out into a new year with an energetic and vibrant Committee system and a determined hardworking group.

Principal’s Tours and the Enrolment Season
We are now beginning the season of enrolments. There are plans to be made. There are new families to welcome. It is time to begin organising for next year and to crank up the mechanisms to support family discernment. There will be invitations to interview and then sharing a commitment to the College and the children. We began with a Principal’s tour the other day. It is an easy process where I walk around, speak of our hopes for the young people and look at our excellent facilities. I was accompanied by School Captains Maggie Waters and Theo Demou who were both charming and insightful. They answered questions, gave opinions and played with the four year old tourists who weren’t as engaged with my pattern as the parents. The next stage is application for enrolment and I know that we will welcome new families to an interview. I also know that half of our enrolments were decided at birth. These are the children who were always going to attend, always going to be St Mark’s children. The other half of the enrolments come through word of mouth. They think about enrolment because it is recommended by people like you. As such I ask our families never to underestimate the power of recommendation. There might be a friend or a next door neighbour who hasn’t quite made up their mind for next year. Perhaps you would think about a recommendation. It’s the time. We can invite them on a tour.

VET Parent Evening
There was a gathering with parents of students studying Vocational Education the other night. There were a number of staff and VET/Careers Coordinator Simone Atkinson present. It was a chance to touch base, ask some questions, and build a partnership around this distinct course of study. I began by congratulating the parents on supporting their child’s choice. These young people have a vision for a career and an understanding of themselves as learners and parents recognised that. The parents sat through the discernment and thinking and it is wonderful that the College can accommodate them. The students are undertaking practical, authentic learning and have the quality assurance of a Registered Training Provider (TAFE). They will share time and learning with a person who has the same passion as them about welding, hospitality or managing sheep, automotive or engineering. They will get out into the industry and experience another world. The VET program is rich with opportunity. The College commends those walking between school and work and will support the challenges that this brings.

Greg Hay, Principal
Friday 20 March is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

The National Day of Action provides a focus for schools and the wider school community to strengthen their everyday messages against bullying and violence.

There is a very informative website for parents and carers which provides information about bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in schools. This can be found at: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/parents/index.html

It’s well worth the look – let’s take a stand together!
From the Deputy Principal

Project Compassion Fundraising
This year’s Project Compassion fundraising has been both generous and heartfelt. Our weekly Lenten Liturgy on a Tuesday, along with class lessons, has provided a sound knowledge and understanding for the students of where and how their money raised is used by Caritas Australia. This generosity has come through in their giving to their class Project Compassion boxes – with a wonderful $1253.85 already being banked for Caritas Australia.

In Week 10, a number of kind-hearted Year 6 girls are having a ‘loom band’ fundraiser. They are busily making ‘loom bands’ at school in their own time and organising posters and notes for home and school. Look out for these in the next week. We know that the students will be excited about buying these for such a good cause and wearing their purchases on the day. You may even get a surprise come home for yourselves!

Anti-Bullying Day and Police Visit
Today has seen Benedict take on a ‘tinge’ of orange to focus on National Anti-Bullying Day. This day is to raise awareness about the societal issue of bullying and to provide our children with the skills, knowledge and ways to recognise bullying in their own life, so as to combat this type of behaviour from happening to them. Special thanks to Mrs Toni Boulton who has co-ordinated the activities for the day. To go hand in hand with this day, a number of classes also went for a talk in the Good Samaritan Hall with Constable Jake Whedan from the Port Pirie Police Station. Jake spoke with the students about his job and all the different things that he does within his role, as well as speaking to them about bullying and the affect that it can have on not only the one being bullied but their families and friends as well. This was a timely reminder to us all to look out for each other and always remember to be kind to all we meet - something that Jesus showed us in his words and actions every day.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 10 are our first round of Parent/Teacher Interviews for the year. Families should have received their allocated times to see their children’s respective class teachers. Please come into the school if you require assistance or have questions surrounding these.

Reminders
Assembly – Week 9
Just a reminder that next week’s Assembly will be on at a different time due to the Chrism Mass taking place in the morning with our Year 7’s in attendance. Assembly will now take place after lunch at 1.45pm in the Good Samaritan Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and we apologise for any inconvenience.

Nude Food Wednesday
Don't forget that every Wednesday until the end of term is ‘Nude Food Wednesday’ for all classes. We have noticed a lot less rubbish in the playground on these days and appreciate the support from parents in assisting their children in making healthier choices with their lunch boxes. Thank you.

Kylie Smith,
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus
SAPSASA Summer Carnival

Last Friday Year 6 and 7 students from St Mark’s took part in the SAPSASA summer carnival, playing either tennis, cricket or softball.

A successful day was had at the tennis where we had 14 teams playing against teams from Pirie West and Risdon Primary schools. The students all participated enthusiastically and showed great sportsmanship and encouragement of each other throughout the day.

Meanwhile, over at Port Oval the St Mark’s Strikers and St Mark’s Sixers boys’ cricket sides played a number of “Big Bash” style matches against the other local primary schools. Similarly, the St Mark’s girls’ cricketers tested themselves out during a fun day of modified cricket at Pirie West Oval.

Although scores were not being taken, there was a healthy sense of competition displayed at both venues throughout the day.

We also had four teams spread out across Leonard Park softball grounds. The fields were abuzz with activity as a number of softball games played concurrently. It was great to see the pleasure that students took in competing together and enjoying a day in the sun.

A huge thanks goes to our parent helpers who did an excellent job assisting with teams across all sports on Friday. In addition to this, we extend our gratitude to high school student helpers from the Bosco Campus and John Pirie Secondary School. They did a tremendous job of umpiring games and helping with various jobs throughout the day.

Henry Whiting, Benedict Sports Coordinator

QuickSmart Program

The QuickSmart program within the Benedict Campus has begun. Every year St Mark’s College in association with the University of New England embark on a Numeracy program called QuickSmart. This program which has been designed by the University of New England provides opportunities for eligible students to develop fluent (Quick) and efficient (Smart) numeracy skills. Students who have access to this program are allocated time to work in small groups providing opportunities for increased neuron synapse to occur creating an increase in their working memory.

The QuickSmart facilitators in the school are Julie Van De Water and Michelle Malchow. With their wealth of expertise in this field of research and the enthusiasm of the students participating, I’m sure this year’s QuickSmart project will yield amazing results and create lifelong recognition and fluency of number skills.

Lisa Parletta, Benedict Numeracy Coordinator

Parent and Friends Movie Night

What has been happening at Benedict Campus?
From the Deputy Principal

The College prides itself on its promotion of social justice, reflected in a focus on a concern and a care for others. This is continually demonstrated by our students in many ways.

At present, the students are busy raising money for Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia which is the international aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia. This is Caritas Australia’s annual fund raising and awareness appeal.

“Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia; without it, we could not do the vital work we do.”
http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/about

The Easter Raffle is one of the main forms of our Project Compassion fundraising, as especially during Lent we look for ways that we can support and reach out to others. The Easter raffle can only proceed through the generous donations of Easter eggs and bunnies from our Bosco students and staff. These donations, made into hampers are then raffled, with all proceeds supporting Project Compassion.

We have already had a positive response and sincerely thank both students and staff who have already donated so generously. It is not too late to make a donation and certainly not too late to buy a raffle ticket to be in the running to win one of these great hampers. Each Bosco family received a raffle book of ten tickets. Donations can be delivered to the Bosco office, where additional tickets are also available. The Easter Raffle will be drawn at the beginning of Week 11.

Teachers of Year 12 students are busy writing reports discussing your child’s first term progress. These will be released to the students on Wednesday 1 April and will also contain an invitation for parents to meet with their teachers the following week. We strongly encourage parents to take up this opportunity and for students to be present at the interviews.

Janet Haskett
Acting Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Bosco Easter Raffle

Help celebrate Easter by donating to the Bosco Campus Easter Raffle! Donations to be taken to the Bosco Office. Points awarded to the House Cup for all donations. Please consider supporting fair trade companies in your donations. Raffle to be drawn in Week 11, with all proceeds to Project Compassion.

Thank you for your support.

Nyrstar Smelter Tour

This week the Senior Chemistry classes were fortunate to take a guided tour through the Nyrstar smelter laboratory facilities. Students were dazzled with metals that undergo a range of experiments and learnt about many scientific processes the smelter performs, such as spectrophotometry and the testing of lead levels for workers and residents of Port Pirie. Our guides were engaging and students are able to apply the processes back to the classroom. We are extremely grateful to the Nyrstar Smelter for welcoming us.

Jane Bennett and Meriam DeVries, Chemistry Teachers

Year 11 Food and Hospitality

On Wednesday 18 March the Year 11 Food and Hospitality students travelled to Port Broughton restaurant Palate 2 Palette to experience a culinary delight. Through the sharing of a tapas menu, the students were treated to 9 courses of foods including cone of chips, Asian selection, slow cooked Thai beef curry, kangaroo stew and a variety of desserts. The students were encouraged to expand their taste buds and were inspired by the creative presentation used for the various dishes served. Over the coming weeks, the students will use this experience to inspire their own menu as they prepare a dish of their own. We greatly thank the owners, Helen and Grant Rowlands for their hospitality for the second year running.

Sandy Lee, Year 11 Food and Hospitality Teacher
SMC Tennis

Finals
Congratulations to the 11 St Mark’s teams which began their finals campaigns last Saturday. Two of these teams progressed through to the Grand Finals, 5 will contest Preliminary Finals this week. Good luck to all St Mark’s teams remaining in the finals!

Both the Preliminary and Grand Finals will be played at 8.30 am with presentations to premiership shield winners, association trophy winners and tournament winners to be held at approximately 11.00am on Grand Final Day (28 March).

Finals Team Supervision
No supervision rosters are drawn up for the finals but we’d appreciate all parents sharing the load of supervising teams. All players involved in finals should be doing their own scoring and line calling although D Grade players will need a parent on court to supervise only.

Premiership Teams
Congratulations to the E boys Castelyns team and E Girls Giovanni teams who were successful in winning premierships for their grades by finishing top at the end of the minor round. Both teams will be presented with their shields on Grand Final Day.

Presentation Night
Just under 300 players and family members attended the SMC Tennis Presentation Night in the Good Samaritan Hall last Tuesday evening which took the form of a pizza, chips and drink night. All players received commemorative medals for the season and coach/managers were presented with a gift by the St Mark’s Sports Council in appreciation of their efforts for the season. Thanks to all who helped at the wind-up and who have supported St Mark’s Tennis throughout the season. We hope to see all players back again next year. If there are any players who did not receive their team medal, please contact Mr McKeough as soon as possible.

Des McKeough, SMC Tennis Coordinator

At the SMC Tennis Presentation Night players received a commemorative medal and Team Coaches and Managers received a thank you gift from the SMC Sports Council.
As educators we are constantly evolving and looking for more effective ways to deliver curriculum in a way which prepares children for the 21st century. It is with this in mind that the Junior Primary team at Benedict worked to develop our new Shared Learning Centre. If you have been lucky enough to visit our new space you will have noticed many changes from our previous classrooms. Open spaces, natural light and furnishings which consider the needs and preferences of our learners are key design principles. We worked to create a space which would enable our learners to become independent, curious, creative, confident and self-aware. Above all else we have aimed to create a space which shows a respect for children’s interests, rights, needs, capacities and gets them excited about learning!

**How does the new environment support learning?**

We want our students to become adaptable and flexible thinkers who are able to work successfully both independently and in small groups. In order to foster these skills in our students, our environment needs to be flexible as well.

The furnishings chosen for our classrooms allow students to make decisions about what works best for them as a learner. Children often feel frustrated and restricted when made to sit still in one place for lengthy periods. This is when we see children ‘switch off’ and very little learning takes place. The different levelled tables and range of seating options in our learning spaces give children the opportunity to change perspectives throughout the day. Children are encouraged to make decisions about what arrangement best suits their needs. Often children choose to work on the floor or sitting on a cushion as it gives them the chance for movement. Working on the floor is also a fantastic way to develop their core strength, improve posture and develop pencil control.

**Movement stimulates brain connections**

With our new furniture we are providing our students with a more comfortable and stimulating environment which better caters to the individual needs of our young learners. Providing children with choice about the way they learn will foster self-awareness, independence and confidence in our learners. Our learning spaces are also designed to provide learners with spaces for independent and group work at different times during the day. The Shared Learning Space also accommodates whole group meetings where we can develop a community of learners who live and learn together.

A flexible learning environment does not require every child to have their own desk where they will always sit. This idea can be traced back to when schools were first designed in the industrial revolution where the main purpose for schools was to educate future factory workers who had to learn to stay in one place for hours on end and only follow instructions. Even factories today are not like that anymore. (Lisa Burman 2014)

**Learning through Meaningful Play**

Research has shown that quality play fosters children’s social and emotional development, their cognitive development, their language development as well as their physical development (Bodrova & Leong 2005). This year you will notice within the Shared Learning Space the children will be engaged in ‘child’s work’ that is playful learning.

Within the newly developed Shared Learning Space your child will have the exciting opportunity to learn through playful endeavours. As parents and educators we all are aware that for meaningful learning to take place children need to be interested and engaged in the subject content. Research tells us that during meaningful play all of children’s senses are alive and their brain sparks with new connections (Burman 2014). Teaching and learning through playful endeavours gives educators the opportunity to ‘enter into the world of the child’ and teach to children who are interested, involved and motivated to learn.

**What’s next!**

The Shared Learning Space has already provided us with many amazing opportunities to facilitate learning, but it is not quite finished yet! During the Term 1 school holidays work will be undertaken to complete the space, with the far end of the building being removed to create a reading area.

We are also soon to see the arrival of 16 ipads and 8 large touch screen computers. These additions will allow our children to become capable and confident users of technology, a vital skill for the 21st century.
Port Football and Community Sporting Club
Open daily from 10.00am

Netball SA - Future Stars Camp
On Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 April 2015 from 9am to 3.15pm daily at 155 Railway Terrace, Mile End. Ages 11-16. Cost $240 per participant. This is not an overnight camp and places are limited. Each participant receives an official camp singlet. For more information contact Rachel Horstmann on (08) 8238 0512 or rachel.horstmann@netballsa.asn.au

Laura Folk Fair
On Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April 2015. Come along and enjoy the family focused Laura Folk Fair. Free entry and lots of entertainment - art, street parade, bands, dancers, musicians, puppetry, rides, fireworks, side show alley and over 100 stalls selling handcrafted items, local produce and plants.

Hookin2Hockey
Come and try out a great winter sport! Free for all children aged 12 and under. At St Mark’s College, Wandearah Road starting Friday 8 May at 4:30pm. For more information or contact Melissa Lane on 0409 501 897 or mellane23@hotmail.com

Junior Table Tennis Program
Starts 30 April finishes 2 July 2015. Every Thursday from 4pm to 5.30pm at Clubrooms on Grey Terrace. For Primary School aged boys and girls - no previous experience necessary. Contact Kathy Gould on 0400 407 195.

Singing Lessons at SMC
Large choice of songs and exercises. Private Lessons. Enquiries welcome. Contact Anne Hansen (Bachelor of Music) on 86 36-2231 or 0429 866 242.

Students of the World
Host families are required for French and Italian students 14 to 18 years old for 6 to 8 weeks. The students will be arriving on 20 June 2015 and departing 15 August or 10 September 2015. Students will attend school and stay with Australian families. This is a highly rewarding but voluntary hosting program. For further information please go to www.studentsofttheworld.com.au or email studentsoftheworld.au@gmail.com.

Fun a Plenty
Sunday 29 March from 4pm to 5.30pm at Plenty Street Park. Free games, bible stories, craft, sausage sizzle for primary aged children and families. Organised by the Port Pirie Baptist Church. Enquiries to Pastor Roger Kleinig 0427 399 244.

For Sale
Venco De-Airing Pug Mill
For Sale - Venco De-Airing Pug Mill 100mm Model (including Vacuum Pump). Used in the Art Centre retails for approx. $6,000 good condition and is operational. A pug mill is used to blend clay to restore it to a more uniform workable consistency. This applies to new clay or clay scraps from previous work. Clay is loaded into the feed hopper (closest to motor) and an internal auger pushes the clay along the barrel, through some fine screens before recompressing the clay and forcing it out the nozzle. The de-airing models incorporate a vacuum pump which removes air trapped within the clay while pugging is performed. This produces the highest quality clay for immediate use on a potters wheel. Tender forms available from Bosco Front Office. Tenders Close at 4pm Thursday 2 April

For Sale at Bosco
Bosco students were busy this week making poppies to contribute to the Port Pirie RSL Anzac Day Display.

Poppy making at Bosco

Notices