Catholic Education Weekend

It has been Catholic Education Week this week. We have taken time to remember and acknowledge the importance of Catholic Education and how it creates a unique culture. Our Bishop has encouraged us to reflection and the Director of Catholic Education has endorsed our efforts together. The entire Port Pirie Catholic Education community is remembering the importance of our faithfulness, the excellence of classroom life and the manner in which we grow and flourish because we are in this particular community. We have had a chance to embrace the fun of being together and there are wet faced teachers to prove it. We have symbolically dressed in rainbow colours and proclaimed that life is good and worthwhile and rich. We have turned off lights and computers and heaters because we need to remember our carbon footprint and we have thought about our environmental impact. We have collected some money because our neighbour needs a hand. The people of Nepal, and the people without blankets in Port Pirie, will be enriched with a small amount of generosity. We have gathered for Eucharist because sometime in the mystery of ritual we are able to offer simple thanksgiving. We offer thanks for opportunity, thanks for our legacy from the Good Samaritan Sisters and the Salesian Fathers and thanks that we are together.

Enrolment Interviews

I was struck deeply again by the trust and care of those parents who have asked to have their children enrolled in the school. We are in the height of enrolment season at the moment and interviews are taking place. We are reinforcing what we value and talk about learning and about welcome. Parents are bringing children into the office and sharing their hopes and their commitment to partnership. There are little kindergarten children staring, numb, clutching and anxious. There are mums disbelieving that this passing time to begin school could happen so fast. There are dads determined and strong to ensure the best for their child. It becomes a very inspiring experience for me. As always I thank our families for their recommendation. People only come to this school because our families have confirmed that this is a safe and happy place, a place of learning and a place inspired by faith.

NAPLAN

I was at the door of a Year 3 classroom the other morning. The classroom teacher was calmly smiling and welcoming the children as they settled in. I invited her to enjoy the day and half hinted by the tone of my voice at the drama and complexity of introducing the children to a national testing program. She immediately called to the class. “Hands up who is doing NAPLAN today” . The hands went up. “Hands up if you are worried” All the hands went down. “Hands up if this is going to be a good day for us” . All the hands went up. I was immediately reassured of the good management and pastoral care of the teachers. This national program of assessment for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 can be quite intimidating but teachers guide them with skill and students seem to involve themselves with purpose and resilience. And it all went very smoothly. I certainly thank Andrew Sheridan and Des McKeough and the teaching staff. The College will use the results to gauge individual progress and also respond to learning areas that need emphasis. We value the opportunity of the NAPLAN and the manner in which teachers care to support the children.

We have celebrated the uniqueness of Catholic education and families have asked to join. The students settled down to NAPLAN and the Year 12s performed and visited a sheep farm. Our new Deputy has settled in quickly.
The Year 12 Performance
I had a chance to visit the Year 12 Drama performance of ‘The Incomplete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged’. I was part of an audience who were delighted in the fun and high energy of a wonderful production. The students created a rollicking, bouncing presentation of the 37 Shakespearean plays in 55 minutes. It was cleverly costumed, bright and fast paced. It was presentation by three talented actors who breathlessly played dozens of characters and tumbled over each other to tell a relentless dynamic story. The play was performed with excellent timing and all the elements of the theatrical effort had to come together precisely. Effortless humour and dashing dialogue is never effortless nor easily dashing. It was wonderfully crafted. I congratulate the director, Sandy Lee. There were ideas that surprised. There were clever moments that delighted. I enjoyed the breathtaking costume changes and our imaginations bounced around from courtly scenes, to tender love scenes, to battle fields, as we laughed through many moments. It was playful and appealing. Sandy Lee was able to push and demand much from the actors and the production crew and we loved them as an audience. We were proud of the accomplishment. I extend congratulations to a wonderful ensemble.

Year 12 Agriculture Excursion
The Year 12 Agriculture students had a chance to visit Wonga Station this week. As part of their Ag. Studies they went to visit a 17,000 sheep farm owned by St Mark’s parents Will and Michelle Lindner. They stayed over for two nights. It was a wonderful opportunity to see a complex and exciting rural operation in action. This is a family business developed over four generations near the Burra - Morgan region and it became a time where the Lindner’s extended extraordinary hospitality. It is a vast operation. It is a big family business. The students stayed in five star shearer’s quarters and were fed and housed with great care. There students saw all the elements of a farm. They looked at land care, animal management and the science behind a successful business. They looked at the infrastructure and the challenges of rural life and a huge shed filled with motorbike carcasses, steel machinery, bit of broken this and that, the dust and debris of farm life. They looked at the shearing and baling operation and a cold room where butchered sheep were examined. They saw the variations of fencing and the huge machines that dig or lift or transport. They saw a clever organisation and order and the romance of a shearing shed and ‘men’s’ quarters. I was able to visit after school and was simply amazed at the dynamic and complex operation even in its simplicity. It’s a place with some sheep and a paddock. Michelle is an excellent cook and fussed around in the warmth of her hospitality and the thoroughness of her organisation. Will brings a deep love for the country and that good humoured self-sufficient resignation about seasons and success and resilience. He had that laconic wit (There’s nothing dumber than a sheep except the one behind it). He has the quiet pride of hard work. I think that the most excited were teacher Paul Matthews and our Farm Manager Joel Head. They were able to discuss lots of interesting things like weeds and lambing, dagging, mulesing and dipping. They talked all night about it and were alight with interest and the students had an injection of enthusiasm because of the experience. Will Lindner was charming and just occasionally through smiles and conversation became conscious that the clouds were gathering this week and there might be rain tonight.

Welcome to Kate Kilpatrick
It has been my pleasure to welcome our new Deputy Principal to the College. Kate Kilpatrick has come from Cardijn College in Adelaide where she had the role of Middle School Coordinator. She brings extensive experience in management and learning and is very quickly coming to understand the subtleties and nuances of life at St Mark’s. Kate is a country girl and lived all of her young life in Mt Gambier. She knows about community cohesion and the energy and hopes that we have. She has begun in the middle of the intensity and complexity of a school year and there hasn’t been a chance to gently accommodate her. She hasn’t missed a beat and has hit the ground running. She is quickly leaning about community cohesion and the energy and hopes that we have. She has begun in the middle of the intensity and complexity of a school year and there hasn’t been a chance to gently accommodate her. She hasn’t missed a beat and has hit the ground running. She is quickly leaning names, supporting staff and managing our expectations for good learning and our Bosco students meeting their potential. We wish Kate well and offer her our warmest welcome.

Greg Hay, Principal
Pope Francis has described the Church as "the Mother Educator", a statement that reflects the centrality of education in the mission of the Church. He endorses Catholic schools time again. "Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love. It is like giving life. And love is demanding." He describes education today as "a key, key, key mission!"

Staff in Catholic schools are concerned not only with the life of the mind and the care of the body, but the growth of the inner spirituality of each of their children. That is why the Church in general and our diocese in particular commits itself so significantly to the education of the young. Teachers do not work alone – they have the support of all those who help the school function, from the reception staff through to all other school activities. To all the men and women conducting our Catholic schools, we give thanks, and invite our parents and students to pay them due honour.

May the schools of our diocese continue to strengthen the mission of the Church to serve the young and prepare the future.

+Gregory O'Kelly SJ,
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie

"Come, live life in all its fullness” John (10:10).

Throughout the diocese of Port Pirie we are privileged to celebrate Catholic education each and every day. I see countless examples of students, teachers, support staff, volunteers, parents and parishioners putting their faith into action, living our Catholic values and celebrating who we are as a Catholic community. Catholic Education Week is a time to pause and 'give thanks' for the efforts of so many who enrich our schools in and across the Diocese of Port Pirie.

Education is about life and the formation of the whole person. We are called to be proactive in living life to its fullest: a life based on Jesus and Gospel values. We are called to explore life in all its dimensions: spiritual, intellectual, physical and global. Learning is a lifelong and life wide process and engendering a love of learning for life is central to our beliefs. Catholic schools are places of discovery, exploration and hope. They are a means by which our students, staff, families and communities learn what it is to be fully human. Our energy, vitality and commitment come from this vision. It serves to unite us in a common pursuit of all that is best in Catholic education. It provides strength and direction whether working, learning, praying or celebrating – and here in the Diocese of Port Pirie we have much to celebrate!

During Catholic Education Week our schools are invited to celebrate and share how they are 'Living Life in all its fullness'…inspired by Jesus in the lives of their students and within their broader communities. While each of our schools across the diocese has its own identity, we all share the same overarching goal of the promotion of the human person – our students are the centre of all our endeavours within the school.

Catholic Education Week especially celebrates the efforts students make with their own studies; the assistance they give to those in need; the simple joy they bring to one another and to the life of the school, and the generosity and energy they bring to fundraising for charitable causes and supporting those less fortunate.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to share with gratitude what happens in our Catholic Schools with the wider community. I encourage staff, parents and friends to take a few moments to visit our Catholic Education – Diocese of Port Pirie website and learn more about our schools; our students, staff and educational communities: www.cesapp.catholic.edu.au

I wish everyone a happy and life giving Catholic Education Week 2015.

Warm regards

Brenda Keenan,
Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Port Pirie
Benedict Campus held a ‘Rainbow Colours Day’ to mark the beginning of Catholic Education Week and raise funds for the people of Nepal.

From the Deputy Principal

Rainbow Colours Day
On Monday the SRC at Benedict Campus held a ‘Rainbow Colours Day’ fundraiser to mark the beginning of Catholic Education Week in the Port Pirie Diocese. Proceeds from the day were raised for the people of Nepal after their devastating earthquakes in the past weeks. The amount raised for the day with our gold coin donations was around $600! Thank you to families for your generosity. What a great effort!

Magdalen Centre Blessing and 125 years Good Samaritan Sisters
It was an honour and a privilege today to be a part of the Blessing of our new learning space – the Magdalen Centre. Our Foundation and Year 1 students attended with their teachers, performing a little play about the influence of the Good Samaritan Sisters here in Port Pirie. We had many honoured guests, including Bishop Greg O’Kelly, our Director of Catholic Education Ms Brenda Keenan, and sixteen Good Samaritan Sisters, eleven of whom have taught at St Mark’s College over the years.

Following this, we celebrated Mass together in the Good Samaritan Hall to honour and pay tribute to the Good Samaritan Sisters strong connection with both St Mark’s College and in the Port Pirie community. We prayed, sang and reflected on the strong connection and influence that the Good Samaritan Sisters have in our community and the legacy that is still evident in everything we do and say each day.

The afternoon saw all the students, from both Benedict and Bosco, come together for an Activities Afternoon on the Benedict Oval. A very fitting end to our Catholic Education Week celebrations.

A big thank you to Sarah Watts for making and co-ordinating the collection of costumes for the little play and to the P&F for assisting with the set-up of Morning Tea. We appreciate your time and efforts.

Playground Issue
We talk a lot as a staff about our Duty of Care to your children. We have noticed that there are many children on the play equipment in the morning and afternoons – in particular the afternoons. The play equipment is ‘out of bounds’ at these times. We understand that if parents are coming early to school for drop off and pick up, that your toddlers wish to play. This should only be happening if the parent is right there watching their child play. School aged children are not to be on the playground before and after school, even if a parent is there with them. This is a school rule and expectation. We would greatly appreciate your support and co-operation in this matter. Thank you.

Parking
We are very privileged to have access to a lovely car parking space here at Benedict Campus. There seems to always be issues surrounding car parking in any school – here is no exception.

- Please can all those who are dropping off and/or picking up their children not do so from the back car park. This is not a thoroughfare for families to use, but a staff carpark only.

- It would also be appreciated if the gate nearest to the Good Samaritan Hall be the only gate used for bringing your child/ren to and from school via the carpark. Coming through the main entrance to the school, over the crossing, is not recommended by staff and should only be with an adult – if at all.

- A reminder that the school rule for collecting children in the afternoons is to come to the Good Samaritan Hall/collection gate. Staff will not allow students to exit the school grounds unless an adult comes to the gate to pick them up. Again, we appreciate you co-operation in this.

University Student Placements
For the past three weeks, Mrs Jordan and the Year 3 Blue class have been host to Miss Jasmine Clark, a university student from Tabor University in Adelaide. Jasmine and the class had a wonderful time together and I know she will be sadly missed. Thank you Jasmine for choosing St Mark’s College.

For the next 3-4 weeks we welcome Miss Kendall Pretty and Miss Georgia Connelly to Benedict Campus. Kendall is studying through Charles Darwin University and will be assisting Mrs Richter and Mrs Arnold in the Year 2 Blue classroom. Georgia is completing her studies at the University of South Australia in Adelaide and will be working with Mrs Cable in the Year 4 Red classroom. We wish them both well during their time with us and hope that they learn many new skills for their future as a Primary School educator.

Kylie Smith,
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus
**Benedict Reminders**

**Parents of Year 4 students - Eucharist Parent Information Meeting**
Wednesday 27 May at 7.30pm in the Bishop Gallagher Centre at the Bosco Campus.

**Online Canteen Ordering**
When using the FlexiSchools Online Canteen Ordering service please remember:
- To register you must go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”. You will then be sent an email with further instructions to complete the registration.
- The cut off time for online orders each day is 9am.
- Any problems placing orders please call the FlexiSchools Help Desk on 1300 361 769.

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**Magdalen Centre Blessing**

Foundation and Year 1 students performed a play about the influence of the Good Samaritan Sisters at the Blessing of the Magdalen Centre at Benedict Campus.

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**News in Special Education**

Term two has once again been a very busy time for everyone. There are a number of activities staff and I have been involved in. Firstly, Phonological awareness testing is very important in the early years. Phonological awareness refers to an individual’s awareness of the phonological structure, or sound structure, of words. Phonological awareness is an important and reliable predictor of later reading ability and has, therefore, been the focus of much research lately in the field of education. All Foundation, Year 1 and some Year 2 students phonological awareness skills were tested last week by our ESO’s. We will reassess in term four to ensure growth in this area.

Secondly, we are really focussing on Mini-Lit this year. Mini-Lit is an evidence-based and effective early literacy program. It is a practical, systematic, explicit and effective model for teaching reading skills. Hannah Lavis has reassessed some of the students this term in Year 1 and 2 and the results have shown a dramatic improvements in decoding skills which is wonderful. Teachers have also commented that many of the children’s reading ages have also improved.

Thirdly, I have been attending training in Adelaide on Dyslexia. The On-Line Dyslexia Tutor Training which will allow me to train other staff who express interest in this area, which is very exciting. LAP is in full swing thanks to our wonderful volunteers. The children are really enjoying the extra support given to them.

Lastly, Data Collection and updating IEP’s have been a major focus for staff and will be ready for sharing with parents shortly.

With thanks,

Louise Richards
Special Education Teacher - Benedict Campus
From the Deputy Principal

A day in the life of the College

‘Each morning students gather, ready to start a new school day. There is a buzz in the air as they swap stories of sporting victories and defeats. Their smiling faces greet one another with a sense of hope and excitement ready to embark on the day of learning ahead.

As I visit the different classrooms I see students engaged in rich learning experiences, bursting at the seams to share with me what they are doing. There are students on tablets, building photo frames with their hands, and working with others to solve complex problems and equations. No two classrooms are ever the same. I see students who are quick to settle and focused on their learning and relational teachers who are passionate about their craft. As I walk into Mrs Congdon’s class I experience the warm welcome that I know makes her smile every day, ‘good morning Mrs Congdon and may God bless you’... what a beautiful welcome it was, highlighting that wonderful connection between class and teacher.

It's recess time now and the handball tournament begins. It truly is extraordinary to watch. Within minutes our Year 9 boys have organised who starts in what position, discussed a clear set of rules and the game is underway. The boys play with focus and intensity, they are competitive but they have fun. The handball court is a place of great friendship.

Wondering through the Admin corridors I see teachers who are great friends, there is genuine care and concern for one another but also laughter and creativity. I think to myself this is a community who love what they do, a supportive community working in partnership with one another.

Life at Bosco doesn't stop when the bell goes. After school the BGC is often filled with students dancing, singing or performing. There is much energy, creativity and enthusiasm that fills this room as students and teachers work together on the production, High School Musical. My heart smiles when I see the joy in the faces of all who gather for these rehearsals.

In the meanwhile the teachers have gathered, coffee cups in hand, it's time to focus on our own professional learning. It is a precious time, where wisdom and best practice is shared. When I look around the room I see passionate teachers committed to continuous improvement, working collaboratively to hone and refine their craft ensuring high quality teaching and learning is happening in all our classrooms.

As the sun begins to set I see the Salesian House boarders outside my window. They're at home in our playground, laughing and playing with their fellow brothers and sisters. There is a real family vibe here. They play for hours, shooting hoops often till there is no daylight left.

The evening sets in and it's time for training, a different sport each night of the week. Students have zipped home to complete their homework and have a bite to eat with the family. It is now time to focus on skill development and tactics, as they begin the all important preparation phase for the big game ahead.

As the lights go out and alarms go on, I can't help but think of the wonderful memories that were made here today. Memories that will live on in the hearts and minds of our young people for many years to come.

An ordinary day at Bosco has never felt so extraordinary’!

Kate Kilpatrick
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Year 11 Biology

On Tuesday 5 May the three Year 11 Biology classes attended Solomontown Beach to conduct a field investigation on the local Mangroves ecosystem. Students collected soil samples from the river and mudflats to conduct a range of tests on, in addition to documenting the local flora and fauna at the site. It was a chilly and muddy experience but all students had a fun day exploring the area and understanding more about our town’s ecology.

Jane Bennett, Tamara Kelly and Greg Phillips, Year 11 Biology Teachers

Year 12 Drama

Year 12 Drama students delighted audiences with their fun and high energy performance of ‘The Incomplete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged’. Congratulations to Drama Teacher Sandy Lee and the cast and crew on a wonderful performance.

St Mark’s College Positions Vacant

ESO - Assistant Boarding House Supervisor

Hours: 3:30pm to 8:30pm Monday - Thursday (40 weeks of the year ie school holidays off)
Key Duties include:
General Administration, Transporting Students and General Supervision.
Job share arrangements will be considered.
Enquiries to: Mrs Denise Arbon
Boarding House Supervisor on 0488 584 768

Applications to:
The Business Manager
Dominic LaBasso - St Mark’s College
Closing Date: 4pm, 5 June 2015

Year 12 Drama students delighted audiences with their fun and high energy performance of ‘The Incomplete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged’. Congratulations to Drama Teacher Sandy Lee and the cast and crew on a wonderful performance.

Year 11 Biology

Year 11 Biology students had a fun day exploring and conducting a field investigation on the local Mangroves ecosystem.
**SMC Football**

The 2015 football season has started on a promising note with plenty of numbers registering for the St Mark's College Football Club. We have 45 Little League, 25 U/11's and approximately 20 U/13 players.

Thank you to Alsanto as through their sponsorship we were able to purchase new guernseys for each team. They look fantastic! We also used money from our very successful fundraising BBQs last year.

I would like to acknowledge our Coaches for 2015, Andrew Gebert, David Cretan U/11 and John Murphy U/13. Thank you also to our parent volunteers who assist the coaches on Sunday and to those who have donated goods or their time to help with the BBQ. Thanks to Toni Boulton for her role as BBQ coordinator.

Matt Mead, SMC Football Coordinator

**SMC Netball**

The netball season has got off to a smooth start. It is great to see our teams out there competing with sportsmanship and enthusiasm each week. A special welcome to our newest player Kate Kilpatrick. Her skills and experience will be a wonderful asset to our A grade team this season.

Congratulations to the 35 senior girls who completed the Three's Umpiring Clinic on May 6. Many girls have commented on feeling more confident in their umpiring skills and knowledge of the game. Our thanks to the Sports Sponsor Alsanto whose financial support made that night possible.

Thanks to all our coaches, managers and parents who assist in a variety of ways each week to support girls playing netball.

Katie Pole, SMC Netball Coordinator

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**Fundraising Fun at Bosco**

All week the College has enjoyed a fun atmosphere as staff and students participated in different activities to raise funds for the people of Nepal as part of Catholic Education Week. Thank you to our brave Bosco Teachers (pictured above) who volunteered to be part of the Sponge Throwing Competition and to our students who generously donated.
Statewide YCS Camp

The SA April Review YCS Camp was nothing short of engaging. Held at Cardijn College in Noarlunga, students were welcomed into a warm and inviting atmosphere by one another. The joining of the Adelaide and Port Pirie Dioceses resulted in the creation of many friendships, with the group having consisted of students with varying interests and character. With this year’s YCS campaign revolving around the mental health and wellbeing of youth in Australia, we focused on issues that are a reality for many students across Australia, allowing for captivating Reviews of Life, and relatable discussions and reflections. The revival of the Breakfree campaign through the inclusion of the mental health of refugees and asylum seekers also brought back familiar topics and ideas which assisted in the formulation of effective and achievable active responses to the issues discussed. By successfully analysing and brainstorming long-term and permanent solutions to the problems affecting people of our age while using our faith as a guide, we realised the potential within each and every one of us which is at its strongest when united as one body of students. While hard and focused campaign training was undertaken throughout the camps extent, it was broken up by the inclusion of enjoyable games and group activities in which we had fun while strengthening us as a group such as through hilarious sessions of the strategic game ‘Mafia’ in which our trust for one another was put to the test. Overall, April’s YCS camp was an excellent experience for everyone involved, engaging students through training sessions and discussions of both a serious and entertaining nature, and allowing lasting friendships between one another to bud.

Felicia Halfacre, Year 12 student

Confirmation

This Sunday 24 May, we have 41 children from our school and Parish receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The students have enthusiastically undertaken the Sacramental program under the leadership and guidance of their teachers. I would like to thank Kathryn Crouch, Jack Jordan, Pia Keain and Matthew Mead for the preparation and learning they have undertaken with the Year 7 classes.

It is pleasing to see the way that all students have engaged with the Sacrament of Confirmation and supported each other on the journey. This program culminated in a Retreat Day held this week where students were able to draw all their learning and experiences together in readiness for the celebration of the sacrament. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support from those students who are not receiving the sacrament that they have given to the candidates in a variety of ways.

This program would not be successful without the input and guidance of the Year 7 families. Your example, participation and contributions throughout the sacramental program contributed to the program’s success.

Congratulations and many blessings to the following children who will receive the sacrament this Sunday:

Bianca Amato, Lucee Bessen, Tate Boulton, Ben Corll, Jayden Carmody, Thomas Castle, Bailey Cangdon, Mitch Cunningham, Sam DeGaia, Shannon Doyle, Blair Farinola, Brayden Farrugia, Euan Fetherstonhaugh, Rhiana Fetherstonhaugh, Leah Finlay, Kallis Freer, Owen Fuchs, Mya Giancapsro, Danielle Greig, Fraser Hanlon, Chloe Hillier, Alice Hubert, Hugh Jackson, Lillian Keain, Ethan Malycha, Kasey McDonald, Kim Nguyen, Jay Norton, Caitlin Oliphant, Tarnia Pasculli, Joel Sciancalepore, Lucinda Smallacombe, Ben Spadavecchia, Indiana Stephens, Caitlin Tee, Jack Tiller, Lucy Todd & Maggie Waters.

Katie Pole, RE Liturgy/Sacramental Coordinator

Confirmation students Kallis, Hugh, Shannon and Chloe are pictured preparing for their Sacrament this coming Sunday 24 May.

Year 12 student Felicia Halfacre with the body of students that made up the YCS camp group at Cardijn College, Noarlunga.
Year 2 Excursion

Year 2 students recently enjoyed an excursion to the Port Pirie RSL Museum and Bundaleer Forest.

Notices

Fun a Plenty

Sunday 31 May from 3pm to 4.30pm at Plenty Street Park. For Primary aged children and families. Free games, bible stories, craft and sausage sizzle. Run by the Port Pirie Baptist Church, Hannan Street, Enquiries please contact Pastor Roger Kleinig on 0427 399 244.

Piano and Keyboard Lessons at St Mark’s College

Enquiries welcome, please contact Anne Hansen (Bachelor of Music) on 86 36-2231 or 0429 866 242.