We gathered for sport and we gathered for Retreat. A Magazine was published and the Bishop blessed some students. There were exams and some rain and a new resident at McNally Farm.

**Winter Sports and generous Coaches**

The weekly rhythms of winter school sport are now established. When Friday afternoon and Saturday morning comes students dress in freshly washed sport uniforms, pack up a kit and fill the water bottle. They are ready to play. Every week hundreds of our St Mark’s students don the colours and engage in some sort of game. They chase netballs, hit hockey balls, swoop on soccer balls and stumble into packs and emerge with footballs. The Port Pirie fields are filled with the fun of engagement and the hope of winning. We hear the cheering of spectators and applaud the exhaustion of effort. Every week students give much energy to running around and trying their best. It is a feature of our community. And our young people flourish. The wonderful formative qualities of sport are part of the experience of hundreds and hundreds of young people. The games build fitness and help us learn about ourselves. There are joyous goals, the management of an injury, the agony of defeat, the reflective understanding of how to play and it happens every week. It is part of the weekly rhythm and children love it. It is vitally important and it doesn’t happen without a generous coach and a supportive team manager.

Every week coaches and managers arrive at windswept fields, echoing courts or glistening, dewy pitches. They get there first. Coaches do that. They probably have a son or daughter in tow who has to do some jobs and plays in positions that the other children don’t want to. And coaches have a habit of glancing at the gate to see who is arriving. They just want the team to get there. That’s the worry. They balance boards clipped with team lists and positional placings and they carry warm up balls which too easily are lost. They fill water bottles, wonder if the first aid kit got repacked and click stop watches. They carry a mobile phone filled with team names that could very easily ring with a late scratching. Oh no! What to do now? They have a team plan and a wonderful smile as they offer children a chance to learn skills and feel part of a team.

I am so very grateful for our coaches. They offer the opportunity of sport and team cohesion. They worry about strategy and improving, training and fairness. They develop personal humility and patience, and put up with frustration. All this just for a quick thanks from a player even as coaches leave this incredible legacy. A student gets a chance to play, to improve, to laugh, to dream. Every week coaches and managers have to be generous. Every week young people are given the joy of playing. Every week parents get to see the amazement of skill and the innocence of effort. They are proud. I know that they are grateful as well. We are lucky to have our coaches.

**The new Art and Technology Building**

The new Art and Technology building is taking shape. Despite the weather intrusion we are on time and building well. The vision of the architect and the shape of the new complex seem real now. We can see what it is supposed to be. There was a great crane that arrived at Bosco last week. It was needed to carry huge steel girders into place. It was extraordinary to watch. It was like a giant Mechano set being put together. Slowly, methodically, winching with care and expertise, dangerous, huge beams were...
Bosco Retreats
The Year 9, 10, 11 Student Retreats were held this week. We do this every year. We take the students off campus. We give them a chance to step away from the classroom demands and the busyness of their lives and reflect on what they value and get them to connect with that spiritual self within. It becomes a quite inspiring process. The College engages a group of nine young people to run the day. These are graduates from high schools in both Australia and the United States. Some have completed first or second year university. They are young Catholic people with a fresh enthusiasm for spirituality who have committed a year of their lives in the ministry of retreat. They have a voice and a vision for our young people. They speak with an authenticity and make a connection that is unique and penetrating. The team is called the National Evangelical Team and they surprised me with their depth of faith and commitment to the welfare of our students. I felt very reassured that the journey of the day for our students was safe, thoughtful, challenging, faith filled and fun. It was a good experience.

College Magazine
The 2014 College Magazine has now been published and distributed. It is an extraordinary testimonial to the richness and variety of St Mark’s life. It celebrates community and achievement. It honours our charism and spirituality. It tells the story of our year together very thoroughly. And with all of this it is a joy to read and cleverly designed. I acknowledge the work of Sharon Sard as Editor. The whole document reflects her crafting exactness, eye for detail and love of our students. The images touch the classroom demands and the busyness of their lives and reflect on what they value and get them to connect with that spiritual self within. It becomes a quite inspiring process. The College engages a group of nine young people to run the day. These are graduates from high schools in both Australia and the United States. Some have completed first or second year university. They are young Catholic people with a fresh enthusiasm for spirituality who have committed a year of their lives in the ministry of retreat. They have a voice and a vision for our young people. They speak with an authenticity and make a connection that is unique and penetrating. The team is called the National Evangelical Team and they surprised me with their depth of faith and commitment to the welfare of our students. I felt very reassured that the journey of the day for our students was safe, thoughtful, challenging, faith filled and fun. It was a good experience.

The Exams
In a busy week for the Year 10s and 11s they completed a series of exams. This brings together the learning and understanding of the semester. It is a daunting and formal process. There are expectations and challenges for the students. The whole experience is serious and intimidating. There is much effort and thought needed. Teachers want the students to do well and are now assessing the exam achievement. It is worth a discussion at home when reports come at the end of the term.

The Philippines Mass
The Bishop offered Mass and blessing for the Philippines Immersion students last week. In a Mass at the Cathedral, which recognized the anniversary of Philippines independence, our students were presented for acknowledgment. They have two weeks before they fly off to their immersion. The Bishop and Father Francis were keen to invite them to think about the privilege of pilgrimage. They asked them to embrace the experience and learn about God, faith, themselves and a beautiful country. I was grateful of the support and pleased that they were able to stand in front of the parish and be presented with a special letter from the Bishop and a cross and a personal journal to take with them. The Philippine community then offered them morning tea with a variety of Philippine foods. The excitement builds.

The Farm and some Rain
McNally Farm has a new resident. A charming Suri Alpaca called Jasper has taken up residence on our farm who we will bottle feed for the next few weeks. Jasper has been kindly donated to the school by Mrs Kay Mudge, and will be a companion for our Boer goats.
Our Philippines Immersion students have been busy raising funds to donate to the Philippine schools they will be visiting during their trip.

**Philippines Immersion**

Our Philippines Immersion students recently held cake stalls at both the Bosco and Benedict Campuses to raise money to donate to the schools being visited during their trip. The students and other generous volunteers boked up a storm, allowing us to sell a huge variety of cakes and sweets. Both cake stalls were very well supported by students and staff, with a fantastic combined total of over $700 being raised. Many thanks to all those who supported by baking, donating or buying a cake or two.

**Religious Education**

The Parish/School Family Mass is fast approaching. We look forward to many of our St Mark’s families joining in this celebration as part of the ‘Year of the Family’ in the church. Special thanks to the Year 4 and 7 Sacramental students who have volunteered to help with the ministries of the Mass. Could all of those children please be at St Anthony’s by 4.40pm.

Our Year 4 students are now working on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. A reminder that students will bring the program home frequently to share with families. Parents are asked to discuss each topic with their child. It is also good if parents are able to comment or add ideas to the work the students are doing. If any family still have not got the necessary information regarding the Sacramental Programme please see your child’s class teacher or myself.

We congratulate Mia and Liam Williams who were baptised into our Catholic Parish Family last weekend along with their baby cousin.

Katie Pole,
RE Liturgy/Sacramental Coordinator

---

**Philippines Immersion Raffle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tickets :</th>
<th>$1.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drawn :</td>
<td>30 June 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Prize** - Two nights stay at Beltana Station for 8 people (valued at $700)

**20 Consolation prizes** - Wine, jewellery, vouchers and gifts.

Tickets available from the Front Office at Bosco and Benedict Campus.

**Proceeds to the Philippines Schools visited by the students.**

---

**St Ann’s College Awards**

Congratulations to former SMC students who have been awarded the following prestigious Scholarships and Prizes at St Ann’s College for accommodation in 2015:

- **Vittorio Ciampi** - Thompson Virgo Scholarship
- **Sasha de Vries** - Collegians Awards
- **Rachel Dite** - Sampson Prize
- **Hugo Wallace** - Sampson Prize
From the Deputy Principal

Assessment and Reporting
During this first half of the year, staff and students are busy working hard and assessing the outcomes of all that they do. This is culminating at present into the staff preparing student reports. I commend all students on the excellent efforts they are going to in ensuring their assessments are complete to the best of their ability; and the staff on the amazing amount of time and effort it takes to report on the students in their charge to ensure, you the parents, receive the most accurate account of their work and personal achievements. These reports will be sent home on the last day of term.

Disappointing Absences
All staff have been both disappointed and saddened by the amount of families taking students out of school early on long weekends and before the term holidays begin. This has become an increasingly larger number and is very concerning. The last day of any term is still a specified school day where learning and social interaction continue.

Taking students out early is not helping them value and learn about the importance of the role they have in their education or the responsibilities and expectations that go with it. If we undervalue their education by prioritising absenteeism at school – what message is this giving them for their own future work ethic??

Our school already has quite an early finish at 12:20 pm, giving families plenty of time to organise their holiday to begin earlier than most other schools around South Australia. This day is fast approaching. We would love for it to be a priority in your child and families lives to be at school to enjoy the last day of term with their teacher and friends. Please consider this in the coming last weeks of term.

Inappropriate Language
Our school is a place of learning and our students are at a very impressionable age. The words and actions that we use are vital communicators to our younger generation. At St Mark’s College, we do not tolerate any form of inappropriate language or physical action that can hurt others. We expect appropriate words and actions from all staff and students, as well as from our parent body. Please ensure when you are within the grounds of the school (including the carpark), you curb your words and actions to be appropriate for the young minds that are within its boundaries. This would be greatly appreciated and we thank you for your understanding and support.

Car Park Trial
On Wednesday we began a two week trial to try and make our Benedict Car Park less congested with ease of traffic flow. Staff, parents and students all co-operated beautifully to ensure it went as smoothly as possible. Thank you to everyone for their patience and cooperation.

To clarify a few things:

- All parents can use the signposted ‘Drop Off Zone’ in the morning and afternoon. Please ensure, at the end of the day, to wait until after 3:25 pm to pick up your children. This ensures your children are there and you are not waiting for them to arrive.

- The two ‘Disabled Parking’ bays have been moved and are now opposite the gate into the Good Samaritan Hall. Please ensure you are a legitimate user of these as we do have families who use them.

- If walking your children into the school grounds, you can enter either at the Good Samaritan Hall OR over the crossing at the front of the school. If entering using the crossing, please ensure you wait for traffic pulling in from Wandearah Road. This ensures that congestion does not occur with cars banking over the road in front of on-coming traffic. It is the safer option and only takes an extra minute to do. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

- Please ensure your children know if you are coming into the school to pick them up by car or on foot as there are two different places for them to wait. This will cause less confusion and limit congestion in the car park.

- Students who walk home have been strongly encouraged to use the sidewalk at the far end of the carpark to walk to Drage Street and cross over safely to Wandearah Road. Students heading in the other direction toward the Main Road need to ensure parents have informed the Front Office of their permission for their children to do so. Thank you.

I thank all parents, grandparents and friends of the Benedict community for their cooperation and support as we trial these changes. If we work together, it will not only be successful, but long lasting.

Kylie Smith,
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus
How will you be Christ to others this week?

Remember these words by St Teresa of Avila as you go about your week:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Or the even more powerful ‘modern’ take:

Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours,
Yours are the tweets through which love touches this world,
Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared,
Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.

Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours.

How will you be Christ to others this week?

---

SAPSASA Football

In Week 5 this term a group of 21 young footballers from Port Pirie competed against other districts from across South Australia in the SAPSASA Football Carnival. The side included 13 students from St Mark’s College, made up of Year 6 and 7 students with varying football experience.

Despite initial forecasts being gloomy, the rain stayed away and the boys enjoyed a week of football in the sun at Barrett Reserve, West Beach. The carnival operated with a round robin format, allowing each team to play every other side in their division. This meant that by the end of the week each team had played 10 games of football. The players demonstrated qualities of perseverance and resilience to not only play out 10 games of football in a week, but to take the win in 6 of those games.

It was a terrific week for the students as they enjoyed competing against players from other districts. It was also a great opportunity for them to forge friendships with their team mates from other schools within the Port Pirie region.

The parents who came along to the carnival were delighted with the growth and improvement of the team over the week.

Special thanks go to Damien Freer, who gave up many hours of his time to coach the team.

Henry Whiting, Benedict Sports Coordinator

---

SAPSASA Netball

In Week 5 a group of chosen girls from Year 6 and 7 took part in the Pirie District SAPSASA Netball Carnival.

The teams competed in Division 2 and Division 6. I was in Division 2; we won 2 games and lost the others. During the week we competed against a total of 9 teams from all over South Australia.

It was a great week because I got to spend time with friends and meet new friends and I was able to spend a week playing a sport I love.

It was one of the best weeks ever and was made better by going out for dinner with friends and catching a movie during the week.

I really think that SAPSASA is a very good opportunity to play a great sport and meet new people.

Caitlin Tee, Year 7 student

---

Year 1 Writing

Sometimes a wild rabbit comes into our yard and we feed it carrots and strawberry tops. We named him Peter, like Peter Rabbit. **Matilda, Year 1 student**

Batman, our froglet, got stuck under the filter and Miss Capurso saved him! He was right underneath it so it was hard to get him out. **Kycenn, Year 1 student**

I like to play with my electric cars with my dad on rainy days. He likes the electric cars too. I had a lazy day because it was cold and rainy outside. **Laura, Year 1 student**

On the weekend I was at my Nanny’s house and me and my Poppy were riding around the back of the yard. I was doing burn outs and Poppy was doing burn outs too. I did the biggest burnout. But when I went out in the paddock I saw six kangaroos out there. I was chasing the kangaroos all the way to the house and Poppy almost crashed into all of the kangaroos but he stopped in time. Then we both went to have a look at the paddock again at dark, with a spot light. There was a fox! When Poppy shot the gun it went **bang**! It scared me that much it almost made me jump off the motorbike. Poppy laughed so much that I started to laugh too. We saw a Rabbit looking at me (Ryder) because the motorbikes are so loud. We saw a big fox and it was the size of the whole motorbike tyre.

(The first part is real and the rest I made up. I did the loud words really **black**.)

**Ryder, Year 1 student**

---

Our SAPSASA Footballers with Damien Freer and Henry Whiting.
From the Deputy Principal

Attendance - A priority for all
Regular attendance at school is fundamental to student learning. Research confirms a strong link between attendance and student learning. While some student absences are unavoidable and understandable due to illness and the like, many are not. The nature of the relationship between absence from school and achievement for all students strongly suggests that every day attendance in school contributes towards a child's learning, and that academic outcomes are enhanced by maximising attendance in school. Parents need to be aware of these relationships and understand that when their child misses school it can have an ongoing impact on learning. Parents who make regular attendance a priority are also helping their children to value learning and to accept responsibility. These are important lessons for life.

I encourage parents to contact the school should they have concerns about their child's attendance or wellbeing. Our staff will work in partnership with you to support, guide and nurture your child, ensuring they are provided every possible learning opportunity.

Communication in a digital age
As we move forward in this digital age we are hoping to improve the way we communicate with you as parents about learning and community matters. As such we are seeking your support in providing the school with your email address. This email address will be used by the school to communicate important information about upcoming events such as exams, Retreats, camps, parent teacher interviews and much more. We are hopeful that this, combined with our reminder text messages, will improve our communication with families and reduce the amount of letters that disappear into the 'black hole' of the school bag. A letter outlining this along with a return slip will be distributed to families this week and I ask that these are returned by 3 July, the last day of term.

Uniform
As the term progresses I have noticed a few inconsistencies in the way our school uniform is being worn and I would like to take this opportunity to gently remind students and their families of the following:

- **Year 12 Jumpers** – are only to be worn on Tuesday's and Thursday's
- **Sports Uniform** - includes the St Mark's tracksuit/shorts and polo shirt. Students should not to be wearing the College winter jumper with their shorts. Students are also required to wear plain white socks.
- **Piercings/Jewellery** - One piercing is permitted in each ear lobe housing a simple stud or sleeper. Bangles or bracelets are not to be worn at school.
- **Hair** - should be neat and tidy and off the face. Hair below the collar should be tied back (this applies for both boys and girls).
- **Grooming** - Make up and nail polish is not permitted to be worn to school and students wearing this will be asked kindly to remove it. Boys are required to present to school each day clean-shaven.

Year 12 - Time to Focus
St Mark's staff recognise the unique challenges facing our Year 12 students today as they make their future career plans and struggle with the demands of their busy lives. It is this time of term when students start to feel the pressure of the Year 12 workload and research project is due. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight 5 key areas that will support your child in keeping on top of their workload.

---

End of Term 2
Friday 3 July
Benedict finish at 12.20
Bosco finish at 12.30
Foundation to Year 12 Semester 1 Reports Issued

Term 3 commences
Tuesday 21 July
• **Attendance:** For students to be successful in their studies they must be present in all classes. If your child is feeling stressed or overwhelmed it is important that they continue to attend every day. At times, they may want to stay at home to ‘catch up’ on work but it is important that you know that doing this often places the individual further behind.

• **Communication:** Need to clarify a question? Unsure about a particular concept…asking for help is OK; it will save a lot of wasted time and energy. I encourage parents and students to reach out to their teachers, talk to them about the learning process and clarify any uncertainties.

• **Attitude:** A positive attitude and commitment to learning go a long way. It is important that students listen to their teachers and do what they say in order to be successful in their learning. When engaging in conversations with your child about their day, and their learning, it is important to keep the conversation positive and focus on small achievable goals.

• **Study Routine:** To be successful students must be committed to doing the necessary study after hours. For examinable subjects, students should be engaging in ongoing revision of key concepts, even if no formal homework is set. A sound after hours study routine is the key to staying ahead of the game.

• **Time Management:** For students to keep on top of their study workload, they must make study and homework a high priority. This may mean that they need to reassess their other commitments e.g. part time work and social media etc.

Aside from these factors, it is equally important that students look after their wellbeing. Ensuring healthy food is consumed, regular physical activity is completed and adequate sleep is achieved enables a student to cope with this stressful time.

Parents, please know that we are committed to working with you and your child. There is no doubt that the final year of secondary schooling can, at times, be challenging. Please do not hesitate to make contact with the school should you have any concerns about your child’s wellbeing or learning.

*Kate Kilpatrick*,
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
Sports News

SMC Netball

“Bling Disco”

Thursday 2 July
Good Samaritan Hall at Benedict Campus
6pm to 7.30pm

All Benedict students welcome!
- Fully supervised
- No passouts
- Children must be collected from the door
Drinks, Chips, Lollies and Glo Sticks for sale.

SMC Netball

The season is progressing very quickly. Congratulations to all our players who competed at the Country Carnival in Adelaide over the June Long Weekend.

At the end of this term we have our annual Disco for all Benedict Campus students. Please see the flyer for details. We also have a raffle with Netballs signed by the Thunderbirds, sports equipment and meal vouchers as prizes. This raffle will be drawn at the disco. Special thanks to JoDee Markham for organising this raffle.

Thanks to all parents who have already undertaken their canteen duty. Each player gets one duty a year. Please arrange a replacement or a swap if you are unable to fill your allocated time.

During the school holidays there is no netball on the Middle weekend July 11. Under 8 and 9 players do not play on July 18.

Katie Pole, SMC Netball Coordinator

9 Aside Football

On the 4 June nearly all the Year 8 and 9 students braved the windy conditions and competed in the Mark Jamar 9 Aside Football Carnival at the Senate Road Complex. St Mark’s played against teams from John Pirie Secondary School, Mid North Christian College and Port Broughton Area School. The day was a huge success in providing fun and enjoyment to all of the students involved. On the day St Mark’s won shields in the Year 8 boys, the Year 9 boy’s and the Year 8/9 girls Division 3 competition as well as the overall shield for the most successful school.

A big thank you goes to all of the Year 10 students who helped to coach and umpire all of the Saint Mark’s teams, your patience and enthusiasm was fantastic. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the spirit of the competition or helped on the day. It was a successful day, enjoyed by all.

Jesslyn Oxford, Bosco Sports Coordinator
TAFE SA requests your company to attend the Port Pirie Campus Open Day
- Choose your TAFE SA pathway
- Meet employers
- Speak to Universities
- Visit our classes and workshops
- BBQ sizzle available

Thursday 25th June 2015, from 12:00 noon
TAFE SA Port Pirie Campus Mary Elie St Port Pirie
Please RSVP by 19th June to: Lynda, Margie or Jess 8638 4222

Around the College

Year 11 General Engineering Major Project
As a part of Year 11 General Engineering students were required to design and construct a tubular steel project.

Here are a few examples of the projects students completed this Semester from Mr Murphy and Mr Munday’s classes.

---

A Reminder
Parents and visitors to the College are reminded that they are required to report to the Front Office before entering the College grounds. On both Campuses, between 8.50am and 3.10pm, there shouldn’t be anyone walking around without signing in. Even if you are innocently delivering a forgotten lunch or making a connection with a teacher please let the Front Office know. We are obliged to know who is on site at all times and this is a WHS legislated requirement. Thank you.

For further information please contact:
Ms Simone Atkinson,
Student Pathways Co-ordinator
Ph: 86338837
E: satkinson@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au

The Mid North Engineering Academy (MNEA) may be for you!
The MNEA helps budding metal fabricators pursue a career in engineering and manufacturing businesses within our region.

Engineering Your Future
Port Football and Community Sporting Club
Open daily from 10.00am

SMC Uniform
Port Pirie SportsScene Super Warehouse is now stocking Clarks School Shoes. Sizes and widths to suit all feet. Come and get measured up today!

SMC Scarves
Red and Navy St Mark’s scarves are now available for sale from the Front Office at Bosco and Benedict Campus.

Cost is $16.50 each.

An attractive and practical winter accessory that complements the SMC Winter Uniform.

Notices

Northern Demons Soccer Club and Make A Wish - Back to the 80’s
Let’s go back to the 80’s again!! Sunday 20 June from 7.30pm til late at the Virtus Soccer Club, 9 Parks Street. Come along and enjoy hours of 80’s movie soundtrack songs plus lots of your other favourites! Free entry. Drinks specials, door raffles and costume prizes.
Dress Code - 80’s/Movies (Optional).

Piano Lessons - Grant Hanlon
Please contact Grant Hanlon on 0414 320 840. Vacancies at Benedict and after school lessons also available at 16 Arthur Street.

Blue Light Movie Night
Movie “The Book of Life” at Keith Michell Theatre from 6.30pm to 9pm on Friday 26 June. Cost $5 for ages 8 to 16 years. Food and Drinks available. No Passouts.

Music Lessons - Emily Smith
Emily Smith is an instrumental music teacher and performer from Laura. She is offering music lessons. For more information please call 0411 339 510.

SMC Scarves
Clarks Daytona Snr $129.95
Clarks Daytona Jr $124.95
Clarks Infinity Snr $129.95
Clarks Infinity Jr $119.95