The buildings are taking shape and there has been a delightful Benedict festival full of creativity and sugar. The Board passed the budget and the Year 3 students entered into a Sacramental time.

Mission Week
I walked into Benedict at the beginning of lunch just in time to see them setting up for the Mission Gala Day. It was a hive of creative industry. There were signs and invitations, stall and activities. There were prizes and tempting sweet delights. The children chatted and organised in this marvellous atmosphere. They got things ready, created a carnival, assembled with optimism and a sea of sugar. There were student driven activities of many varieties. The really little ones were running around with just enough time to stuff bundles of confectionary into their mouths and work out what to spend next. The bigger ones were certainly after them and making sure that they managed a plastic envelope with their money. I'm not too sure if the Junior Primaries knew what their little packet of wealth contained but they were having fingers nails painted, hair dyed, visiting ghost tunnels and throwing balls for more sugary prizes. Members of staff hovered at the edges to make sure that things went well but these students of ours were outstanding in their initiative, organisation and commitment.

Reconciliation
I watched a number of our Year 3s head up to the altar at Mass last Sunday. They were making their final visual commitment to the Parish in preparation for their First Reconciliation. They came at the invitation of the priest who jokingly welcomed them and asked how their ‘sinning’ was going. It was a moment of cuteness because they looked a little lost, a little in awe and a tiny bit fragile. But they were more than cute. They were making a decision. These young people were entering into the life of the Church through a formal sacrament. Their first Reconciliation was to be on Thursday and the Mass time was a chance for the Parish to welcome and affirm. We smiled and applauded and thought about their innocence and precious commitment to holiness. Young children were making a decision about faith. They didn’t seem very sinful to me. I was pretty proud of them. I’m certain God would have been as well.

And at the end of it all Matilda Gebert stayed behind and was joined by her mum and dad and family. A number of friends and relatives bustled to the baptismal font with Matilda to be welcomed by Father Edward, a visiting priest. Matilda had decided to become a Catholic. She had been attracted by the story and ritual of the Church and with the blessing and support of parents Jayne and Andrew she stayed “for a splash of water” as Father Edward charmingly noted. Matilda was baptised a Catholic. She was following in the footsteps of her brother Noah who is now in Grade 4 and has also been baptised. I marvelled at their decision and the wonderful support of their parents who do not come from the Catholic tradition. The Holy Spirit was working.
Finally the moment came for the gathering in the Cathedral and it was a delightful time to see holiness and courage. There was much concentration as our Year 3s approached the friendly, caring priests for confession. Families were there in support. I have a special thanks for the teachers who prepared all the children for the sacrament. This has been a time of preparation and support. This sacrament is intimate and intimidating, personal and gentle, comforting and confronting. I saw it on Thursday night. It is part of our shared heritage as Catholics and we offer a prayer of thanks for the blessing of Grade 3 faithfulness.

The final College Board meeting
Our College Board met for the last time for the year. I felt it was a great reflection of cohesiveness, strategic planning and a deep understanding and care for our community. We looked at the key strategies from the budget and discussed the manner in which our money for 2016 would be spent. There were questions and mostly agreement. The Budget passed into action. We discussed enrolments, in particular Boarding students, through scholarship (Scholarship Committee). We discussed the television advertisements (Marketing Committee), the new blazer (Uniform Committee) and the Strategic Plan (Deputy Principals). We reported on sporting matters (Sport Committee) and the many activities of the Parents and Friends (P+F Representative). There are sub committees for Finance, Boarding, Work Health and Safety and Policy Development which are part of the usual discussion. I am accountable to the Board every month with a report and feel very grateful for their insight and challenge and generous work as a group.

The Buildings
In the last few months the College Board of Management has overseen the development of a number of learning spaces and the school almost feels like a construction site. There is development and change everywhere. There are hard hats and cement trucks, foremen with folders and high viz workers digging trenches and framing up for slabs. There is a major upgrading at Benedict to progress and enhance the early learning space. The Magdalen space is getting a twin sister and much work has unfolded. There is a huge enterprise at Bosco in preparation for the senior secondary students and the Technology Centre is framed up and progressing. The Administration block is changing every day and there is safety fencing, clunk, clunk clunking and much excitement around my office. I know that architects are regularly visiting, contractors are coming in, there has to be decisions about materials, colour and style, furnishings and fabrics. We are experiencing a significant College development and at the start of next year there will be exemplary learning spaces that will engage and encourage. I congratulate the Business Manager Dominic LoBasso on his project management and builders McMahon Constructions and Alsanto Builders on the sensitive and courteous manner in which they interact with the school. I also thank all community members for the patience needed to accommodate the change.

Greg Hay,
Principal
Around the College

Religious Education

This Wednesday 18 November, our Year 3 Reconciliation Students celebrated the sacrament for the first time.

Congratulations goes to: Rylan Akker, Ava Amato, Zach Bath, Zara Clark, Jessica Doyle, Austin Dunbar, Ruby Dunbar, Amahli Farinola, Bradie Fowler, James Gebert, Matilda Gebert, Meg Hall, Cheynae Jones, Emmerson Jones-Lawrie, Kylan Malycha, Lucas Manners, Addison Roberts, Ruby Simpson, Connor Smart, Taya Smith, Dekotah Whelan and Katie Wilson.

Special thanks to Angela Jordan and Louise Malchow who have worked with the students on this beautiful sacrament of choices, healing, forgiveness and God’s continual offer of love. I hope that this sacrament is one that strengthens the students as they journey through life. May they find it a source of help in growing to be the best person they can possibly be.

Our M-Team have been busy this term. This week we had a joint luncheon and meeting with the High School YCS group. It was a great opportunity for sharing the work that we do. Next week the M Team will venture to St Joseph’s House to celebrate Mass, share some Christmas spirit and present them with some much needed equipment from our fundraising efforts. We will have a report on this visit next newsletter.

I would also like to remind all families that the Benedict End of Year Liturgy is on Friday December 4 at 10am in the Good Samaritan Hall. All families are welcome to join us as we celebrate the gifts we have received throughout 2015 and farewell our Year 7 students as the move on from Benedict Campus.

Katie Pole,
RE Liturgy/Sacramental Coordinator

New College Blazers

The new College Blazer is now available for purchase through Sportscene Super Warehouse. Orders will be placed once a minimum order of 6 is reached and delivery is approx. 6-8 weeks.

Prices are:
Child - $200.00
Youth - $210.00
Adult - $215.00

SMC Uniform Committee

Congratulations to our Year 3 students who recently made their First Reconciliation at St Mark’s Cathedral.

Austin and Addison share special moments during their First Reconciliation.
**From the Deputy Principal**

**Mission Gala Day**
On Friday 6 November we held our annual Gala Day fundraiser for Catholic Missions. Classes had been preparing the event for a number of weeks and were excited about the prospect of bringing in money and spending it for such a good cause. This year has been no exception to the generosity of our families within the school community. So, with great excitement and joy, I announce the grand total raised at Gala Day - $3 575.00 !!!!! Thank you to all families for this amazing contribution for such a worthwhile and worthy cause. The Catholic Missions will be most appreciative.

**Remembrance Day**
Jack Jordan and his Year 7 class organised a moving service for us on Remembrance Day in the Quadrangle area. There was memorabilia from the local RSL, depicting clothing worn in the First and Second World Wars, for the students to look at and think about those who wore them. Although difficult to understand the enormity of such an occasion, the student’s respectful silence was truly beautiful and the service both traditional and heartfelt. It is always difficult to stand and hear ‘The Last Post’ and the ‘Rouse’ after the minute silence. It is a wonderful day to remember all those who have fallen in the past and to the present day – ‘Lest We Forget’.

**Kmart Wishing Tree**
On Monday this week I was invited to represent the College community at the local Kmart Wishing Tree Official Opening. This year, Kmart have the local support of Centacare as one of their sponsors. It was a lovely ceremony and is a wonderful initiative to offer support to local families in need at Christmas. Christmas should be a joyous occasion, but for many it is not. If you are in the store, don’t forget to think of putting a gift under the tree and making a little person’s day at Christmas!

**Orientation Day for New Year 1-7 students and New Year 8-12 students**
Monday 30 November

**Benedict End of Year Liturgy**
Friday 4 December at 10am in the Good Samaritan Hall
All welcome!

**Benedict’s Got Talent**
Monday 7 December at 11.15am in GSH

**Reception Orientation**
On Wednesday there were many little nervous and excited faces arriving at Benedict for their BIG School transition day. Our Year 7 SRC’s met the families in the Quadrangle Area to welcome them and take them across to the Magdalen Centre. There was definitely a beehive of activity in there during their visit. Our current Foundation classes were occupied in various areas of the school during this time before culminating in the Library just before going back to their classes. It was lovely to put names to faces and see some of our little brothers and sisters of present students coming and ‘in the know,’ helping the new families and their children. What a wonderful event and a lovely community we have here at St Mark’s College!

**Ronald McDonald House ‘Ride for Sick Kids SA’ Visit**
On Thursday morning we were one of four schools in South Australia chosen for the Ronald McDonald House ‘Ride for Sick Kids SA’ to visit on their bike ride from Port Lincoln to Adelaide. The students wore their sports uniform with a ‘tinge of red’ in support of the cycling crew and offered small donations for their charity. As a result we raised $430. We all met in the Good Samaritan Hall when they arrived and the cyclists spoke to us about the ride, the work of the House, basic bike safety, health and nutrition. It was great fun and the riders were entertaining to say the least! In preparation for their visit, the students took part in a Colouring In Competition in the hope of winning a bike and other prizes. These were decided on the day! The lucky winner of the bike was Zoe Reid, with the other prize winners being Lucy Todd, Michael McGinnis, Schofield Leske, Anna Cunningham, Jesslyn Dite. All students in the school received a water bottle in thanks from the team. Hopefully this will encourage our students to not only get on their bikes and keep riding for enjoyment, fun and fitness; but to also remember those who are doing it tough in our communities and the wonderful ways that others raise money for them.

**Upcoming Date**
Our annual and much anticipated ‘Benedict’s Got Talent’ is taking place on Monday 7 December at 11.15 am in the Good Samaritan Hall. Our students are practising and rehearsing for this in their spare time. Auditions will be taking place within the coming week.

**2016 Student Considerations**
Throughout this term and last, staff have been busy working on class groupings to ensure students are placed to best suit their individual needs. Many things are taken into account and it is a difficult and long process. Thank you to all those who have offered recommendations in writing for 2016 student considerations. All considerations are taken into account when planning class groupings. Please note that no more considerations will be accepted now due to class groupings being almost finalised.

Kylie Smith,
Deputy Principal - Benedict Campus
Congratulations to our “Ride for Sick Kids SA” Colouring Competition prize winners, Michael, Schofield, Anna, Lucy, Zoe and Jesslyn.
From the Deputy Principal

What a performance
On Thursday last week families gathered in the BGC to hear a special performance from the Year 9 and 10 Music students. The evening was just extraordinary. Each performance was unique and special and a joy to listen to. From the soft and angelic voices of the girls to the fast pace, energetic punk/rock music from the boys, there was something for everyone. It was wonderful to see our sometimes shy students proudly display their gifts and talents for all to enjoy. Both classes displayed great energy and commitment and performed to their very best. We are indeed proud of them and acknowledge their hard work and commitment to their music, their ensemble and to each other. Congratulations to all of the Year 9 and 10 Music students.

A moment of great joy
Each term our year levels gather together to share in Eucharist. The Mass is organised and prepared by RE classes and supported by their teacher. They are sacred moments, where students demonstrate leadership in sharing the good news. I had the pleasure of attending the Year 9 Mass last week and was blown away by the energy and effort Jane Gibson and her class put into this celebration. The Mass was both joyful and sacred. Fr Dooley connected with our young people sharing stories of his own school experience. He spoke about growth and the importance of lifelong learning. His Homily was both meaningful and relevant. It was a highlight of my week.

We will remember them
Last Wednesday we celebrated Remembrance Day. We joined to commemorate the great sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and women for our freedom in World War One and beyond. The service was a wonderful tribute to our fallen veterans. We were fortunate to have Haydn Madigan, President of the Port Pirie RSL Sub branch join our service. He spoke about his experience in the Vietnam War and that of his fathers in World War 1. Haydn referenced letters his father wrote while at War, which talked about St Mark’s College. He was an old scholar. It was a powerful speech that told an important story. We are grateful for Haydn’s presence and time.

Year 10 and 11 Exams
Semester 2 Examinations are fast approaching and I trust that students have begun their preparation. Timetables have been distributed to students and dates are as follows:

- **Year 11 Exams** - Monday 23 November - Friday 27 November
- **Year 10 Exams** - Friday 27 November - Tuesday 1 December

I take this opportunity to remind students and inform families of the following Exam protocol:

- All Examinations will take place in the BGC
- Year 11 students are only required onsite for their scheduled Examinations
- Year 10 students are required to be at school and in normal lessons when not in an exam
- Year 11 students are required to attend the compulsory Research Project session on Friday 27 November.
- A study room will be available during the day for our Boarders and bus students
- Students must arrive at the BGC 15 minutes prior to their examination
- Students must stay in the room for the duration of the examination
- Students must be in summer uniform and groomed following the guidelines of the College
- Examination results will be included in the end of Semester report (see distribution dates below)

I wish both our Year 10 and 11 students well as they prepare for and enter their final Examinations for 2015. Copies of the Exam Timetable can be accessed from Bosco Administration.

Year 12 Graduation
Year 12 Graduation is just around the corner. The final moment of celebration. A special night to recognise almost 13 years of schooling and all that entails. I take this opportunity to remind families of the following:

- The Year 12 Graduation will be held on Friday, 27 November at The Northern Festival Centre.
- Students are required to meet at the Theatre at 4.30pm. They have their individual photos at this time.
- Presentations of the Graduates will begin at 6pm. Doors will open at 5.45pm.
- Dinner will be in the Ballroom and commence at 7.30pm. There will be a drop down menu.
- No additional tickets can be purchased at the door.

Could I also remind Year 12 students that they are required to attend a Graduation Practice at the Theatre on **Friday 27 November** at 9.30am.

Bosco Presentation Evening
Staff are currently in the final stages of preparing results for the Semester Two assessment cycle. We will soon determine our 2015 award winners for scholarship, character and Leadership and service to the community. Our Presentation Evening is a wonderful occasion and we would encourage our families to attend. Details are as follows:

- **Bosco Campus Presentation Evening**
  - **Northern Festival Centre – Keith Michell Theatre on Tuesday 1 December at 7pm.**
  - Award winners will be notified by mail no later than Wednesday 25 November.
Australian Catholic Youth Festival

In Week 8 of this term 5 of our young people will venture down to Adelaide for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The Festival will take place from Thursday 3 December until Saturday 5 December 2015 and will be held in Adelaide. The majority of the Festival will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on the banks of the River Torrens and at the Cathedral. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with other young people from the Diocese and the wider Catholic Community. This experience is sure to deepen our students sense of personal faith and strengthen their relationship with Jesus. It will be faith filled and it will be fun.

I thank Stephanie Bordignon for her leadership and organisation and Sister Elizabeth for her guidance. I wish our students a safe and faith filled experience and look forward to hearing about their stories when they return.

Distribution of Reports

Year 11- Friday 4 December. Available for collection from 10.00am at the Bosco Office

Year 10- Wednesday 9 December. Available for collection from 10.00am at the Bosco Office

Year 8/9- Wednesday 9 December. Reports will be distributed during afternoon Caregroup at 12.30pm

Kate Kilpatrick, Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus

Year 10 Camp

This week the Year 10 students participated in a 3 day camp that focused on a range of aquatics activities. The students enjoyed the dive boards and slides at the South Australian Aquatics Centre. They spent a day at West Lakes, participating in sailing, wind surfing, surfing and kayaking. They were also kept busy during the evenings refining their skills at the bowling alley and relaxing at the cinema. A visit to Bounce concluded the camp, and the students spent two hours jumping, summersaulting and playing Dodge Ball. The Year 10 student’s behaviour during the camp was exemplary.

Jane Gibson, Year 10 Coordinator

Year 9 and 10 Music Performance

Congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 Music students who proudly displayed their talent, energy and commitment during a special performance in the BGC.
Parents and Friends News

Up and Coming Events
Monday 7 December – St Mark’s Parents & Friends Xmas Dinner at the Flinders Motel on Main from 6:30pm. RSVP on the P&F Facebook page or to dj.court@bigpond.com

What’s on our Agenda
This term we have started planning for next year. Events on our calendar so far are …our AGM, our meetings will be held twice per term, we will hold another Movie Night for the children at the end of Term I and The Great Campout is schedule for the middle of the year. Please take a read through the 2016 calendar when it is available for more details.

SMC Parents and Friends Profile
Introducing your Treasurer - Fiona Perry

Link to St Marks
My involvement in St Marks is through my 2 daughters, Netball and Basketball. I am a member of the Junior SMC Netball Committee and have played and coached SMC Netball junior and senior teams in Port Pirie over the last 18 years. I am the President of Patriots Basketball Club and coach junior and senior teams. Most of our players are from St Mark’s College and it has been fabulous to see skill and confidence improvement over time. I have been a part of the P and F committee for the 6 years my daughters have been at school. Initially I was a committee member and for the past few years I’ve been a part of the Executive Committee. I have really enjoyed the friendships I’ve made through the committee, sports and the school production of Alice in Wonderland.

Who am I?
My daily job is in Educational Leadership. I like to keep up to date with the current research and teaching methodologies, with the goal of improving outcomes for our children/students. I also have a keen interest in strategies to help students with a learning difference like Dyslexia, ADHD, Autism and students who require extension. In my leisure time I like to exercise, go out for coffee with friends, watch movies, catch up on social media, visit family, shop, read and spend time exploring Australia and the world.

Why did I join P&F?
I joined the P and F so I could learn about what was happening at St Mark’s, help when possible and also to be a part of supporting my children to attend successfully at school. I really like the way the committee has been able to purchase items to support the teaching of students in the classroom and I look forward to listening to Greg’s Principal’s Report each meeting, and the Board updates. It’s great to ask questions and have first hand knowledge of projects, community events and school based information from both sites.

What is my role in P&F?
As Treasurer I contact Dominic and acquire a financial report each term so the committee is able to track funds in and out of our budget line. I also coordinate a float with Gail for events and count money afterwards. As a committee we all bring ideas for fundraising, ways to help the school and ask questions about different aspects of the school. In the past few years the P and F have asked teachers what they would like help to fund and we have also allocated money to projects identified around the school. Being a part of a committee that supports the school is important to me and I’m happy to commit to attending 1 or 2 meetings a term and being involved in school events when possible.

SMC Parents and Friends Committee

The Federation’s Ambassador Initiative is designed to connect the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities with every parent in every Catholic school community in South Australia.

One of our catchphrases is: Be Informed. Be Connected. Be Heard. Ambassadors will promote the role of the Federation and encourage parents within their school communities to Be Connected, Be Informed and Be Heard through Facebook, Twitter, surveys, events, our database & website.
The Federation will liaise directly with a nominated Federation Ambassador whose role will be to act as a conduit between the Federation and the school’s parent community.

Would you like to be your school’s Federation Ambassador?
Contact us on fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au to find out more or to register your interest.
Remembrance Day

Bosco Campus

Special guest, President of the Pt Pirie RSL Haydn Madigan, attended the Remembrance Day Service at Bosco Campus.

Benedict Campus

Students at Benedict campus held a Remembrance Day Service.

A Memorial to our soldiers at Benedict.

Bosco students reflect during the Remembrance Day Service at the College.

Lowering of the Flag at Benedict Campus.
Mission Gala Day

Congratulations to the Benedict Community who worked hard to generate funds and fun for their annual Mission Gala Day. Students created a carnival atmosphere with a variety of games, activities and stalls to raise funds for Catholic Missions.
The Year 9 Art students have been exploring portrait drawing this semester. Students have completed exercises using a variety of techniques, including observing proportion, stippling and creating distorted portraits. They have also explored the use of different media such as pencil, pastel, pen and charcoal. The unit culminated in students creating a portrait in a style of their choice.

Megan Congdon, Visual Arts Teacher
Bosco staff and students enjoyed tasty top quality food at the Pop Up Restaurants organised by the Year 11 Food and Hospitality students.

Year 11 Food and Hospitality

On Wednesday 11 November the Year 11 Food and Hospitality classes ran their Pop Up Restaurants. With a variety of themes including Aussie favorites, a trio of chocolate, country breakfast, waffles, cakes, slices and hamburgers - the staff and students of Bosco campus were treated to a delightful and very tasty experience! The restaurants appeared and disappeared before you could blink an eye - but the hard work and preparation was the key to the days success! Students have spent the past 3 weeks planning, trialling and preparing foods to ensure the food was top quality and value for money! It definitely was an experience to remember and we congratulate the students once again on their efforts in this venture!

Miss Sandy Lee and Mrs Janet Haskett

Congratulations to our Year 11 Food and Hospitality students who worked hard to prepare and serve delicious meals at their Pop Up Restaurants.

Some very happy customers!
Year 1 Blue students had lots of fun on their excursion to Wallaroo Beach.

Excursion adventures included the Museum, sandcastles, sea slugs and yummy ice cream.

**Year 1 Blue Wallaroo Excursion**

On Friday the 13th we went to Wallaroo beach. First we went to the Museum. I seen a big ship and trains. Then we went on the bus to the beach. At the beach we caught sea slugs. I caught heaps of them. After we got to go to the ice cream shop! It was fun.

*Jay - Year 1 student*

On Friday we went to Wallaroo. First we went on the bus and I read a story. Then we went to the Museum. I saw a giant squid his name was George the Giant Squid. The we went to the beach I collected Jelly fish or possibly sea slugs. Then we went to get ice-cream and got back on the bus. I had a really good time.

*Jacob - Year 1 student*

Our excursion to Wallaroo Beach was on Friday the 13th November. First we went on the bus, I sat next to Sophie. I read a book and we coloured in together. Then we went to the Museum. I seen a giant squid and we got to ring a big, big bell. We saw a lot of giant boats. Then we got back on the bus and went to Wallaroo beach. On the beach we caught sea slugs. We had ice-cream and then got back on the bus to come back to school. It was really fun!

*Eden - Year 1 student*
Notices

Interested in playing Baseball?

Cats Baseball Club are looking for any 10 to 15 year olds interested in playing Baseball. If you want to do something fun this summer, come and have a try. Contact Scott Wardle on 0417 099 120 or Rowen Voumard on 0418 831 660 for more information.

Cub Scout Fundraiser Day

At the Port Pirie Scout Hall on 21 November from 10am until 2pm. There will be a BBQ, live entertainment, games, prizes, cupcakes and homemade beaded jewellery and lots of fun!

Carols A Plenty

Carols Evening on Sunday 6 December from 5.30pm to 8pm at Plenty Street Park. Organised by Pt Pirie Baptist Church, Honnan Street. Games, crafts, Christmas story and sausage sizzle. Contact Pastor Roger Kleinig on 0427 399 244.

SAPSASA Tennis 2015

In Week 4 from 2 - 6 November, twelve students from Year 6 and 7 represented the Pirie District in SAPSASA tennis. This year we were placed in Division 3 and played our games at the Seaciff Tennis Club courts.

Our team was competitive all week and some excellent tennis ability was displayed. The students competed admirably and showed great sportsmanship throughout the week. Overall Pirie finished equal runners-up with Lower Eyre Peninsula and Onkaparinga South. Everyone had a great time and the highlight of the week was our trip to the Beachouse.

Thanks to the parents who travelled down to Adelaide and supported the students during the week. A big thank you to the students for being such a great team and making the week so enjoyable.

Pia Keain, SAPSASA Tennis Coach