Welcome back. We gather with enthusiasm, as loyal families and with inspired hearts. There has been a big announcement and we have a new priest. Our school life is beautifully documented and visitors have been received.

Welcome

Even in the reluctance to face the biting freshness of mornings there is still something reassuring about our gathering again. This place welcomes and is safe. It is predictable and comfortable. It offers the warmth of learning and strength of relationships and contrasts powerfully against the holiday headlines of aimless destruction and violent images on the telly. We begin again away from a world that seems so brutal and intent on destroying itself. It is good to be back. The rhythm and certainty of being here is enriching and the teachers have their lessons ready and the calendar is full of opportunity. There might not be a Pokémon to be found but at St Mark’s there is still much to discover. I extend a welcome back to our community as we begin Term 3. I extend an invitation to us all to respond to the Bishop’s call for a day of ‘prayer for peace’ in response to the tragic, senseless violence in our world. The Bishop has suggested this Friday to count blessings and pray for a more peaceful world. It will form the beginning of the day for each class. We are blessed here. Sometimes an annoying alarm clock, the coldness of a morning or the demands of learning might distract but we are safe and blessed. Welcome back.

Year 7 Transition to High School

The College Board of Management has endorsed the decision to transfer Year 7 into the secondary school at the start of 2018. This is part of the latest suite of improvements that is occurring in our College and is in line with the state wide movement of Year 7 into high school.

At the moment South Australia is the only state where Year 7s are in a primary setting. As a response the South Australian Commission for Catholic Education (SACCS) has called on all Catholic schools to facilitate a transition. We have responded to this with the formation of a Year 7 Transition Committee who have consulted and guided the College to its decision. The Committee has had both staff, parent and Board representation in determining the date of the transfer.

I am keen that parents have a chance to speak about this significant change in St Mark’s structure. As such I invite all parents to a meeting to speak about the process that we undertook to come to our decision and to ensure all of our commitment to the welfare and support of the Year 7s.

As such, I would like to invite you to the Year 7 Transition Information Evening on Tuesday, 16 August at 7:30pm in the Bishop Gallagher Centre at the Bosco Campus.

Grandparents’ Day

The grandparents came in great numbers last week. They had anticipated the day and loyally responded to the invitation of their Benedict grandchild to come to school and to see what was going on. Small Benedict hands grabbed grandparents and grand friends and took them to a classroom and around the school to show them their learning and the stuff of their school lives. I thought it was wonderful that so many came. By their attendance they were saying that this school is important, learning is significant, and they were affirming their grandchild’s educational world. It was a blessing. Grandparents are so wonderful for our students. The energy was charged with this loving connection. It was so exciting and grandparents’ faces glowed with joy just because that child existed and grandchildren responded with great enthusiasm as they toured and chatted, pointed out and patiently explained. It was a bustling, tumbling story of care and growth on that day. I am grateful for our visitors and thankful that our teachers facilitated such an important encounter.

Kylie Smith on leave

I wish to advise the community that our Benedict Deputy Principal, Kylie Smith, will not return to that position for the remainder of the year. Kylie is taking leave and at the moment we have asked Ms Melissa Gadaleta to take over as Teacher in Charge. I am conscious that Kylie is very disappointed not
to be returning and has the best wishes of the Benedict community in her heart. Melissa has been very generous in my invitation to take over this position of responsibility. I have every confidence that Benedict will roll along as smoothly as ever and we extend our prayers and gratitude to Kylie and Melissa.

An Ordination to the Priesthood
We received the joyous news of an ordination during the school holidays. Our Bishop, Greg O’Kelly SJ, along with Fr Francis and a number of priests and parisioners joined Deacon Ramel Morales in the Philippines as the Bishop ordained Ramel as a priest. Fr Ramel will return to our diocese very soon, to live out his vocation, to serve his priesthood, with us. We extend our deepest congratulations to Fr Ramel and his family. We are very excited to hear about the stories of the ordination and finally we will get a chance to meet and congratulate Fr Ramel. He is about to return to Australia and his first Australian Mass will be at the Cathedral on Sunday August 14 at 10:30am. I will join him with a very excited Filipino community. It will be a time of blessing.

P+F Hike
Just before school resumed from the holidays the Parents and Friends organised a hike and a campfire. It was a simple Sunday afternoon activity called ‘Winter Walk’ which became a really rich time of connection and fun. Families arrived at Bowman Park and unwrapped sandwiches and poured drinks as we looked at the darkening sky above. We were certain it would rain. There were introductions and growing conversations as the food came out and the fold up chairs unfolded. The children didn’t take too long to be distracted and go exploring. There were hills to climb and dirt to get on knees. The numbers were not large with the threatening weather but that helped us gather easily and determine a plan about where to hike. Still the clouds gathered and the temperature seemed to sink a little every time we looked up. All of this was immediately forgotten when we marched into the beautiful park and chatted our way happily for an hour at a gentle pace. This was time for connecting with nature, taking a photo opportunity for the sausages to be cooked and a few drinks shared around a lovely fire. The sun set and still the ominous rain held off. I felt very fortunate to be part of this community.

Kiribati
I welcome back to school in a particular way two College ambassadors to Kiribati. Year 2 teacher Angela Jordan and Deputy Kate Kilpatrick spent much of their holidays on an equatorial island with very few luxuries and very many wonderful people. The Port Pirie Catholic Education system sent over a party of teachers to make connection with the people of Kiribati and the Good Samaritan Sisters who work there. It became quite a profound experience for Angela and Kate. They were inspired by the simplicity and hope of the people and immersed themselves into a strange culture. They lived simply. The modest world of Kiribati life was in such contrast to Australian sophistication. What seemed to be defining, however, was the hospitality and sense of gratitude. Both Angela and Kate seemed inspired when they returned. Their hearts seemed filled with love and excitement about meeting the people. It seemed to me that the spirit of the Good Samaritan Sisters was doing God’s work again.

Mini Mark’s
I was delighted to see the Reception teachers invite a special community of visitors into the College during the holidays. There was a play group set up called Mini Mark’s and in cold and wintry conditions nearly 100 young children, all under five, came into the College to play. Certainly the group enjoyed our facilities and it was lovely to meet mums and dads not normally associated with St Mark’s. There was much interest and activity. Little ones seem endlessly involved in discovery. I think the teachers were glad for a strong cup of tea at the end of it all. The gathering was a great success.

Magazine
I acknowledge the publication of the College Magazine. Under the editorship of Sharon Sard a wonderful document has been produced. I thank her. The Magazine reflects our sacredness and our richness. It records our history and echoes our laughter and joy. It highlights our learning and proudly reports on our excellence. I enjoyed letting the images amuse and prompt memories and I read the reports that tell the story of an extraordinary school for one particular year. It is the result of an enormous effort. There has been a team involved but particularly Sharon has done an amazing job. It is a beautifully crafted document of a year that was special. It captures our spirit and I trust that you enjoy it.

Greg Hay,
Principal
Term 3 has had a very busy beginning. We have lots of significant activities happening across the College.

Reception - Year 12 Masses
At the end of Term 2 our whole College Community came together for a day of celebration. We acknowledged our diversity and the stories that we bring our St Mark’s Community. I was really pleased to have our Senior Music students lead the Music Ministry for this Mass. They added another dimension to our celebration by sharing their talent and leading us in prayer.

During the afternoon we had a concert from the Music students followed by activities where we shared as friends all that we value about our school. It was a wonderful day and I thank all the staff who contributed in many different ways to make our celebration work.

We look forward to gathering as a whole College to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption on Monday 15 August in the Good Samaritan Hall. As always families are invited to join us in this celebration.

Year 12 Retreat
Our Year 12 students were on Retreat in Week 10 of last term. It was a time to look back, assess themselves now and then eagerly plan for the future. It was a real time for growing individually and also to bond as peers in their last year as a student group together. I am sure that the students were affirmed that they as a person are loved and valued by themselves and others. Special thanks to the teachers who took part in the retreat and shared their gifts and talents with the students.

Grandparents’ Day
Benedict Campus welcomed in and celebrated our Grandparents, Great-grandparents and Grandfriends on Friday 29 July. Students prayed blessings on their special guests and proudly showed them an insight into their life at Benedict Campus. It was truly a sacred moment and we thank all those who came along to share the day with us.

Parish Family Mass
A note went home this week inviting our Primary students to take part in a Parish Family Mass. This will be held on Sunday 21 August in the Cathedral at 10:30am. We warmly invite all families to come along and take part in the celebration. Please ensure that slips are returned if your child would like to take on a ministry.

First Holy Communion
Our Year 4 students are currently completing their Eucharist learning. Many students will receive the Eucharist for the first time on 13 and 14 August.

Congratulations to those students -

I would like to thank Matthew Mead and Jane Munday for their dedicated work in preparing the students and presenting the Eucharist program.

Year 8 Retreat
The Year 8 Retreat will take place at Pt Germein on Thursday 18 August. The theme is Diversity and Being Community. Consent forms went home this week. Students can collect another copy from the Bosco Office or their Religion Teacher if they need it. Consent for the Retreat is due back on Friday 12 August. A reminder that it is a College expectation that students take part in Retreats each year.

Katie Pole,
Assistant Principal for Religious Identity and Mission

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St John Bosco Alafua Siva Tour
Wednesday 24 August in the Good Samaritan Hall at 7pm

The College welcomes our brother school in Siva, Samoa to share music and cultural expressions at a concert in Week 5 of this term.

All families are most welcome!

Bishop’s Circular
From time to time the Bishop sends a Circular around the Diocese containing news about the Diocese, projected developments, conferences or meetings of interest, statements by Pope Francis on moral or church issues etc.

If you would like to be in this information loop, simply send an email saying so to Maryanne Saracino at msaracino@pp.catholic.org.au.

It is a means of deepening a sense of Diocesan family, by sharing information about ourselves.
Term 3 has begun in earnest with an extra-curricular activity on the calendar every day for at least a fortnight! I’d like to reassure parents that amongst the wealth of incidental learning the curriculum continues to be covered!

**New Students:** The first day of Term 3 was particularly special as we welcomed six new students and their families to Benedict Campus; Tyler Norton, Ronan, Minette and Tehan Schoeman and Lilly and Ashton Sedunary. We are delighted you have enrolled at St Mark’s and wish you well for your educational journey with us.

**Assembly:** Due to the Dennis Handley Cup the Week 3 Assembly will now take place in Week 4 at the same time, 11.20am, in the Good Samaritan Hall. You are always most welcome to join us.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews:** You may have noticed on the calendar another date set for Parent/Teacher Interviews, 2 August. This was an error but at the same time a chance for me to extend an invitation for parents and caregivers to contact their child’s teacher to make an appointment to discuss any concerns any time throughout the school terms.

**Car Park:** Concerns continue to be raised about some drivers in the carpark exceeding the limit. Please remind anyone who may drop off or pick up your children to adhere to the limit and be mindful that there are many children (not all of school age) using the carpark. It only takes five minutes of extra vigilance to avoid a potential accident.

**Hairstyles:** Please note that mohawks and lines or patterns shaved into hair are not compliant with the College’s Uniform Policy.

**Sports Photos:** The St Mark’s College Benedict Campus Sports Team Photos will be taken on Monday 22 August. A note will be sent home reminding students to bring/wear their Football/Hockey/Netball/Soccer/Tennis uniforms. The Semester Two SRC photo will also be taken on this day. Please note: Bosco Sports Team Photos will be taken on September 5. The note will outline which day teams who have both Benedict and Bosco students will have their photo taken.

**First Holy Communion:** Next weekend is an extra special time in the lives of some of our students as they will be receiving their First Holy Communion. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers. I’d like to especially thank Katie Pole, Jane Munday and Matthew Mead for their commitment to ensuring the children are well prepared for this sacrament.

**Melissa Gadaleta,**
**Teacher in Charge - Benedict Campus**
Grandparents’ Day

Benedict Campus celebrated Grandparents, Great-Grandparents and Grandfriends on Friday 29 July. Students prayed blessings on their special guests and proudly showed them an insight into their life at school. We thank all those who came along to share this special day with us.

For Your Child’s Safety

There has been a near miss reported by the bus company in regard to children running out onto the crossing as they are driving in and out of the Benedict Staff Car Park.

Please be vigilant in ensuring your child/ren stop before the crossing zone and/or are holding your hand.

Buddy Bench at Benedict

I saw a person on the buddy bench. I went to her I said “come and play with me.” She said “yes.” We went and played and we sneaked up on our buddies. She was happy. When I told my mum she was very proud of me. I was so excited because it was my first time helping someone on the buddy bench.

Elise, Reception Blue student
From the Deputy Principal

The first two weeks of Term 3 have been rich. Despite the cooler weather and realization of another holiday period ending, there was much excitement this week as the students connected with their friends, teachers and college community again. They settled back into their classes quickly, with renewed energy and focus, setting new learning goals for the term ahead.

SACE Information Evening
On Thursday August 11 we invite our Year 10 and 11 parents to attend our SACE Information Evening. The evening will be separated into two locations so that year level specific information can be covered. Details are as follows:

- **Year 10 into 11** - Good Samaritan Hall (Benedict Campus) 7:30pm.
- **Year 11 into 12** - Bishop Gallagher Centre (Bosco Campus) 7:30pm.

The evening will provide parents with important information about the requirements of SACE both at Stage 1 and Stage 2 as well as the subject selection process. We encourage students to attend with their parents as the information presented will need to be discussed as a family so that informed choices can be made about subjects for 2017. Students will also receive their subject selection form on this evening.

SIVA Tour
In Week 5 of this term the College will be hosting 48 visitors from a Salesian school in Samoa, this is referred to on the College calendar as the Siva Tour. The all-male group from Don Bosco College is conducting a tour of all Salesian schools across Australia. They will be in Port Pirie for three days, just enough time for our students to make some international friends. Our Samoan visitors will compete against our senior students in a friendly exhibition game of Touch and Soccer. Our middle school students will then have the opportunity to partake in cultural music workshops and performances. On Wednesday, August 24 the College will be hosting a combined performance evening where parents and friends are invited to come in, sit back and enjoy a mix of traditional Samoan dances and St Mark’s musical talent. This evening will begin at 7:30pm in the GSH (Benedict Campus). It will be a culturally rich evening bursting with talent, a must attend.

Year 12 Research Project
Congratulations to all our Year 12 students who have now completed their Research Project. The results are now live on schools online which students can of course access at any time. Year 12 students can now channel their energy onto completing their final 4 subjects and with only a few assessment tasks left to complete the end is in sight. I encourage our Year 12’s to remain diligent with their application and study routine over the last 8 Academic weeks and remind parents that we are only a phone call away.

Today, our Year 12 Coordinator, John Gibson began going through the University and TAFE application process. It is a time of great discernment for our 2016 seniors.

PT Interviews
On Wednesday evening the BGC and Gallagher classrooms were a hive of energy as parents, teachers and students gathered to discuss progress and learning. It was a great night full of affirmation and challenge. The evening was well-attended highlighting the deep commitment from both parents and teachers. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended Parent Teacher Interviews this week. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to working closely in partnership with us.

Commitment to learning
On the first day of term staff gathered for professional learning, the focus was on Optimal Learning Environments, Higher Order Thinking and Student Involvement in learning. The day was facilitated by Lead teacher and Educational Consultant Matthew Wadewitz. Matthew is a charismatic speaker and an inspirational academic leader. He led staff through a process of self-reflection and re-iterated what the research tells us about student involvement in the learning environment. He spoke of the importance of lesson intentions, clarity of assessment, delivery and feedback. Staff embraced the opportunity to explore research based classroom strategies. There was an energy that filled the room as teachers discussed data and shared ideas and new strategies that they will implement for the term ahead. I continue to be grateful for the work of our teachers and acknowledge their commitment to professional learning.
Budding scientists Alanna, Aleisha, Ash and Connor formed a winning team at the Science and Engineering Challenge held at John Pirie Secondary School. The Year 10 students came first in the ElectraCity and Bionic Hand challenges, with St Mark’s College coming second overall.

Science and Engineering Challenge

On Tuesday 2 August, 32 students from Year 10 were selected to represent St Mark’s College in the 2016 Port Pirie Science and Engineering Challenge, held at John Pirie High School. The Science and Engineering Challenge encourages Year 10 students to consider a career in Science or Engineering, and to study the enabling sciences in senior high school. The Science and Engineering Challenge is a day-long competition designed to provide Year 10 students with a positive experience of science and engineering.

Each school was divided into 8 groups of 4 students. Each group worked on either 1 full-day activity or 2 half-day activities. Students were awarded points for each activity. Catapults were built using masking tape, rubber bands and wood; Cities were lit up with electricity; Masses were supported on high towers; and Bridges were built out of balsa wood for a cart to travel across.

Competing against 5 other high schools from the region, St Mark’s College finished in second place by 99 points. This is the best result that St Mark’s College has ever achieved at this event.

I would like to thank Mr Powell and Miss Wells for their assistance in supervising on the day. Furthermore, I would greatly like to thank the students for their participation. Although achievements and accolades are welcomed, the true definition of the word “character” is built in accordance with conduct and outlook. All students did their school, and their family, proud with their exemplary behaviour and attitude.

Matt Ryan,
Science Coordinator - Bosco Campus

Uniform Support

At St Mark’s College we have very clear guidelines when it comes to School Uniform. This includes our policy for ‘Hair’. The policy clearly states:

- **Hair must be clean, neat and tidy.** Girls/boys with hair that is long or untidy must tie it back.
- **Hair falling onto the face or below the collar must be tied back or cut.** This includes fringes that fall over the eyes or onto the face.
- **Unusual or extreme cuts, colours or styles which would otherwise draw attention are not permitted.** If hair is being shaved please note that it is to be no shorter than a number 3. Razor cut patterns are not permitted.
- **Decorative flowers, hair extension clips, plaits, dread-locks, etc. are not permissible.**
- **Boys must present to school each day clean shaven.** Students who arrive to school unshaven will be asked to go home and shave or do so in the Bosco Administration Office.

There appears to be some students not wearing their hair in line with the school’s policy. We ask that parents and students please adhere to the Uniform Policy to ensure fairness to all. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Kate Kilpatrick,
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus

TAFE SA OPEN DAY

**Thursday 25 August from 1pm - 7pm at Port Pirie Campus**

Visit our classes and workshop
BBQ Sizzle available

TAFE SA Port Pirie Campus
Mary Elie Street, Port Pirie
Phone - 8638-4222

UNI OPEN DAYS

Uni Open Days are a great opportunity to visit the Uni campuses, talk to staff and students and find out all the information you need to know about courses, careers, pathways and University life.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
**Sunday 14 August**
https://www.adelaide.edu.au/openday/

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
**Friday 12 August and Saturday 13 August**
http://study.flinders.edu.au/open-days/

UNIVERSITY OF SA
**Sunday 14 August**
http://www.unisa.edu.au/openday/

Programs and times are available from Uni Websites.
During Term two our Year 12 Agriculture class conducted a lamb feedlot trial over eight weeks, testing the effectiveness of Saltbush Sheep pellets on growth rates. The pellets are produced by the Wilson family, who have been very generous in the supply of bulk pellets for this trial. After 8 weeks of weekly weighing, the results were excellent, with the Pellet fed group of lambs performing a lot better than the control group. The pellets are that good, that we have been using them to feed, and train both our Boer Goats and Cattle to lead, and we have also found them to be an excellent diet for our Yabbies. A big thank you to Brian, Jill and Matt Wilson for their support with this trial.

Our Year 11’s and 10’s are currently very busy preparing our steers for the Crystal Brook and Adelaide shows, and the Year 9’s have the boer goats well under control, now leading them around the school oval.

This term 2 new groups of Year 8’s will experience working at McNally farm, under the guidance of Mrs Wilson and Mr Ellis, as part of their Science course.

Paul Matthews,
Agriculture Teacher
Mini Marks

St Mark’s College welcomes Mini Marks

The pitter patter of over 100 children’s feet was heard in the Learning Centre’s at St Mark’s College with the first Mini Mark’s Play Session held during the School holidays.

Preschoolers and their parents braved the wintry weather for a morning of play, laughter and fun, engaging in a range of activities designed for 0-5 year olds.

Finishing with songs, dancing and the popular story “Dear Zoo”, the children enjoyed the opportunity to explore a new environment under the guidance of College Reception Teachers.

The Mini Mark’s Play Session will also be held in the Term 3 school holidays.

Please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarkspirie for more details.

Brielle bouncing.

Rocco playing with dinosaurs.

Lily doing some shopping.

Miller painting a work of art.

Noah creating with play dough.

Archie making shapes.

Ella having fun!
Around the College

SMC Parents and Friends presents the

2016
ST MARK’S COOKBOOK

We need your help! We are seeking recipes for the following categories:

Light Meals and Snacks / Side Serves / Main Meals / Desserts and Baking / Healthy Eating / Condiments

Please submit your favourite family recipes online by 31 August 2016 - www.publishedauthors.com.au

Click ‘Submit Recipe’ and select ‘St Marks College Port Pirie’.

For all enquiries, including businesses that wish to advertise in this publication, please email Daniel Lauder: parentsandfriends@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au

Thank you to our 2015 Year Book Sponsors

Alex's Meat Service
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Centacare Catholic Family Services
Christian Supplies Australia
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Future Accounting
Gadaleta Steel Fabrication
Heidrich's Landscaping & Outdoor Supplies
Hills Metal Centre
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Hunter Financial Services
Intersport Port Pirie
Johnson Home Improvements
K W Wholesale Stationers
Kerin Agencies
Lavis Real Estate
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Swanbury Penglase
Travelway Motel
Voumard Lawyers
Warren O'Brien Physiotherapy
Young's Metal Supplies Pty Ltd

St Ann's Residential College Awards

We congratulate our past students and current St Ann's Boarders on being awarded the following prestigious Scholarships and Prizes for accommodation in 2016 at St Ann's College:

William Arbon - Sampson Prize
Jessica Manners - E.D.J Symon Bursary
Jane Murphy - Collegians Award
Meg Pittaway - Jacqueline Adele Jamieson Scholarship
Ellie Sjostrom - Sampson Prize
Lachlan Turner - Foundation Prize
Acacia Vormister - Doris Simpson Scholarship and Jill Rosenblatt Prize

It is advised that prospective students looking for accommodation in 2017 apply early.
Sports News

SMC Hockey

We are approaching the business end of the season, with only a few rounds left before finals. It has been wonderful to watch the Saint Mark’s teams in action.

U15 Girls
The U15 girls team notched up their first win in a season and a bit. The girls played an excellent team game with determination and skill. The girls should all be very proud of themselves for sticking at it – they say good things come to those who wait! The smiles on their faces after the match brightened everyone’s day and their confidence has soared. They are ready for finals!

Junior Carnival
Sunday sees Port Pirie host the ActFas Training Junior Carnival. Rosters have been sent out and teams selected. All the best to St Mark’s playing in the carnival and I sincerely thank parents for assisting with allocated duties.

PDPHA Presentation Night
The Association presentation night is fast approaching. It is on September the 3rd at the Virtus. Tickets are on sale, they are $35 and this includes a 2 course meal and entertainment. All U15 and U18 Association awards are presented that night. Tickets can be purchased from me at school or at hockey.

Jesslyn Oxford, SMC Hockey Coordinator

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities produces a range of resources to support parents who choose Catholic education for their children.

We’d like to share with you one of our most recent publications – Parent Teacher Communication: The Essential Conversation.

Congratulations to Year 11 students Natasha Williams and Jessie LaForgia who were selected to attend the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) Residential Workshop in Adelaide during the school holidays. The girls were two of 50 secondary students in South Australia chosen for this amazing opportunity, an outstanding achievement, which we are very proud of. Both returned this term excited by the prospect of a career in medicine.

Crystal Brook Show - Pet Section
If you think your pet is something special (or aren’t they all?) there are plenty of great prizes to be won in a number of categories in this year’s Crystal Brook Show on Saturday 13 August. From Best Cat, Best Dog, Best Bird, Best Reptile and lots more. Contact Ann Redden on 0427 288 020 or Katie Hallett-Patterson on 0417 080 683.

Piano and Keyboard Music Lessons
Private half-hour lessons available at school. Learn for fun! Beginners to advanced welcome. Please contact Ms Anne Hansen (Bachelor of Music) on 0429 866 242 or 86 36-2231.