We have farewelled the Year 12s and welcomed the Old Scholars. The boarders celebrated a successful year and there are new Captains for 2017.

Year 12 Ritual of Farewell
The Year 12s are taking their last steps as St Mark’s students. They have completed their final week of formal lessons at school. They are here for a few more weeks where there is a time for final assessments and exams, however, now is the special time filled with the urgency of completion and the poignancy of leaving. There are gatherings to reflect upon the past years together and then there is focussed concentration at laptops and computers. There seems much schoolwork to be done but the College takes time for reflection and affirmation. It is a wonderful rite of passage where we say farewell.

Our College gathered on Tuesday morning to offer Mass for the Year 12 group. Many parents were present and we sat on a sunshine bathed Bosco oval to remember the sacredness of the Year 12 achievement. I am very grateful to Father Francis and Father Ramel for their support. It was a beautiful liturgy made better by their priestly sensitivity and care and by the ceremony of the candles. After an outstanding speech of farewell by the College Captains Eve Cappalletto and Patrick Williams the Year 12s receive a candle in memory of their time at school. They receive it from the Reception students who have spent much time decorating a card to attach to the candle. It is a symbol to light their way. It is also deeply moving as we get a strong sense of the kind of growth that has happened over 13 years of education.

On Thursday night the Bishop offers a Mass with the Parents and grandparents. In a dignified and formal ritual, the Year 12s are acknowledged individually by their House Leader and we saw young people ready for adulthood and felt a tinge of sadness. We remembered accomplishment, growth, achievement in all its madness, fun and energy. And we realised that it had been so swift. In saying goodbye we remembered the huge network of relationships over 13 years and the many who had supported them. The students stood proudly in House groups and they wore a sash that acknowledges their class mates, their colleagues and their friends.

On Friday morning a breakfast was served and there were some Caregroup formalities and some speeches and exchange of gifts and then the last Bosco assembly. It is a wonderful time of precious memories and gratitude. Our Year 12s have been delightful young people and we feel so grateful for their contribution. They have made us laugh and kept us guessing. They have worked hard and shown hearts of care and love. We wish them all the best.

Old Scholars gathering
Last week we welcomed back past students from the anniversary decades of our time as a College. We had old scholars from 1976, 86, 96 and 2006. Our Bishop Gallagher Centre was filled with photos and memorabilia, icons and symbols of the richness of our history. There was a celebration of Mass and a beautiful sermon from Father Francis and then the gasping surprise of a tour round the pace. People gathered, at first a little shy and then with growing confidence. They walked with a student guide and a teacher as commentator. But the old scholars did most of the commentary. There were plenty of smiles and bursts of laughter. The buildings amazed them and brought back memories. The old scholars teased each other a little and remembered past mischief. They huddled around drinks and a delightful supper after the tour and there was the enthusiasm of the sharing of stories. Past teachers were beaming. There was warmth in hugs and laughter as relationships were re-established so quickly. There was a sense of real gratitude for the experience of being at this school. The old scholars talked about it and the past staff felt it. It was a wonderful celebration and in gathering it makes us richer.
Boarders Finish
I attended a very reverent and meaningful farewell liturgy for the Year 12 boarders. It is part of the tradition of Salesian House to pray formally as the year comes to an end. Members of the Salesian House community, who have all lived so closely together, begin to return home. It was my pleasure to farewell our Year 12 boarders and to thank their families for the partnership that we had shared. It was great to offer all of the Salesian House community God's blessings as the 2016 community starts to come to an end. It was great to share with families a supper as well.

It has been a good year. I have delighted in watching a wonderful boarding cohesion unfold. The magic and the unity of boarding life at St Mark’s happened again. There was a daily rhythm of organisation and fun, a culture of respect and care, and a spirituality of reverence that was created. Things went well.

Boarding at St Mark’s can become a great experience for students and I know that it is a sacrifice by parents. We acknowledged that on Sunday night. We spoke about boarding making connections and deep friendships. There has been cohesive community. The Boarders have all eaten well together and shared lots of time. They have prayed together in the Bosco chapel. They have played. Around the College there seems to be an endless bounce of the ball after school. They have sat in their rooms and there has been laughter. They have enjoyed the warmth of a hello in the afternoon and growing unity. The Year 12s themselves have been a blessing on Salesian House. We prayed on Sunday night in hope that they are blessed in life’s journey.

New Captains
It is my pleasure to announce that in 2017 we have two new College Captains. They are Year 11 students Ebony Bennier and Jayden Gonsalves. I extend my congratulations to these two fine young people who must now step in the footsteps of Eve and Patrick. “The king is dead” I said to Patrick “Long live the King” He smiled patiently at my joke and warmly shook the hands of the new captains. It is a role that will bring out some fine qualities. The Year 11s recognised those qualities and have voted for them. I extend the congratulations of the whole College to Ebony and Jayden.

Kylie Smith concludes
I write to formally confirm that Kylie Smith, the Benedict Deputy Principal, has resigned. She has decided to continue other educational pursuits. We feel a great sense of gratitude for the enthusiasm and energy that she put into her role as leader. She was ever generous, thoughtful and kind. She was determined and hardworking and had this contagious love for the hopes and dreams of Catholic education. She sang and she built a great Benedict chorus. We wish her well and we will keep singing.

Greg Hay,
Principal
It was a special moment during the Year 12 Farewell Mass when our Reception students presented our Year 12 students with a candle to light their way into the world.

Salesian House Farewells
Last Sunday evening the Boarding House community gathered together for the last time as a whole community. We held a liturgy, recognised achievements and fondly bid farewell to our Year 12 Boarders as they entered their last week of lessons. Mrs Denise Arbon spoke so proudly of the year the Salesian House family had shared together and Mr Hay shared a sense of the affection and respect we have had for our 5 Year 12 Boarders.

Farewell to our Year 12 students
This week was full of ritual and thanksgiving for the journey our Year 12 students have been on for 13 years. It is a week eagerly anticipated from an early age. There are significant rituals and events that mark their rite of passage which the students enjoy and the staff revel in organising each year. These students have reached the end of a significant year and now prepare to begin a new part of their life. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich, faithful experience that is their education at St Mark’s College.

Reconciliation
Our Year 3 students are now undertaking the Sacramental Program as part of the Religious Education lessons. During this time the students who choose to do so are prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As part of this experience all Year 3 students will have brought home a Prayer Package to use in the family home. This is an opportunity for your child to develop skills and the family to spend quality time together. Please support your child with this initiative.

A reminder for those children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation of the Commitment Program dates: November 12/13 - Rite of Welcome, November 19/20 - Present Footprints and Prayer cards and November 23 - Sacrament of Reconciliation Liturgy at 7pm.

Mission Month
October is Mission Month for Catholic Missions. We have begun our awareness campaign. The 2016 schools appeal with the theme, ‘Just as you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me,’ takes students into the lives of children in Cambodia who cannot go to school because their families live in poverty. The insightful stories about the work of Sister Eulie and her community will not only help educate students, but provide schools with practical options in this Year of Mercy, to live out Pope Francis’ call to be the hands of mercy. Our Mission efforts this year will be run with a Mission Gala day on Friday November 18. Details will be communicated shortly.

Katie Pole, Assistant Principal for Religious Identity and Mission
Welcome to Term 4!
It really does feel like the year is passing us by at an incredible pace.

Principal’s Tour
Last week the Year 6 SRCs were asked to begin stepping up into the shoes of our soon to be leaving Year 7s by escorting Mr Greg Hay and the parents and new students for 2017 around Benedict Campus. I’d like to thank Aiden Blieschke, Ella Dunbar, Tyson Hanlon and Rosie Todd for the friendly and informative way they assisted Mr Hay and welcomed our new families.

Civics and Citizenship National Assessment Trial
This week 19 Year 6s were randomly selected to take part in a national assessment trial on Civics and Citizenship. By all accounts the trial went very smoothly thanks to Mr Bret Swensson’s thorough organisation.

Interschool Sports Day
The Interschool Sports Day is scheduled for Thursday, November 3 at Bosco Oval. The athletes have been selected and are in training! St Mark’s Benedict Campus will be represented by the Salesian Team and the Samaritan Team. Many thanks to Mr Tom Arbon for his organisation of the teams.

Kylie’s Farewell – Week 3 Assembly
Mrs Kylie Smith, the Benedict Deputy Principal has announced her resignation. We would like the students and parents to have an opportunity to wish Kylie all the best, therefore, Kylie will attend next week’s assembly. You are most welcome to join us on Wednesday, November 2 at 11.25am in the Good Samaritan Hall.

2017 Classes
Whilst we are completing the 2016 school year, planning is well underway for 2017. If you have a request for 2017 based on sound academic reasons please put this in writing and submit it to the Benedict Office addressed to myself. Please note: requests for particular teachers will not be considered as the needs of a class are complex and we put much discernment in to the process.

Melissa Gadaleta,
Teacher in Charge - Benedict Campus

SMC Parents and Friends COOK BOOK
Attention - It’s not too late!!

Due to popular demand we are extending the pre-order date for the Parents and Friends Cook Books.
At only $20 this makes the perfect Christmas gift for Grandparents, Uncles, Aunties, Friends etc
Orders and payment at either Benedict or Bosco Front Office.

Get your order in - Don’t miss out!
Year 7 Excursion

Kayaking, canoeing and sailing were all part of the fun when our Year 7 students visited the Port Augusta Aquatics and Outdoor Adventure Centre last week!

Team Colours Day

Students at both Bosco and Benedict got dressed up for our ‘Teams Colours Day’ Fundraiser! All funds raised will be contributed to the Port Pirie Palliative Care Unit - a wonderful service in our community.
From the Deputy Principal

Year 12 Farewells
There was a sense of great excitement this week as St Mark’s College Year 12 students celebrated their final week of school.

Celebrations began Tuesday morning with our R-12 Farewell Mass. The whole school gathered to join in one of St Mark’s great ceremonies. Great, not because it was big and elaborate, but great because it highlighted what our College is all about. Creating balanced, intelligent young men and women of character and integrity, who are committed to each other and a future of hope and promise. They are young men and women who have made strong, enduring friendships and are now about to take it all into the wide world that lies beyond the walls of St Mark’s College.

For many students the idea that in a few short days putting on that uniform and coming to school would be a thing of the past, really hit home. There was a mixture of emotions with everything from joy, excitement and pride to sadness and some anxiety. It was great to hear our inspirational College Captains, Eve Cappelletto and Patrick Williams, speak about their time at St Mark’s and how important the school has been in their formation. They spoke with and from the heart and I couldn’t be more proud of their leadership.

This state of anticipation continued on Thursday evening as Year 12 students and their proud families attended a special Mass of Thanksgiving in the St Mark’s Cathedral. It was a wonderful night, one that I know all Year 12 students will remember for many years to come. House Captains walked with a sense of pride as they processed with the House banner for the final time, placing it upon the altar as a symbol of their leadership journey. The Bishop led the celebration; he was vibrant as always. He has a wonderful connection with our students, we are blessed to have him. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration we conducted our final roll call. Students were called up by House and presented with a graduation sash, on it listed the class of 2016. This was symbolic of the learning journey travelled with their peer group. It was in this moment that our students finally realised the significance of their achievements. They had completed Year 12 and all that entails. They felt connected, a part of something bigger, a part of a rich and life giving community.

The celebrations continued today for the Year 12s final day. It began with our traditional BBQ coordinated by John Gibson and cooked by the generous Bosco staff. We then said farewell as a Bosco community with a special assembly. Joining by students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, we listened to special musical performances from our Year 11 students and heard well wishes from siblings across each of the year levels. House farewells followed, with more speeches and gifts. It was clear that our Year 12s have had an impact and will be remembered fondly by all.

Finally, I extend my well wishes to all our Year 12 students as they now prepare for their final examinations.

Salesian House Liturgy
On Sunday our Boarding community and their families along with St Mark’s teachers gathered for a special end of year Liturgy. It was a time to celebrate significant achievements, especially those in Year 12. The Year 12s were filled with nervous anticipation as they came to pray about their future. The normally shy boys spoke from the heart, they meant every word. It was heartfelt and a very proud moment indeed. The Liturgy reflected on the spiritual formation of the year and allowed us the opportunity to pray for each of the Year 12 Boarders as they leave Salesian House, taking with them the values and experiences of being educated and nurtured in the Salesian tradition into the wider community.

The Salesian House Award was presented to Patrick Connell for displaying the Salesian Charism of reason, religion and kindness. Patrick is thoughtful and kind and always considerate of others. He is most deserving of this award. We congratulate Patrick on this outstanding achievement. Following the Liturgy, we joined in a shared supper, it has become quite the tradition. Families brought food to share and the Chef cooked, it was country hospitality at its finest. Many discovered Nicki Mead’s amazing talent for profiteroles. They were gone in the blink of an eye and absolutely delicious! Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and siblings that made the journey to share in this wonderful celebration.

Kate Kilpatrick,
Deputy Principal - Bosco Campus
On Tuesday we gathered on Bosco Oval for a whole school Mass to farewell our Year 12 students. 2016 School Captains Eve and Patrick reflected on their time at St Mark’s College.

Our Reception students shared a chat, a giggle, a meaningful embrace and gave a heartfelt farewell to our Year 12 students.

Year 12 student Adrianna took up the gifts with her younger sister, Year 1 student Kealee during the Year 12 Farewell Mass.

On Thursday evening our Year 12 students and their families celebrated Mass at the Cathedral.

Our Reception students shared a chat, a giggle, a meaningful embrace and gave a heartfelt farewell to our Year 12 students.
SMC Tennis

We are up and running in the 2016/17 season for all our SMC Tennis Teams! The St Mark’s Club is the largest in the Association, with 27 teams competing this year, a slight increase on last year. We are fielding 18 Boy’s teams and 9 Girls’ teams.

Our coaches give up their own time to enable our children to play tennis. We thank our Coaches this season: Kelley and Steve Reid, Kallis Freer, Lisa Manners, Carmel Freer, Andrea Tyler, Karen Murphy, Vanessa Bessen, Natalie Ferme, Sam Powell, Carmel McNamara, Jack Dickeson, Paul Boulton, Bryan Dickeson, Matt Mead, Scott Denny, Belinda Rafanelli, Katiana Saler, Peter Bessen, Jane Dickeson and Francine Combe as well as the Team Managers Katie Pole, Shereen Connelly and Maxie Schoeman for their generosity and commitment in helping our players. Also thank you to Liz Finlay for being our Junior Recorder.

Please show our coaches the consideration they deserve by advising if you are unavailable for training or for matches.

Rosters / Match Day

Please can parents/ caregivers check the Team rosters which were sent home and make sure they arrange a swap if they are unable to meet their commitments to parent duty. It is the expectation that everyone takes their turn on the roster to assist on match day, as not all coaches are available on weekends, and some have multiple teams to organise. Balls/folders will be sent home with your child if the coach will not be in attendance on Saturday.

Please ensure the scoresheets are fully completed – ie Grade, Gender, Team Name and Players’ FULL NAMES to be entered.

Parents are also required to help in the Canteen, and rosters have also been sent home with the players this week. Please check with your child to see if you have received a roster and take note of when you are scheduled to assist. A copy of the roster has been placed in the Canteen at the Tennis Centre if you are unsure of timeslots. Please arrange a swap if you are unable to take your allotted turn.

SMC Tennis Committee,
Jane Dickeson, Francine Combe, Carmel Freer, Peter Bessen, Natalie Ferme and Maxie Schoeman

Aviation Students fly solo!

Our Aviation students are flying high ... and now officially solo! Congratulations to William Crouch, George Seppelt and William Dickson on this exciting achievement!

Congratulations Dyllan!

Congratulations to Year 7 student Dyllan Argent. Dyllan has been selected to represent South Australia in the National Futsal Competition to be held in Sydney in January. We wish him all the very best!

Aviation Students fly solo!
On a beautiful sunny day almost 500 students from Reception to Year 7 gathered on the Bosco Oval to compete in the annual Benedict Sports Day. Students in Reception to Year 1 competed in a range of fun activities and were each awarded a ribbon for their efforts, while students from Years 2 to 7 competed in sprints and a range of team activities for precious team points.

Congratulations to Polding House who at the end of the day were announced the winners - their first win in 9 years!

Our Sports Day teams were made up of some talented individuals and Bishop Greg O’Kelly presented medals to those who were awarded for their speed, determination and spirit.

Congratulations to Nicholas, Eliza, Cooper, Tia, Quinn, Grace, Sophie, Scarlett, Marshall and Madeleine.
Mini Mark’s Play Sessions are held during school holidays at our Benedict Campus. They run from 9.30am to 11.30am and are for 0-5 year olds. During the last school holidays St Mark’s welcomed many little visitors to Mini Mark’s. They all enjoyed playing, painting, puppet shows, stamping and joining in the many fun activities on offer. We can’t wait to see you all again in 2017 at the next Mini Mark’s session.

2017 Mini Mark’s Dates: Term 1 - 18 April, Term 2 - 11 July and Term 3 - 3 October.

Old Scholars Reunion

Our Old Scholars from years 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006 were invited back to the College for a School Reunion. As well as having a good catch up over drinks and nibbles, our old scholars celebrated a Mass, enjoyed a tour of the College (they were in awe of our new facilities), heard reflections from students from each year and spent time looking through memorabilia and reminiscing. A great afternoon was had by all!
The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) provides guidelines for the provision of school bus stops on roads under its care, control and management. Schools are encouraged to be familiar with these guidelines and to seek advice from the department with selecting appropriate and safe locations.

**School bus speed limit**

- A 25km/h speed limit applies in South Australia when passing a school bus that has stopped for the purpose of picking up or dropping off children.
- A ‘school bus’ means a bus that displays the warning signs and flashing lights required by the vehicle standards for buses used mainly for carrying children.
- Contact South Australia Police (SAPOL) Traffic Watch on 131 444 to report dangerous driving.

**Planning safe locations for school bus stops**

- Children, especially those of primary school age, can be poor judges of traffic speed and are often impulsive. Therefore, eliminating the need for students to cross the road should be a priority when considering safe locations for stops.
- Stops should be located where the bus can be easily seen by approaching motorists and where there is adequate site distance to allow drivers to slow down to 25km/h using gentle braking.
- A school bus should stop completely clear of the road reserve or within an established rest area or other roadside facility where possible.
- Consideration could also be given to enabling children to wait for the school bus to arrive before crossing the road to reach it. The school bus provides a visual clue to motorists and carries the requirement for vehicles to slow down to 25km/h when it is present. A safe waiting area for children on the opposite side of the road would need to be considered.

**Guidance to parents, carers and children using school bus stops**

Schools can help raise road safety awareness and increase the safety of children prior to boarding or alighting from a school bus by instructing parents/carers and children of the following safety tips:

**Parents and carers**

- park your car on the same side of the road as the bus stop to avoid the need for children to cross the road
- avoid parking on bends, crests or street corners (near road junctions)
- let children out of the vehicle on the footpath side of the vehicle and accompany young children safely to the bus.

**Children**

- wait well clear from the roadside for a school bus to arrive
- take time to make sure the road is safe to cross
- choose safe places to cross roads, avoid crossing at bends, crests or where bushes or trees reduce visibility
- wait until the bus has left the bus stop and is out of sight before crossing the road to minimise the danger of the bus obscuring children from view.

For more information on DPTI Operational Instruction 20.2 for planning school bus stops on rural roads visit www.dpti.sa.gov.au/standards/tass or for information about selecting a suitable bus stop site call DPTI Traffic Operations Section on 8226 8222.
Notices

Hot Shots Tennis 2017
David Tilbrook is offering the HOTSHOTS tennis programme for 5 – 8 year olds at the tennis centre again this season. The sessions will begin on Wednesday 2 November and the $40.00 cost is payable at the first session. Please register your interest as soon as possible to David Tilbrook 0407425235 or email samaranandavid@bigpond.com

Model Railway and Hobby Show
Crystal Brook Primary School are hosting a model railway and hobby show on 5 and 6 November. This is an exciting event for all ages with numerous interesting displays and hobbies on show along with live entertainment, food and drink stalls. Cost is adults $8, children $5, family $15 - all proceeds to assist Pastoral Support Workers at the school.

Vacswim - Register Now!
Vacswim is a Government of South Australia initiative providing children with opportunities to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures. To register families can log onto www.vacswimsa.com.au

Toy Run - 30th Annual Paul Gianoni Memorial
Sunday 27 November from 9am Ellen Street (under shade sails) to Flinders View Park. Donations of toys and gifts for all ages accepted. Hosted by the Flinders Touring Motorcycle Association Port Pirie - everyone Welcome! For more information contact Trevor 0418 592 268 or Michelle 0437 323 089.

Year 12 Engineering Projects

Alana Barr - Off set Engineer’s Vice and work bench

Beau Arnold – Outdoor Setting and “Lazy Susan”

Caleb Thornton – Work Bench and Tool Trolley

Joel Demarco – Work Bench and Tool Rack

Joel Fuchs – Work Bench and Stool