We remember Gen Richter as the teacher who had a profound sense of the preciousness of children; who worked so hard for them, prepared lessons, guided and nurtured, delighting in young people and telling them that the world was good.

We remember the storyteller who understood the power of narrative and took children into a thousand worlds and introduce hundreds of tantalizing mysteries and then empowered young minds with language and expression.

We remember the person of deep spirituality who searched for truth with her keen intelligence and intuition. She honoured God and then gave children a pathway towards the sacred because she opened hearts.

Gen was never indifferent and this moment, the moment she was in, right now, mattered. She was never cynical and life had purpose, right now, things were important. It made everything more important to us.

We remember Gen who brought so many gifts, so much quality into her professional and church life. Mostly she brought a heart that loved. Her defining quality was always a heart that loved.

She was a person of reverence and humility with a touch of the larrikin, and we laughed. Perhaps that is how she opened our hearts and how we became better people because we were better people when we were around her. She opened and enriched hearts through the larrikin and the laughter. We shared goodness. Things seemed interesting, she offered insight and it was fun. Gen had such an impact on us.

From our College Eulogy
Remembrance Day
Friday 11 November

Mission Gala Day
Friday 18 November

Year 10 Camp
Monday 21 November to Friday 25 November

SAPSASA Cricket and Tennis Carnival Week Adelaide
Monday 21 November to Friday 25 November

First Reconciliation Liturgy
Wednesday 23 November at 7pm in the Cathedral

2017 Reception Students Orientation Visit
Wednesday 23 November

Year 11 Exams
Wednesday 23 November to Wednesday 30 November

Salesian Captains’ Conference
Sunday 27 November to Tuesday 29 November

Year 11 Final Day
Wednesday 30 November

**A Critical Incident**

The sad passing of Genevieve Richter shocked us all and became what we called a ‘critical incident’. It is a time when we have to respond as a community and yet the impact of the incident can leave us numb and struggling to find order. The College has a plan that becomes mechanical and deliberate and goes into action independently of what we are feeling. When there is a critical incident in the school a team forms immediately. We have a checklist of jobs that we distribute to team members. The big issues are addressed immediately: Student welfare, staff welfare, communication with families, liturgical response, advising appropriate people. We then organise the secondary elements like formation of a counselling response, creating a place for symbols and a time to articulate grief and liaising with the appropriate family or people. Then the smaller elements like someone is charged with flying the flags at half mast, sending flowers, keeping a check on Facebook, organising to receive and acknowledge messages of support. The team goes into action even in the depth of the sadness.

What also happens is a community responds and there can be no organisation of that. However, the community response to our sadness was powerful and as such I extend my deepest thanks for the beautiful and sensitive care from our families. The messages were deeply supportive of a staff and student community who were in grief and who loved Gen as a colleague and a friend. The flowers, little tokens and notes meant that we felt strengthened and united. Thank you so much for your ‘white balloon’ initiative. It helped quite profoundly. We had a sense that the community cared. We were able to celebrate Gen’s life with the joy of a balloon. The families of St Mark’s were able to do something tangible. We are all very sad and the final job of the ‘Critical Incident Team’ is to meet and assess how people are travelling a few weeks later. May our beautiful Genevieve rest in peace.

**Salesian Principals’ Meeting**

I had the opportunity to join the network of Salesian Principals in Melbourne last week. We gather once a term to discuss and action the spirituality of Don Bosco in our schools. It is a time to talk about our schools and the manner in which the spirit of St John Bosco permeates our activity and our relationships. On this occasion we attended a lecture on the Salesian theme for next year: It is called the ‘strenna’. This is an Italian word which roughly means central idea or guiding principle. The strenna for next year is: We are family. This will be an opportunity for us to affirm and celebrate family life and the powerful and sacred force that is so essential in all our lives.

**Welcome to our Reception Students and their mums and dads.**

I had an opportunity to welcome the new mothers and fathers of the 2017 Reception children. There was a meeting and a welcome and we were able to reassure them of our purpose and our care. It is exciting to know that there are new members of our community arriving even as we watch the Year 12s finish. The Junior Primary Coordinator Jenna Howell has gentleness and authority and offered calming wisdom and common sense to ensure parents that the transition into formal schooling is much easier. I was most impressed in the manner in which she assured people and offered the guidance. It will be another good year in Reception.

**Celebrating World Teachers’ Day**

World Teachers’ Day celebrates the extraordinary contributions and achievements of teachers. It was held on Friday, October 31 and gave us a chance to pay tribute to the teachers at St Mark’s. I certainly recognise and affirm the work and effort of our teachers at St Mark’s. I extended my thanks and gratitude to them and also offered an ice-cream in the staffroom at lunch to celebrate.

Greg Hay,
Principal
Around the College

From the APRIM

Four weeks into our final term and we have many reasons to remember that life is a precious gift that we should not take for granted. I am also reminded of the special community that is St Mark's in which we support and strengthen each other as we share the journey of life and love together.

Requiescat in Pace Gen
Our campus was struck with great sadness at the loss of our dear friend, teacher and colleague Genevieve Richter. She had an immense impact on the faith and spiritual life of our community and the lives of many of our students. We are so grateful for her many years of loving service to our St Mark’s family.

The hopeful, resurrection moment amidst the deep sadness of this unexpected event was the coming together as a College community in such a profound way. There were staff prayers, student prayers, Campus gatherings and overwhelming support from the wider diocesan family. Benedict Campus celebrated the feast of All Saints with a mass asking for Gen to be counted among God’s saints in heaven. In our grief we journey forward as a caring and faithful community of hope.

Mission Month
Both campuses have been busy working on Mission Month within their learning and in actions taken to support the Catholic Missions Appeal for Cambodia and our local St Vincent De Paul Society. Year 11 students at Bosco Campus have been enthusiastically leading the organisation of fundraising activities over these first 4 weeks.

Benedict Campus have completed the prayer and planning stages of their learning. Preparations are well underway for the Gala Day activities on Friday 18 November. Information has been sent home this week detailing the activities and events that will happen on that day. Please see your class teachers if you have any queries.

There will be a College wide casual clothes day on Friday the 18th as part of our Mission Month fundraising. A gold coin donation will be required and normal casual clothes dress expectations will be in place.

Salesian Meeting
Last week I attended a meeting of Salesian Religious Leaders at the Salesian headquarters in Melbourne. It was an opportunity to connect with our fellow Salesian schools. During this time we looked at directions and plan for Faith dimension of our schools in 2017.

Remembrance Day
Both campuses observed Remembrance Day today with services prepared by the staff and students to commemorate the end of World War One and recognise those from the armed forces who have been lost in the line of duty.

First Reconciliation
Our Year 3 students are busily undertaking their Reconciliation Sacramental Program. A reminder that for those students celebrating the sacrament that the Parish Commitment Program commences this Sunday at the weekend masses. Students will receive the sacrament for the first time during a Reconciliation Liturgy on Wednesday November 23 at 7pm in St Mark’s Cathedral.

ReLAT
The results for the Year 4 Religious Literacy Assessments have been produced. This test is a snap shot of learning in some of the areas of Religious Education. The main purpose is to inform teaching and learning that takes place in the school. It needs to be viewed along with the more detailed assessments contained in the School Reports. Students will have brought their report home to families at the end of this week. If you have any queries, please see your class teacher as a first point of contact.

Messy Church
Claire Conaghty one of our Parish Associates visited Benedict Classrooms on Friday outlining a new parish initiative – MESSY CHURCH. Messy Church is a gathering of families in a different format to enjoy story activities and a meal together.

The First Messy Church is on Tuesday 29 November. Please see the information contained in the newsletter of a copy that was given to children at the visit. Enquiries can be directed to Helen McKeough on 86320506.

Dates For The Diary
Please put these dates in your diary and join us in these events:
Reconciliation Commitment Weekends on 12/13 November and 19/20 November
Reconciliation Liturgy Wednesday on 23 November 7pm
Messy Church on 29 November
Year 8 and 9 Cathedral Mass at 12pm on 9 December
Benedict End of Year Liturgy on 9 December at 10am Good Samaritan Hall

Katie Pole,
Assistant Principal for Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM)
**From Benedict Campus**

Dear St Mark’s Benedict and wider Community,

Firstly, on behalf of the Benedict staff, I’d like to sincerely thank you for your deep concern and support during this most difficult time. Gen was not only a beloved colleague she was also a true friend to many. The White Balloon Prayers, your meaningful messages and varied expressions of sympathy has meant a great deal to us. Your precious children have helped us immensely with their smiles, kind eyes and a gentleness during the week. The Richter and Ward families have also been touched by the expressions of sympathy and were very humbled by the SRCs’ Guard of Honour at Gen’s funeral. We are truly grateful.

A few of Gen’s past students shared their memories with us …

Mrs Richter was very funny, very nice and a good teacher. Mia Simmonds

I remember when she took us out to fitness and when we got back to class she would read a book while we cooled down. She would normally read the Magic Faraway Tree or Mr Galliano’s Circus. Leo Cretan

Mrs Richter was a nice and caring lady. She always read books to us like the Magic Faraway Tree or Mr Galliano’s Circus. She also did art with us like when we went to Bundaleer Forest. We had lots of fun. We will miss you. In memory of Mrs Richter. Ruby Wilton

I remember when we would sit in a circle for Prayer and we would pass around a ball of wool and say what we liked about the person sitting next to us. Mrs Richter was a kind and caring friend and teacher and role model to all. She will be forever in our hearts. Ruby Dunbar

Mrs Richter was a very loving teacher – kind, smart and just there when you needed her. I remember when she read us the Magic Faraway Tree. That was my favourite book. When we were in the garden you could see a smile on her face. She loved watching us trying to find the answer in Maths. She always had good jokes. We are all going to miss you Mrs Richter and I hope your family will feel better and that they stay strong. Thanks for being a great teacher. We are going to MISS YOU. Ava Amato

It is quite difficult to now segue into general school business but I must …

May I thank Mr Daniel Lauder and the P & F Committee for their organisation of a ‘scary’ movie night for the Benedict students. Thank you to the parents/caregivers for your support of the fundraiser and help with the children’s costumes … I barely recognised some of them!

At our assembly last week we officially farewelled Mrs Kylie Smith. The classes made a wonderful card and sang with gusto (just as Mrs Smith likes) to bid Kylie all the best for her new ventures.

This week the attendance record went ‘live’ with a new online management system. Class teachers need to complete the roll by 8.50am. Can I please encourage you to have your child at school before the first bell rings at 8.45am. Students arriving after the electronic roll has been ‘sent’ at 8.50am will need to report to the office first to be marked as late. With nearly 500 children in the school, the office could become quite busy so please endeavour to have your child at school by the official start time of 8.45am.

At the end of this week, Mrs Angela Jordan and Mr Jack Jardan finish their 2016 school year for some well-earned Long Service Leave. I’d like to thank Angela and Jack for their dedication to 2 Blue and 7 Red respectively and wish them Bon Voyage for their overseas journey. 2 Blue will be in the very capable hands of Ms Hayley Combe and 7 Red likewise with Mr Todd Arbon.

**2017 Classes Reminder**

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. Closing date is Friday 18 November.

Melissa Gadaleta,
Teacher in Charge - Benedict Campus

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**Farewell Benedict**

As part of her Farewell Mrs Smith said:

I will miss all your faces, And the times we had together; As I continue my journey somewhere new. But I’ll always have my memories, Deep within my heart, Of this, my Benedict family: So… God’s blessings to all of you.

Kylie Smith

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**Mathematics Assessment Results**

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<td>Scarlett Tod</td>
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<td>Aastha Shah</td>
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Students, families, staff, Old Scholar’s and friends of the College were invited to bring a white balloon to Benedict Campus, in honour of our much loved teacher, friend and colleague “Mrs Richter”. There was a sea of white balloons tied to the fences at Benedict and those who knew Gen took a moment to say a prayer for Gen and her family. It was a beautiful opportunity for our students in particular, to come with their families and express their grief and sadness through the symbolism of a white balloon. We will miss her.

“Lord, we do not grieve as those who have no hope but we do grieve. We remember Gen’s great spirit of care and laughter and our sense of gratitude that just for a while, or for a long time, we knew this wonderful person. Stay close.”
From the Deputy Principal

An array of opportunities has been provided to our students over the past fortnight, highlighting the many unique gifts and talents of our community. It also reinforces and brings to light the talents of our staff and their ongoing commitment to providing a rich, engaging St Mark’s experience. Over the past two weeks students have engaged in Horse courses, Specialist Mathematics and Biology excursions, music performances and outdoor adventure camps. It was a fortnight of discovery, deep learning and fun.

Year 9/10 Music Evening

Last Wednesday we were again spoilt by the Year 9 and 10 Music students with another spectacular performance evening. They have grown in confidence from their first performance, I could see this in their faces and strong stage presence. They were at their best. I was most impressed by courageous individuals who performed their first ever solo pieces. Chelsea McBride’s drum solo was on song while, Scarlett Thoman instantly captured the audience with her angelic voice. Jai Thornton, self-taught guitarist mesmerised the crowd with his rendition of ‘Tears in Heaven’ by Eric Clapton. Our ‘regulars’ performed, they always impress.

Both classes continue to bubble with energy and commitment as they build their repertoire of songs and gain confidence in changing arrangements. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to each group that took the stage, it really highlighted just how much musical talent lies within these College walls.

I know that our students love showcasing their sometimes hidden talent. They have a genuine love of music and are proud to perform for their teachers and families. I congratulate all of the Year 9 and 10 Music students on a truly wonderful evening.

I also extend my gratitude to Music teachers Mardi Nolan and Fiona Clarke, along with support student George Seppelt on sound and lighting who made this evening possible.

Year 9 Camp

This week Year 9 students ventured into the wilderness for an outdoor adventure camp. They participated in a variety of activities that placed them out of their comfort zone, helping to build character, persistence and resilience. From mountain biking, to zip lines, challenge hill, orienteering, laser skirmish, rock climbing and shelter making, students worked closely with a small team to challenge and encourage one another. Night time activities were full of excitement as the groups came together to reflect on the day, share stories and join in some fun and laughter. The camp was a wonderful experience for all our Year 9 students and complimented well their Rite Journey program. I must commend our Year 9s for the way in which they courageously participated in all activities and respectfully engaged with instructors and organising teachers. They were outstanding, I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our Year 9 Coordinator, Andrew Sheridan for organising such a worthwhile experience for our students.

Learning Management System and Absentee SMS

In a new era for electronic communication St Mark’s College is rolling out our new learning management system, SEQTA. This powerful online platform will support school administration, teachers, students and families to work in close partnership regarding all educational matters.

The first component of this system is attendance. Teachers now take lesson by lesson electronic rolls, allowing staff to closely monitor and track attendance patterns and the impact this may have on student learning. Parents need to be aware that the attendance component has changed our absentee SMS details. I advise families to please save and only respond or initiate text messages with the new number. The old SMC number is being phased out and will not work beyond December 2016.

In Term 1 of 2017 the student ‘portal’ will go live for students in Year 8-12. This aspect is called SEQTA learn. The student ‘portal’ will enable students to manage all aspects of their school life. They will be able to log in at any time, from any device and click on a class in their timetable to see the online content automatically updated from their teachers’ programs. Resources such as course outlines, documents, videos, links to websites and multimedia presentations will all be available with SEQTA learn. Students can also view their homework, assessments and lesson plans where teachers have made them available.

When SEQTA engage launches with parents in 2018, you will be able to view your child’s timetable, upcoming assessments, academic results and teacher feedback, as well as communicate with staff, receive alerts and view attendance history and unexplained absences.

It will take some time for teachers and students to become familiar with and enjoy the benefits and connectivity of the portals. We ask that families are patient with us on this journey as we explore the software capabilities and upskill staff with this new technology. We know that the benefits will be worth the wait and we can’t wait to share SEQTA with you in the coming years.

For the St Mark’s community, SEQTA is exciting. Our new learning management system will prove a powerful tool that we can use to improve communication, enhance feedback and make learning more accessible.
Congratulations to all of the Year 9 and 10 Music students on a spectacular performance last week in the BGC. These students have a genuine love of music and their performance highlighted just how much talent lies within our College walls.

**PAT Testing**
Recently our Year 8, 9 and 10 students sat the progressive achievement tests in both literacy (reading comprehension) and numeracy. The data collected from the PAT tests will provide teachers with diagnostic information about your child’s learning. It will enable teachers to track individual student progress and most importantly ensure that all students are moving forward.

Over the coming weeks staff will unpack the data, in particular, year level trends and alter their programming so that areas requiring improvement are being targeted. Further to this, the data collected will also be used during our end of year handover process, ensuring that your child’s 2017 teachers are well informed about their literacy and numeracy skills.

Whilst the information collected will primarily be used for teaching staff in their programming and planning individual student information is also available for parents. If you would like a copy of this overview, please contact the Bosco Admin Office.

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

**Year 9 Camp**

The Year 9 Camp was full of adventure! Students enjoyed a variety of fun outdoor activities from mountain biking, to zip lines, challenge hill, orienteering, laser skirmish, rock climbing and shelter making.

**Year 9 and 10 Music Performance**

Congratulations to all of the Year 9 and 10 Music students on a spectacular performance last week in the BGC. These students have a genuine love of music and their performance highlighted just how much talent lies within our College walls.
Interschool Sports Day

Our Primary school students formed two teams, the “Samaritans” and the “Salesians”, to compete in the Interschool Sports Day on Bosco Oval.

On a beautiful sunny day last week the Port Pirie Primary Schools gathered on our Bosco Oval for the Interschool Sports Day. St Mark’s were proud of their two teams “Samaritans” and “Salesians” who came 2nd and 3rd respectively. Congratulations to our friends at Risdon Park Primary School who were winners on the day!

Well done Sian!

Congratulations to Year 10 student Sian Fitzgerald. Sian represented St Mark’s College at the Interschool Gymkana in Kapunda in show jumping. She placed in each event and came 4th in the 30cm, 3rd in the 50-60cm and 2nd in the 60-80cm. Sian is pictured above on her horse Pippa (middle) being awarded her ribbons. Well done Sian!

Congratulations Kalan and Marcus!

Talented St Mark’s soccer players Kalan Caputo and Marcus Spadavecchia have been selected as part of the SAP (Skills Acquisition Program) for soccer. They travel to Adelaide for training twice a week and are the only 2 country boys selected in the squad. Well done on your selection boys - we wish you luck!
Our Year 11 TSC students Henry, Tom, Edward and Ashleigh have been kept very busy taking part in the hay baling operations at McNally Farm as part of their Tractor and Machinery Operations Course.

School Fees

Please note Direct Debit payments made through the College PaySmart payment system will automatically be updated from January 2017 to take into account the 2017 Fees and any new sibling enrolments.

I would like to remind parents that all schools fees must be paid by the end of the school year unless you have negotiated a formal payment plan with the College. Fee statements have been posted this week and I suggest you check these carefully to ensure all fees will be paid in full by the end of the school year.

Parents are reminded that a 7% Administration Fee will be charged to your account from the 1 January 2017 on the balance outstanding at 31 December unless a formal payment arrangement has been negotiated with the College as a result of financial hardship circumstances.

If you do not respond to correspondence regarding fees follow up, we will have no alternative but to place your debt with our Debt Collection agency. Any fees associated with debt collection will be added to your account.

The collection of fees are essential to the overall success of the educational program at St Mark’s and therefore the College is required to ensure that the financial responsibilities of all families are met. Every effort will continue to be made to assist families in meeting their commitment to pay College fees.

Dominic LoBasso,
Business Manager
Around the College

**ST MARK’S COLLEGE**

**GARAGE SALE**

**Saturday 26 November 2016**

**Trade Skills Centre**

**Drage Street, Port Pirie**

**8.30am to 11.00am**

Numerous Items, too many to mention - so come along and check it out.

*One Man’s trash is another Man’s treasure!*

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**Our family table...**

**Cook Book Launch Party**

**Benedict Campus**

**Wednesday 7th December 2016**

3:00pm-4:30pm

Entertainment from 3:30pm

Pre-ordered Cooks Books will be available for collection at the launch party. Additional Cook Books will also be available for purchase for $25 each.

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**Messy Church**

**Tuesday 29th November 2016**

St Mark’s Parish Centre, 103 Gertrude Street, Port Pirie

4pm till 6pm

The Gift of Christmas

The first Christmas present wasn’t wrapped in bright Christmas paper.

It was a gift from God

Messy Church is a chance for families to meet together.

All ages welcome for fun, activities, crafts, stories, songs and a BBQ.

Please note, all children must be accompanied by an adult

Cost: Gold coin donation

For Further info contact Helen McKeough - 8632 0506

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Please return tear off slip by Friday 18th November to: Front School Office OR Collection Box St Mark’s Cathedral

Name................................................................. Address.................................................................

Phone Number...................................................... Number of Family Members Attending.............................
The Bosco Prize
Exhibition Launch

Opening Tuesday November 15th at 7pm
Light refreshments provided

Bishop Gallagher Centre
St Mark’s College Bosco Campus
455 The Terrace, Port Pirie

Featuring the announcement of the Senior and Junior prize winners as well as celebrating the achievements of the Stage Two Visual Arts and Design students.

Exhibition open until Friday 18th November by appointment only. Ph. 8633 8812

Year 8 Visual Arts - Decorative Clay Words

Alice Hubert

Caitlin Oliphant

Ethan Watson

Jamison Murphy

Notices

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.

Port Football and Community Sporting Club
Open daily from 10.00am