

NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 8 June 2023



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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Families enjoying Mini Mark's this week. Our playgroup is a new initiative for welcoming families into our Catholic community.

This week at the Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Annie Olsen and I had an opportunity to share the considerable work that is being done to engage students in meaningful faith experiences, which are foundational to our mission and purpose as a Catholic school.

Council members were very interested in the data that was collected in 2021 as part of the Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project, which reflected changes in society and disengagement with the Church, religion, and religious education. Yet enrolments in Catholic schools are strong and St Mark's is no exception. I wonder why this is. It was clear that there are many reasons why families choose a Catholic school and reasons why some families do not.

Some families do not choose Catholic schools because of a perception that they are too expensive, selective, or that students must be Catholic and religious education somehow narrows the curriculum and reduces learning opportunities. Others, according to marketing surveys, choose Catholic schools because they are perceived as caring, supportive, and inclusive but perhaps do not promote excellence.

I love enrolment conversations. They provide the first opportunity to make connections with new students and their families, hear what has brought them to St Mark's, and to dispel any misconceptions about who we are and what we offer.

We pride ourselves at St Mark's on being accessible and affordable. Significant fee reductions are available for low-income families eligible for School Card, and the three-tier fee structure

introduced this year, combined with various payment plan options, are a response to cost of living pressures.

We are also far from selective; all students are welcome. Teachers adjust learning to ensure the curriculum is accessible and students can achieve success. Our SACE results are indicative of high expectations and the pursuit of excellence, whilst the number of students successfully gaining apprenticeships shows that we support multiple pathways. We care about each student, their wellbeing, learning and future pathways.

The importance of instilling values in children is often a reason given for enrolling in a Catholic school. For me, these values stem from our Catholic faith. Far from narrowing the curriculum offerings, religious education provides a space for dialogue about important qualities in life: being respectful, tolerant, compassionate, and treating others as we wish to be treated. Gospel stories and teachings are at the heart of these values.

The graduate qualities that parents are seeking include demonstrating good moral judgement, being able to make ethical decisions and understanding the impact of actions on others. Parents hope their children will develop a sense of something bigger than themselves, a spirituality of the world, and an ability to do the right thing even when it might be difficult. So, whilst religion may not be a clear factor in parents choosing Catholic education, it is the Catholic lens of teaching and learning that enables students to become the people we know they can be.

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Faith and Mission



Congratulations to our Confirmandi Ronan, Lucas, Lewis, Liam, Sherdin, Elise, Shae, Zak, Ceana, Lachlan, Sloan, Jye, Zac, Cooper and Amarlee

Confirmation

Pentecost Sunday is an important time in our liturgical calendar. Each year we celebrate this day 50 days after Easter to mark the birthday of the Church. This celebration teaches us of the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives through our words and actions and it is also the day our Parish celebrates Confirmation.

This year we joined with 15 Confirmandi and their families as they formally accepted the Holy Spirit in their lives through this sacrament. Bishop Karol led us in a special mass, and it was inspiring to see the young people stand up and profess their beliefs in a faith that will be there for them forever.

The Holy Spirit is present in the world today in many different ways, at school we teach our students to look for the Holy Spirit in the gifts of the Spirit:

- Wisdom is the gift of knowing the right choices to make. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you to make wrong choices.
- Understanding is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning in different lessons. The gift of understanding

helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

- Right Judgment, is the gift of cautiousness. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.
- Courage, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ and what you believe in. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles.
- Knowledge is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path.
- Reverence, is a sense of God as the All-Holy, present in our world and in our hearts. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.
- Wonder and Awe, is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you want to live a life that is just and peaceful.



Lewis being confirmed with his sponsor Michael

Communion

Some of our Year 4 Students are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion and have been showing their commitment with their families by attending parish masses over the past few weeks. We keep these students in our prayers as their sacrament draws closer.

James, Sophie, Oliver, Harper, Sherdin, Poppy, Bailey, Luka, Lily, Tabitha, Will, Daelan, Brodie, George, Fletcher, Jett, Indiana, Millie, Rocco, Jace, Olivia, Alcuin, Max, Noelle, Hudson, Eli and Jayah.

Mrs Annie Olsen, **APRIM**



SOUTHERN CROSS:

Click [here for the latest edition](#).

THE WITNESS:

Click [here for the latest edition](#).

Week 7: 12/6 - 16/6		Week 8: 19/6 -23/6			
Mon	King's Birthday Public Holiday Student Free Day	Mon			
Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am	Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am	Year 11 Sem 1 Exams	
Wed	Benedict Photo Day	Wed	Mid Year Reception Orientation Day 1 8.45am - 12.00pm		
Thur	Bosco Photo Day	Thur			
Fri	Little Lions Session 12	Fri	Little Lions Session 12 and Presentation Assembly Good Samaritan Hall, 11.45am		
	Year 4 Retreat		Year 10 Sem 1 Exams		
Sat/ Sun	First Holy Communion St Mark's Cathedral Saturday 17 June, 6.00pm + Sunday 18 June, 10.30am		Semester 1 Concludes		

A collection of various water bottles and containers arranged on a light blue surface against a white background. The bottles include a large blue bottle on the left, a black and pink Nike bottle in the foreground, a yellow bottle, and several others in different colors and shapes, including a black bottle with a red cap and a blue bottle with a green cap.

A collection of colorful, child-friendly containers and a spoon on a grey surface. The items include a pink thermos, a black square container, a green square container, a blue circular container, a blue circular container, a pink circular container, a green circular container, a blue rectangular container, a white rectangular container, and a blue and white striped spoon.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

Key Dates and Campus Information



Bosco Campus:

School Attendance

As we near the end of Semester 1, students are busily finishing topics and assessments. For students who have missed learning time through absenteeism they are under greater pressure to produce work.

Research recognises the high correlation between attendance and successful academic outcomes. It has been shown that students who attend school regularly achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.

I am grateful to Jane Gibson and the Pastoral Care Team who watch attendance closely and communicate regularly with families around school attendance. If there are barriers making school attendance difficult for your child please reach out to the appropriate Year Level Coordinator so that we can work towards a positive outcome by way of regular attendance.

Knockout Sports

We are currently in a peak period for sports activities with Knockout Football, Hockey and Netball taking place next week. A lot of athletes are born out of such competitions, and it has and continues to be an effective way of developing their sporting skills. Above all this is an opportunity for our students to network increasing social skills, to develop a growth mindset and build their leadership capacity. I am grateful to the PE department overseeing these activities.

Year Level Activities

The photo gallery (page 7) in this week's newsletter will show a range of activities students have been involved in. I have enjoyed hearing recounts of the Year 10 Camp in the yard. At the end of this term our Year 12 students go on Retreat. This is a wonderful opportunity for the senior students to consider their schooling journey and what aspects of their past and present they will take forward with them, as they shape their future.

School Photos

School Photos will be held next Thursday 15 June (Week 7). All students are required to wear full school Winter uniform for the day, with long hair tied back, cleanness and no makeup. I thank you in anticipation for supporting the College in ensuring your son/daughter is meeting our uniform expectations.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

Farewell Mrs Kaur and Miss Liang

At the end of the semester (Week 8) we say farewell to Mrs Rupinder Kaur and Miss Shufei (Sophie) Liang.

Mrs Kaur is relocating to Sydney with her family and we express our thanks for her contribution over the past year at St Mark's College.

We also wish Miss Liang all the best as she relocates from Port Pirie and seeks other opportunities closer to her family.



College:

School Performance Report

Each year the College prepares an annual report for the community. We encourage interested families to read the 2022 School Performance Report located on our website: www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/about

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Benedict Campus



LITTLE LIONS > Our Little Lions and their Year 5 Buddies visited McNally Farm



MINI MARK'S > Families enjoyed playgroup with a range of activities created by Year 11 Child Studies students. Pictured is Isabella and Fox.



KESAB > Students learnt the correct way to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle with a performance by KESAB, pictured are Anna and Mercedes



EXCURSION > 2R were rugged up for their excursion over the hills, they are pictured in Wirrabara Forest



STORY TIME > Year 1 students engaged in National Simultaneous Story Time reading and creating their own 'Speepy Sloth', pictured are Will, Marnie and Archer



LITTLE LIONS > Our Little Lions and their Year 5 Buddies enjoyed a session of 'Messy Play' last week, pictured is Erin

Reconciliation Week



RECEPTION > RB read the Dreaming Story "How the Birds got their Colours", the students discussed the story and shared their thoughts, photographed are Lily H, Lily L, Archer and Tarkin



YEAR 3 > Annabelle, Mia, Olivia and Lincoln with artwork inspired by Judy Crosby



YEAR 2 > Evie-Rose, Amahli and Koby with their decorated Acknowledgment of Country



YEAR 1 > Stella, Charlie, Deakin, Clarry, Cooper, Calliope and Finn with their rain sticks



YEAR 4 > Makayla, Brodie, Lily and George with their colourful meeting place artwork



YEAR 4 > Rhys, Amy, Millie and Sophie designed their own Indigenous sports uniforms



YEAR 2 > Isla, Dillon and Alfie with their rainbow serpent artwork



RECEPTION > Jay, Imogen, Isla, Hailey and Ella with their meeting place artwork

Bosco Campus



AGRICULTURE > Ag students gained first hand industry experience at life on a station when they visited Wirraminna Station



STEM > Our Year 8 Environmental Studies students took a deep dive into waste at the College, finding that just under 50% of what ends up in rubbish is actually recyclable or compostable! The students are now working on an action plan to help combat and reduce the amount of waste from the College going to landfill.



CHILD STUDIES > Year 11 Child Studies students designed and created a number of activities which were used to engage children at Mini Mark's playgroup



FOOD TECHNOLOGY > Year 11 Food Technology students created a delicious morning tea which raised over \$1000 for the Cancer Council



YEAR 10 > Jack and Mrs Reddaway have been busy in the Home Ec Kitchen this week baking cheese and veggie muffins



YEAR 10 CAMP > Treetop climbing, ziplining, escaping rooms and gaining valuable learning experiences at the Adelaide Gaol and the Holocaust Museum were all part of the adventure of Year 10 camp last week



2024 Primary Campus Enrolments

Due to increasing enrolment numbers, there are only limited places available at Benedict Campus in 2024.

If you are considering enrolling a sibling in Reception - Year 6 in 2024, please contact the College as soon as possible.

CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC WEEK
BBQ + BONFIRE

Monday 3 July, 5pm
Indigenous Garden, Drage St

Register at:
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naidoc-week-bbq-and-bonfire-tickets-651292622767

THE NEXT GENERATION
SCHOOL of ROCK
THE MUSICAL

Tickets for our College Musical are on sale NOW: www.countryarts.org.au/events/school-of-rock/

Community Notices



APPRENTICESHIPS > Nystar visited Bosco Campus this week to speak with senior students about apprenticeship opportunities, pictured are VET and Careers Coordinator Mr Goode, Zach, Elijah, Tyler and James

APPLY NOW 2024 Apprenticeships



Closing date for applications: Sunday 9 July

More than 90% of our apprentices across the fields of Boilermaking, Electrical and Fitting & Turning, continue into permanent employment with us following their four-years of training.

To learn more and apply, visit the links below (you can apply for more than one!)

Investing in Port Pirie's next generation, that's Nyrstar.

Scan the QR codes or visit jobs.nyrstar.com



Fitter & Turner



Boilermaker



Electrician

nyrstar
Resources for a changing world

Weekly Specials

BENEDICT CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = Fruit Box)	
Week 7 Mon	Public Holiday - Student Free Day			
Tues	Ham and Cheese Triangles	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Burrito Bowl or wrap + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Spicy Beef Burger + Drink	\$6.20 \$8.00
Week 6 Mon	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.00	Meatball Sub + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Steak and Onion Sandwiches + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Spaghetti Bolognaise + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffin	\$2.00	Lemon Chicken with Fried Rice + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Cordon Bleu Burgers + Drink	\$6.20 \$8.00

BOSCO CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can)	
Week 8 Mon	Public Holiday - Student Free Day			
Tues	Ham and Cheese Triangles	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Burrito Bowl or Wraps + Drink	\$6.00 \$7.00
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Spicy Beef Burger + Drink	\$6.20 \$8.00
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Online Canteen Orders: www.flexischools.com.au

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752

