



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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BOSCO CAMPUS

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'Jesus' played by Oliver hangs on the cross while Hudson and Will stand guard during the Easter Re-Enactment.

A season of forgiveness and reconciliation

In our Easter liturgy last week, we experienced members of our community washing the feet of others. This is a humbling experience, symbolic of Jesus' servant leadership and service to humanity. The disciples felt very uncomfortable having their dusty feet washed by Jesus, feeling it was somehow beneath Him to do something so ordinary, the work of the least important people in society at the time. Jesus came not to be served but to serve and he showed this by engaging in the most humble, ordinary acts of service. He did this out of love and with great humility, not as someone filled with his own importance or excessive pride. In many ways, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples was an act of cleansing and forgiveness. There may be things we have done or said this term for which we need to seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Easter, perhaps more than any other time in the liturgical calendar, is a time to recognise that as human beings we are imperfect and often make mistakes, some of which are harmful to others as well as ourselves. Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday was a very sombre occasion. His followers would have been filled with despair and self-doubt, wondering what their role in the world would be to keep the messages of Jesus alive. But Easter is a time of joy and celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, which gives us the greatest hope. We are not sure where the word Easter comes from. It has been

suggested that it comes from the Norse word oestur or ostara which means the season of the growing sun or the season of new birth.

I love this idea, that Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday was a victory of light over darkness and a triumph of love and hope. It invites us to think about how we can see it as a new beginning for ourselves, in how we behave in every aspect of our lives so that we keep the message of Jesus, that has been passed on to us through the Gospels, alive in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

At the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral on Saturday night we joyfully welcomed members of our St Mark's College community into the Church through baptism, confirmation, and Holy Communion. Congratulations to Ben Goode and Ann Russack on taking this step in their faith journey, along with my husband and son, Malcolm and Alex Hewson.

Term 1 has been incredibly busy. There have been so many opportunities for students to learn beyond the curriculum: camps, concerts, liturgies, Athletics Carnival at Bosco, sports, and Harmony Day activities to name a few. We have also had Early Years benchmark testing, Progressive Achievement Tests, NAPLAN and communication with parents and caregivers through email, Seesaw, telephone check-ins and Parent Teacher Conferences. With a week to go before a well-earned rest

From the Principal



Ben Goode and Ann Russack, along with Malcolm and Alex Hewson, were welcomed into the Catholic Church.

for all, I'd like to thank all my staff for their tireless efforts. I'd also like to take this opportunity to farewell Makayla Eylward, Boarding House Supervisor, and Emily Donoghue, who are leaving St Mark's College. We wish them well for whatever their future holds.

As you receive this newsletter, I will be in Samoa, visiting and working in two Salesian high schools that are part of the Salesian network in Australia and the Pacific. Students have been raising money for Project Compassion and some of these funds will support projects in Samoa. I look forward to sharing some of my experiences of education in Samoa early next term.

As we finish the term strongly, I wish all of you a happy and restful term break when it comes. For students who have enrolled in Children's University, this presents a perfect opportunity to engage in some self-directed learning.

Go well!

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Faith and Mission



Project Compassion fundraising

Our Lenten Project Compassion fundraising campaign for Caritas Australia saw students from across the College committed to helping change the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. The Year 9 students and teachers, who initiated their own fundraising campaigns as part of their Religious Education program, have gone above and beyond to raise money in a variety of ways. From raffles to bake sales, car washes to barbeques, the enthusiasm for the worthy cause of almsgiving through Project Compassion has been extremely heartening. The Easter Raffle, organised by the Student Leadership group, saw 25 prizes being won from the generous donation of chocolate by the school community. A big thank you to the families and local businesses who donated goods and money to our Project Compassion campaign, raising over \$5000 as a whole school.

Mr Sjostrom's head-shave

The fundraising for Project Compassion was enough for Mr Sjostrom, our Sports Coordinator, to have his head shaved using a number 2 clipper as part of an incentive he had

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Charlie, Liam, Noah, Joseph and Tobi held a sausage sizzle to raise funds for Project Compassion



Year 12 student leaders Karly, Isabella and Jess coordinated an Easter raffle, with first prize going to Matilda in Year 8.

Faith and Mission



Year 5s performed the Easter Re-Enactment our Benedict community.

negotiated with the Student Leadership group. This amused many gathered on the Bosco Basketball Court at Thursday lunchtime last week.

Celebrating Holy Week

Primary students at Benedict Campus marked Holy Week by reflecting on the Passion of Jesus as presented by our talented Year 5 students in the annual Easter Re-enactment. In their Religion lessons, students learned about the events of Holy Week through story books, scripture readings and videos. We explored the different Holy Week traditions that are observed today in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Returning to school after the Easter weekend, we celebrated the resurrection with intimate class liturgies and enjoyed hollow chocolate eggs representing the empty tomb left behind after Jesus rose from the dead.

At Bosco Campus, Year 8s participated in a form of liturgy known as the Stations of the Cross, in a modified form that went on a journey around the school campus while reflecting on the journey Jesus endured toward the glory of his death on the Cross.

On Thursday of Holy Week, the Bosco Campus recognised the beginning of the Easter Triduum (Three Days of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection) with the ritual of washing the feet of some of our students. This was in recognition of the Year 9s contribution to Project Compassion, and the Year 12s services to the College over their former years. Thursday is also the day when we recognise the institution of the Lord's Supper by Jesus for his disciples, we now identify as the Eucharist.

Staff Faith Formation

Staff from across the College gathered together on the Bosco Oval in their College House Teams and engaged in a journey of their own with the Stations of the Cross. We recognise that there are fourteen stations in the liturgy and recognised that we share this Catholic Identity with fourteen schools within the Diocese of Port Pirie. At each station the staff acknowledged each school and the traditional lands on which they are located. At this time of the term, it allowed staff to experience prayer and fellowship with their Houses in a religious and spiritual experience.

Ms Brodie Nugent, Mr Isaac Ellis, Ms Fiona Clarke and Mrs Megan Congdon
St Mark's College Catholic Identity Team



Mr Gibson shaving Mr Sjostroms head as an incentive for fundraising.



Staff engage in the Stations of the Cross.

THE WITNESS:

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

SOUTHERN CROSS:

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

Key Dates and Campus Information



Our College Calendar is continuously being updated on our website: www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/news/calendar.
Click to find the most accurate event information.

Week 11: 8/4 - 12/4		Week 1: 29/4 - 3/5		Week 2: 6/5 - 10/5	
Mon	SAPSASA Swimming	Mon	Student Free Day Staff Professional Learning Day	Mon	Little Lions Session 8 Class Photo Day
			Boarders Return	Mon	Confirmation Workshop Bosco Centre, 5.30 - 7.00pm
Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am	Tues	Start of Term 2 Summer to Winter Uniform Transition (see over the page)	Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am
				Tues	Year 11 RAP Presentation
Wed	Ag Sponsors' BBQ McNally Farm, 6.30pm	Wed		Wed	Y7-9 Parent Teacher Interviews St Mark's Sports Centre, 3.40 - 8.00pm
Thur	Interschool Winter Carnival Year 5 and 6 students	Thur		Thur	Y7 Retreat
				Thur	Y11 Vinnies Sleepout
Fri	End of Term 1 1.05pm dismissal 7-12 mid-semester reports	Fri		Fri	Little Lions Session 8 Class Photo Day
				Fri	Y10 Careers Expo

Benedict Campus:

What's been happening in Year 5

This week I visited 5 Blue to explore the curious minds of the Year 5 students. They have been very busy and engaged in various aspects of their schooling life. Noelle told me the Year 5 cohort have just finished their Easter Re-enactment, which is the story of "how Jesus dies and rose from the dead".

There were mixed feelings about the NAPLAN testing, some liked the testing where others thought that it was a challenge and weren't sure if they got the answers right.

Harvie was excited to tell me about the large jungle painting they have been working on with Mrs Haskett. The focus was to look at animals and their habitats. Marlo expanded on this telling me they were looking into adaptation. "Adaptation is how different animals adapt to their environment" (Marlo). Leo enjoyed finding facts about animals to build an information report.

In Literacy, Luke tells me that they have been working on persuasive writing. "Persuasive writing is trying to convince someone to a particular side" (Luke). The Year 5s have been reading Rowan of Rhin. Today they were working on Chapter 13 and were "predicting what happens" (Aaron).

Rocco has been enjoying the buddy program they have with their Little Lions buddies. "Being a buddy is good. We get to have fun and play with our buddies. It is a good responsibility" (Rocco). Noelle added "being a buddy is preparing us for next year to be Year 6 leaders of the school".

Denver has enjoyed the Gold Rush unit in HASS. "I have found it interesting when they brought in the Eureka Stockade" (Denver). The Year 5s have been enjoying their specialist lessons as well. In Italian they have been learning about Roman life. In PE they have been creating ways to make games more inclusive to allow everyone to participate.

Mrs Sarah Freer, **Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus**

Key Dates and Campus Information



Bosco Campus:

The value of learning

Each year we work to become more skillful teachers through collaboration with colleagues, parents and students. We continue to work on improving through understanding of quality teaching and the value of high-impact teaching strategies.

Our teachers strive to offer supports and structures in the classroom which enable students to do their best learning. This year we are pairing this with placing emphasis on the value of learner habits. We know that learning output is increased when students embrace challenges, act on feedback and invest time and effort to complete their tasks. Learning is a skill of habits and mindsets that needs to be taught in the same way we are teaching social expectations and norms.

It was pleasing to see so many of our senior students coming along to set goals and review their learning progress with teachers and parents at our Learning Meetings in Weeks 8 and 9. Our junior students will have this same opportunity at the start of Term 2.

Report Distribution

On Friday 12 April (the last day of term) all Year 7-12 students will receive a Term Academic Indicator Report. This document will provide parents key insights into their child's learning and progress. The report will be distributed via SEQTA Engage. I encourage parents to use this report as an opportunity to sit down with your child and discuss their progress and effort and help them set new goals for the new term. The power of this discussion and goal setting cannot be underestimated and is particularly meaningful for students, when they share this with others.

Social Media and Technology

As part of our pastoral care program students across all year levels participate in a range of activities that aim to develop appropriate use of social media and devices as part of the Child Protection Curriculum. Technology is a necessary tool in all of our lives with the potential to assist us in many ways. However, technology use has also been found to contribute to poor self-esteem, negative interactions and isolation in some children.

Digital technologies continue to become more ubiquitous, for us as educators and parents and it can sometimes be a struggle to support the safe use of technology with our young people. At times technology can come to control our habits and behaviours.

In working to assist students to keep themselves safe and skill them up in online behaviours, there are a number really practical and helpful resources created on the SA Government E-Safety website. It is one of the sites our pastoral care team use regularly and you might find it helpful too:

 www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice

Wishing you all a wonderful term break and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school in Term 2.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus


College:

College Uniform - Summer to Winter Transition

During Week 1 and 2 of Term 2, students are permitted to wear either full summer or full winter uniform unless a designated PE Uniform day.

Winter Uniform must be worn from Week 3 onwards, unless a designated PE Uniform day.

For more information about the College Uniform, including dress and skirt lengths, visit:

 www.smc.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/uniform

Key Dates and Campus Information



College:

College Fees

Thank you to all families who have set up a Paysmart Payment Plan or paid in full.

A friendly reminder that Friday 12 April is the last day for families to receive the 5% Prompt Payment Discount for full payment of fees. After this date all families are required to have a Paysmart Payment Plan in place unless the College has approved another payment method. **If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Pilkington at the Administration Office on 8633 8800.**

College Fees - Exceptional Circumstances

Are you experiencing unexpected financial hardship? Contact College Administration on 8633 8800 to access a copy of the Exceptional Circumstances form for assistance with College fees.

College Board:

We are excited to introduce the following parents who are nominating to be part of the College Board. The College community is invited to participate in the AGM on Tuesday 21 May at 7.00pm in the Bosco Library where these nominees will be presented.

Scott Kelly

I have two children who attend Saint Mark's College. My son will transition into high school next year and my daughter still has a few more years at the Benedict campus.

I am especially interested in supporting the future of Saint Marks college and feel that I could do this best by joining the College Board. I am a local Police Sergeant and working alongside others, to support the local community is something that I enjoy. I have been a member of the Port Pirie Volleyball and Port Pirie Baseball committees for many years and have enjoyed the challenge of providing and maintaining recreational sporting opportunities for youth and adults in our region. In the past I have also worked with at risk youth, offering support through driving lessons.

With an invested interest in the wellbeing of all students attending Saint Marks College, I know that my leadership skills and my ability to govern equitably and remain impartial will benefit the College board. I have excellent communication skills and pride myself on my ability to work collaboratively with others. I wish to use these attributes to support the college to remain a prospering environment for all students and their families.

Ian Toshach

I have recently relocated to Port Pirie from Adelaide with my family, my wife Sonali, my son Gabriel and my daughter Isabella. I am a scientist of some 20+ years of experience in public and private pathology. This has brought me vast experience in working within teams of various sizes as well as high level communication skills. I value team building through positive behaviour and leading by example.

I have always been a dedicated scientist, father and family man. But I am looking to put down roots into this community. I have taken steps towards this with joining various clubs in Port Pirie such as the rowing club. As a man focused on improving the education of my children, this seems like an ideal way that I can help contribute to this community if I am accepted.

Hugh Richter

My name is Hugh Richter and I am excited to nominate for a position on the St Mark's College Board. My family has a strong connection to St Mark's. I attended the school from Reception to Year 10, and now my children are students. My wife Alyce and I have three children, Alfie (Year 2), Lenny (Reception) and Olive who will start school in 2026.

I am the Managing Director of SJ Cheesman in Port Pirie. Our family has managed the company for 38 years and we employ 35 people. I have been a board member of TACTIC (formerly GMUSG, which links linking of local supplier capability to major projects) for 8 years and have progressed to Deputy Chair. I will bring to the Board a wealth of business experience to help shape St Marks College for the future, as well as the perspectives of a parent and Old Scholar.

Benedict Campus



MURAL OPENING > Today we celebrated the official opening of the 'Our Journey' mural painted by Judy Crosby-Woods. The students were excited to share their thoughts on the colourful mural and what it meant to them.



ART > Huey and Ocea with the Easter Bunnies they created.



EASTER > Reception and Year 6 Buddies celebrated Easter making crafts and decorating biscuits! Pictured are Miller and Hunter.



DODGEBALL > Year 6s celebrating after the Staff VS Students dodgeball game.



SCIENCE > As part of their learning in Science, our Year 5s worked together to create these colourful murals. The murals show the students learning about the rainforest jungle, the features of the jungle and what adaptations are used from the animals that live there to survive.



LITERACY > Year 1s shared books they created about themselves with Year 10 students.

Bosco Campus



LEADERSHIP > Student leaders are meeting regularly with the School Captains providing a student voice in four main focus areas: Spirituality, Social Justice and Ecology (led by Isabella), Active and Engaging community (led by Zara), Leading Agency and Voice (led by Adam) and House Activities (led by Blake).



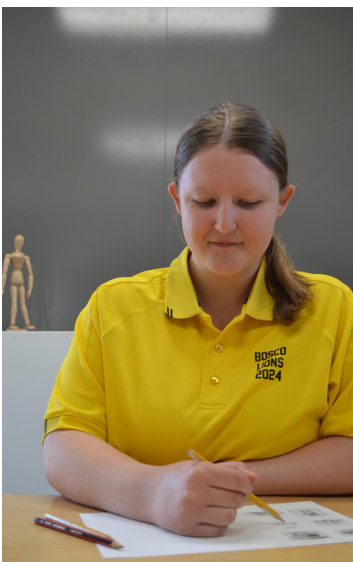
ENGLISH > After reading stories together earlier in the term, Year 10 English students shared a story they had written, illustrated and made into a book for our Year 1 students.



SCIENCE > Year 10 students completed a practical where they isolated DNA from a strawberry using salt and detergent.



CHILD STUDIES > Our Receptions enjoyed a cultural learning experience designed by our Year 12s. The Year 12s created activities including: making traditional foods; crafting hats, lantern and flags; and using technology to educate the Receptions about how people in other countries live, eat and celebrate traditions and customs.



CREATIVE ARTS > EMILY
Meet our Year 12 Creative Arts student Emily, who is focussing on drawing as part of her studies. Emily says she enjoys the process of achieving the final product, watching it slowly become a drawing that she is proud of. After school, Emily aspires to be a Speech Pathologist, but will continue drawing for the love of it! For students considering Creative Arts, Emily says 'You should definitely do Creative Arts if you enjoy being artsy or creative'.



CREATIVE ARTS > JESS
Meet our Year 12 Creative Arts student Jess, who is focussing on photography for her studies. Jess says she enjoys being able to capture beautiful moments and memories that she can look back on in the future. After school, Jess would like to go into the field of environmental science and ecology and hopes to travel a lot. For students considering Creative Arts, Jess says 'It enables you to build skills and study what you truly enjoy doing at school'.

College Sport



Students in the Orange Dot Tennis Program.



Perpetual Award winners Ryan, Austin, James and Minette

St Mark's Tennis Season 2023/2024

We congratulate all of our St Mark's students who competed in the 2023/2024 Tennis Season! Thank you to the Coaches, Team Managers and families who helped to make the season a success!

Well done to our teams who made it to Saturday's Grand Final:

- A Grade- SMC Red (Premiers) and SMC Blue (Runners Up)
- B Grade- SMC Blue (Runners Up)
- C Grade- SMC Gold (Premiers) and SMC Blue (Runners Up)

We also congratulate the players who were recognised with Association Awards:

- Association Most Consistent Awards:
- C Grade Most Consistent Male- Luke
- C Grade Most Consistent Female- Tessa
- A Grade Most Consistent Male- James

Perpetual Awards:

- 'Schebella' Memorial Trophy for most consistent player across all junior grades- James
- 'Ken Madigan' Trophy for male player with excellent skill, etiquette, commitment and sportsmanship- Austin
- 'Shirley Tiller' Trophy- Trophy for female player with excellent skill, etiquette, commitment and sportsmanship- Minette
- 'Kate Stanley' Memorial Trophy- For a player who demonstrates excellent perseverance and commitment to play, always gives their best and never gives up- Ryan



St Mark's Gold played St Mark's Blue in the C Grade Grand Final.



Congratulations to Alyssa, Matilda and Brielle who represented Pirie/ North Eastern at SAPSASA Softball.



Tess McKeough

In memory of Tess McKeough who passed away on 23 March 2024.

Her commitment to young people and the joy she shared for fun and learning will forever be in our hearts.

Tess was a much loved teacher to many here at St Mark's College between 2002 - 2016 and taught generations of Port Pirie families over her teaching career.



The College Board AGM will be held on Tuesday 21 May, 7.00pm in the Bosco Library.
All welcome!



Registrations and payments are due by Friday 12 April to ensure your child's participation in the program. To register, scan the QR code, complete your details and pay \$5 at the office.



Catechism for Youth and Adults

Port Pirie:

St Mark's Cathedral, Chapter Hall
Mondays and Wednesdays at 7pm
starting on 15 April 2024

Crystal Brook:

Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre
Sundays and Tuesdays at 7pm
starting on 14 April 2024

For further information please contact:

Fr Jimmy Pantin
0434 517 920

Francesco Trentin
0439 877 238

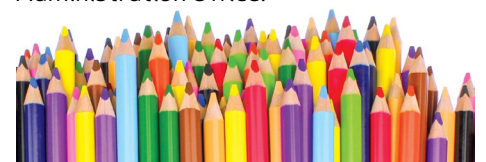
Can you help?

Our OSHC is looking for donations for their craft and play!

They would appreciate donations of:

- Used clean clothes for dress ups
- Bottle lids, corks and bottle caps
- Old pencils and crayons
- Buttons and cotton reels
- Cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls due to hygiene but any other rolls)

If you can assist, please drop your donations into the Benedict Administration Office.





CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

We invite new and enrolling families to join us for a Campus Tour followed by Morning Tea:

Monday 13 May, 9.30pm
Benedict Campus, R-6

Wednesday 15 May, 9.30pm
Bosco Campus, 7-12

Register at:
www.smc.catholic.edu.au

Canteen Specials

IMPORTANT: Please ensure that your child's year level is correct on FlexiSchools. Incorrect year levels can cause issues, particularly at Bosco Campus. The year level needs to be updated each year.

BENEDICT CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = Fruit Box)	
Week 11	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.50	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Mon				
Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Egg and Bacon Muffin + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$3.00	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Schnitzel and Gravy Rolls + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	Final Day of Term			

BOSCO CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can)	
Week 11	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.50	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Mon				
Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Egg and Bacon Muffin + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$3.00	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Schnitzel and Gravy Rolls + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00		

Online Canteen Orders: www.flexischools.com.au

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752

