Salesian House Bulletin

Term 1 11th March 2016

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Our new boarders: Tom, Luke, Ashleigh, Chloe, Rhys, Patrick and Harry

I have watched a wonderful welcome unfolding this year. The magic and the cohesion of boarding life at St Mark's had begun again. There is a daily rhythm of organisation and fun, a culture of respect and care, and a spirituality of reverence that is created once again by the leadership and the Boarding community. Things will go well again.

We have all eaten together at tea time and shared lots of stories. We have prayed together in the Bosco chapel. I have enjoyed the warmth of a hello in the yard from many and seen the friendships growing and the unity beginning to develop. I have publically shaken hands with the Boarding Captain Patrick and have absolute confidence in his leadership. I saw the delight in the eyes of the Year 12s when they entered their new precinct and I was particularly proud of the Year 11s and 12s who wore the high viz shirts and began the Trade Training experience. I watched everyone's efforts at the Sports Day and am always hearing the bounce of a basketball in the recreation times. I have really enjoyed the stories that Mrs Arbon has told me about Salesian House and how well everyone is doing. There is a good tone about the place.

Boarding at St Mark's can become a great experience for students and I know that it is a sacrifice by parents. Boarding makes connections and deep friendships and behind it all is a mum and dad driving on Sunday nights, keeping things running, worrying and trusting. Boarding gives students a chance to learn in a wonderful school and to develop self-reliance. There is an adult team who care and monitor and there is laughter and fun. There are good habits and funny moments. There is the struggle of becoming independent and there is the joy of interdependence. I have enjoyed a wonderful welcome by the Boarding community. There is a beautiful spirit about the place.

I extend my best wishes to all for the continuing warmth and care of the community.

Greg Hay
Principal

Salesian House Report

Thank you to parents and families who joined the students, teaching staff, Greg Hay, Kate Kilpatrick, Pauline and David on the opening night for 2016. At the first Parent Council Meeting a couple of parents suggested something different for the first night, such as starting earlier with a Liturgy and a BBQ tea in a Liturgy. If any other parent would like to offer other suggestions please contact Pauline or myself at the Boarding Home.

Salesian House Parent Council meetings are on a Sunday evening once a term at 7.30pm and it's a time where you can hear from the Principal news of what is happening at the College of interest to our boarding students and families and a time to have a voice of your own. Katrina Butterick is our Salesian House Representative on the College Board and we do thank her for taking on that role again in 2016. Any parent wishing to join the Parent Council would be most welcome.

The new students have responded well to boarding life and it is indeed a great pleasure to have welcomed these students to the House; Harry Mead and Patrick O'Dea Year 8, Luke and Tom Klingner and Chloe Coleman Year 9 and Rhys Morgan Year 11. We also welcome back to boarding Ashleigh Ragless Year 11.

School Counsellor Katrina Johns offers wonderful assistance to our students and has organised appointments for each student for them to be able to voice their thoughts to her about anything they wish, all for the health and well-being of each of them. These confidential meetings will be ongoing throughout the year.

We have been very spoilt with teaching staff presence in the House over the past six weeks, with tutoring, visits for a meal and chat and prayer nights presented with inspirational enthusiasm. We have seen Mr Hay, Ms Kilpatrick, Sir, Mr Ellis, Ms Kelly, Ms Bordignon, Ms Congdon, Ms Haskett, Ms Creek and Mr Sheridan. The students love their Wednesday afternoon trips to the shops and take-away venues, thanks to the generosity of our bus drivers, Mr Fantinel, Mr Munday, Mr Sheridan and Mr Murphy.

We are proud to have the St Mark's College Captain as one of our Year 12 boarders. How great is that – Wow!! Have an amazing year Patrick, you deserve it.

Good luck to our five Year 12 boys this year. Work hard and reap the rewards at the end of the year.

Sport is very popular amongst our students especially cricket, tennis, basketball, badminton and swimming. The boys who enjoy the game of cricket are loving the chance to use the new nets and the tennis players love the refurbished tennis courts. Badminton on Wednesday evenings and now Monday afternoons 4-5pm is again popular with 10 students in the House, supervised by Greg (Chef).

Be on the lookout for a new television commercial for the College and Boarding Home. A big thank you to the Hill family for contributing to this filming and to the boarding students who participated, especially Tom Hill, who was involved in most of the student filming.

Ms Kilpatrick, Pauline and I have had one staff meeting for Salesian House. As part of that meeting and each meeting we discuss a different section of the National Standards for Boarding to identify if we meet the criteria according to each Standard. At this meeting we discussed Legislation and Regulation. We also look at the Strategic Plan, working our way through each key area to see what needs following up, what is ongoing and what needs improving. At this meeting we discussed Community and Ms Kilpatrick addressed suggestions for activities for the students.

With this particular group of Boarding students it is easy to recognize the friendships that continue strong and those that are more recently formed and the respect they have for each other, which I believe is part of what they learn, create and keep as they continue their lives living in the boarding community and the respect also is shown to the teachers when they visit Salesian House. This is an aspect of living together that, as Houseparents and Supervisors we learn to appreciate greatly.

Denise Arbon
Boarding Coordinator

College Captain Patrick Williams was inducted as Salesian House Leader at a College Assembly.

Congratulations to Ellen Bowley who achieved an ATAR of 90.6, an achievement recognised at the Dux Assembly.

The new Year 12 Centre was opened on Monday the 29th of February. It is now being used mainly by Year 12's, with a few Year 11 classes being held in there as well. The building is officially named the 'Bosco Centre', a very modern space that provides a University style learning experience for senior students like myself.

Caregroup for all Year 8-12 Bosco House students takes place in the classrooms throughout the building as well. It has a kitchen facility, which has proven to be popular with many of the Year 12's, as well as the various rooms and a variety of different spaces that students can study in. Year 12 students are able to stay in the centre during recess and lunch times, and a homework club has also been established three afternoons every week, for those who wish to stay after school and study from 3:30-4:30pm. It is a wonderful area to work in and I know that the Year 12's are incredibly grateful for the hard work that has been put into creating such a unique place for us to learn and interact with one another.

Patrick Williams

Eleven St Mark's students, including myself and six other boarders had the opportunity to participate in a Crutching Course which was held in the shearing shed at the school's Ag centre.

Tom Hill, Bernie Butterick, Ashleigh Ragless, Patrick Connell, Edward Bray, Henry Hall and myself participated in the course run by TAFE Instructor Greg Pittaway. During the 2 day course we learnt how to clean the hand pieces and put them together, pick the bad pieces, ie poo, skin and stained parts out of the wool and learnt correct techniques for crutching. It was an enjoyable experience and one that I am not likely to forget any time soon. The best part was having a shower at the end of the day! *Alex Gove*

Wellbeing sessions with the students have commenced at the boarding house.

These sessions will occur on a rotating roster every week on a Tuesday.

The students are advised that they have been selected for that week, then it is their responsibility to commit to a time from a series of allocated times.

Katrina Johns
School counsellor
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Rhys Morgan
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food and drink: Doritos and Coke
Favourite movie: Boondock Saints
Favourite sport & sporting hero: NBA Basketball, Tracy McGrady
AFL Team: Port Adelaide Power
Last book I read: Kevin the Plumber
A place I would like to visit: Amsterdam
What I think of boarding so far: Good fun with good friends.

Chloe Coleman
Home town: Port Pirie
Favourite food and drink: Pie and Coke
Favourite movie: John Tucker Must Die
Favourite sport & sporting hero: Hockey, Nick Mrozek
AFL Team: Hawthorn
Last book I read: Tape by Steven Camden
A place I would like to visit: Egypt
What I think of boarding so far: It's really good; it's different to what I expected.

Harry Mead
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food and drink: Tacos, Lemon lime & bitters
Favourite movie: 21 Jumpstreet
Favourite sport & sporting hero: Footy & Mike Hussey
AFL Team: Carlton
Last book I read: Two For The Road by Rod Marsh & Doug Walters
A place I would like to visit: Ireland
What I think of boarding so far: Decent!

Luke Klingner
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food and drink: Coke and most of Mum's cooking
Sporting hero: Messi
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
Last book I read: The Red October
A place I would like to visit: Spain
What I think of boarding so far: Great Experience

Patrick O'Dea
Home town: Peterborough
Favourite food and drink: Pasta, lemon squash
Favourite sport & sporting hero: Football, Sam Mitchell
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
Last book I read: Feeling the Heat
A place I would like to visit: Rio
What I think of boarding so far: Alright

Tom Klingner
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food & drink: Most things from McDonalds & Iced Coffee
Favourite series: Tokyo Ghoul
Last book I read: Looking For Alaska
A place I would like to visit: Denmark
What I think of boarding so far: Good.

Ashleigh Ragless
Home town: Leigh Creek
Favourite food and drink: Chops and Sprite
Favourite movie: The Longest Ride
Favourite sport & sporting hero: Netball, Kathy Freeman
AFL Team: North Melbourne
Last book I read: The Boys In the Striped Pyjamas
A place I would like to visit: Africa
What I think of boarding so far: Just the same as the last time I was boarding.