

# OLD SCHOLARS

Issue 2 December 2018

## newsletter



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COLLEGE**

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Old Scholars from the Class of 1988 enjoyed celebrating their 30 year reunion at the College.

## Greetings to our alumni, you are remembered and always welcome.

Dear friends and alumni

I always love the excitement of a reunion visit. There is a wonderful energy about it. The school bustles around in the days preceding and people organise and decorate. It is something that becomes very important. We want to gather memorabilia and try to make connection with the past. We want to offer hospitality and remind people of a Salesian and Good Samaritan spirit of community. We want to show off a little. We are proud of the place and we want to reassure old scholars that things are just fine. We also want to surprise our visitors because this school has matured and developed in exciting ways.

This year we added to the mix ambassadors from each anniversary group. Annie Oxford from 1978 spoke beautifully to the gathering. She has grandchildren in the place now and her memories were a treasure. Donny De Palma represented 1988 and he had us laughing and amazed. His talk probably went a little over scheduled time, and he perhaps overshared a little, but it was a joy and all that we could have wanted. The 1988 group were cheering in the end. Troy Pisani was the ambassador for 1998 and he is an accomplished speaker. Without notes he talked of great days and loyalty and fun. There are a number of 98ers who have children in the primary school and I loved seeing them and reassuring them that St Mark's is still okay. Troy reassured them of that as well. The delightful Kali Rodda, who is at the moment a member of staff, and the 2008 ambassador, amazed me with her delivery. With an innocent larrikin wit she had us connected to the school of 2008. She spoke

with a spirit of fun and gratitude. It was great to have our visitors speak of great times.

It was a memorable gathering. We know that some visitors are parents and have connection with the place and were just enjoying it being tizzied up for visitors. For others it is the first time in return. It makes it all so much more significant. We are dealing with distant memories and the uncertainty of homecoming. We are dealing with past emotions that may not have been considered over the years. We may be rekindling the preciousness of past friendships and the love and laughter of many years ago.

We can manage all of that. This is a great place and the strength of community remains.

Warm regards

*Greg Hay*

Principal, St Mark's College



Former teachers Carmel and David Hollitt visited the College for the reunion, they are photographed with Jim Scavarelli and Peter Munday.

# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## Around the College



**SPORTS CENTRE:** The St Mark's Sports Centre is finished and open! Our students are flourishing in the amazing new facility which includes a double court gymnasium.



**CAPTAINS:** Congratulations to our 2018 College Captains Jack Dickeson and Millie Tubb pictured with Principal Greg Hay and 2018 Captains Riley Hayes and Ellie Combe.



**MISSION WEEK:** A walk-a-thon, sponge-throwing and casual clothes helped the College raise an amazing \$6596.70 for Catholic Mission.



**NEW:** Our new John Mullin Science Centre (which was the previous gym) includes two laboratories, two STEM classrooms, science preparation area, large study area, study nooks and elevator.



**SPORTS DAY:** Polding's winning streak was cut short with Gallagher named overall winners at Benedict Sports Day



**ST MARK'S  
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# Around the College



**GRADUATION:** Our graduating Year 12s, the Class of 2018.



**BRIC-XIBIT:** Old Scholar Haakon Christensen assisted with the LEGO exhibition.



**ADELAIDE SHOW:** Students represented the College and 'showed' our McNally Farm animals.



**COMMUNION:** Our Year 4 students celebrated their First Holy Communion.



**READY, SET, GO:** Our Little Lions are ready and excited to start school.



**AQUATICS:** Our Year 6s attended their first camp.



**CANDLE:** As a College we farewelled our Year 12s at the traditional candle Mass.



**SENSORY GARDEN:** Our students 'got their hands dirty' as they prepared the gardens in Benedict's new student designed Sensory Garden.



**FARM:** Students hosted 250 kindergarten children at the McNally Farm Open Days.

# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## Reunion for 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 Classes



**CLASS OF 1998:** Craig Bentley, Marcus Scavarelli, Tom Jordan, Kaelia Cockington, Campbell Smith, Louise Kitto and Cass Miller



**CLASS OF 1988:** Elise White (Balacco), Kylie Sciancalepore (Farinola), Maria Heffernan (Campanella), Maria-Nicole Turci (Capurso)



**CLASS OF 1978 and 1988:** Tim Smith, Annie Oxford (Hanlon) and Dale Dunbar



**CLASS OF 1998:** (Back) Bianca McBride (O'Brien), Patrick Saracino, Bradley Bowman, Anthony Porta, Heath Jobson, Nick Gaudio, Troy Pisani and Marika van Weenan (Turci) (Front) Silvana Evely (Caputo), Bianca Schultz (Smale) and Isabelle Basile (Balacco)



**CLASS OF 1988:** John Mezzino, Don DePalma, Nathanael Hardy and Peter Armour



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## Kali Rodda spoke at the Old Scholar Reunion about the special memories from the Class of 2008.

When Greg approached me on Monday about speaking here tonight, I asked if there was anything in particular he'd like me to speak about. He said yeah... I'll email you something. I thought great, that will be really helpful but upon opening the email I read a list of generic questions like 'what are you doing now?' 'do you have any connection with the College?' 'describe the experience of coming back to the school today'... These questions probably weren't designed for an ex-student who's ended up teaching at the very place we left 10 years ago, ecstatic to never have to attend another day of school ever again. Yet here I am, working at St Mark's, sitting across the staffroom table from those teachers who confiscated jewellery from me and told me I talked too much.

It certainly doesn't feel like 10 years ago that we graduated. In some ways it feels like we never left. It's not until I catch myself saying things like 'when I was at school' that I realise just how long it has been. Having said this, I still remember a lot about my time here at St Mark's, I have a lot of fond memories and I'd like to think that my experiences here at the College helped equip me with vital skills needed to succeed in any path I chose. There are still teachers here now that nurtured me through some tough times and helped me succeed. I had no idea that I would go on to become a teacher, but subconsciously I think it was those teachers that inspired me to take this career path. To one day have that same impact on a student, that they had on me.

I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say just how amazed we are at how the school has changed and a little in awe at all the incredible new facilities. Especially considering all 100+

students in our graduating class asked, begged, even prayed for a microwave in our study room, to no avail. Little old Room 15, now known as M1... The study room was quite an ironic name really. It was always a struggle to multitask between school work and chatting on MSN, making sure not to use 'lol' or 'rofl' in our assignments. The novelty of laptops being released with webcams was also a major distraction. Not to mention the horrible Chuck Norris jokes from Mr Ryan and the pressure of having the latest and greatest background on MySpace.

On a more serious note, I think one of the fondest memories I have of our senior year, and perhaps one of the most defining experiences in my teenage years, was the Year 12 Retreat. The new friendships formed, the old friendships strengthened and the comradery from all was really something else. I remember, and I'm sure you all do, teachers always telling us to enjoy being young, to enjoy school, and to make the most of it. I never really gave it much thought at the time, and I can tell you from being on the other side of this conversation now, that students still don't give this much thought. When I look back now, I realise Year 12 really was one of the best years. I feel very privileged for the group I got to share it with, we were a close knit bunch, and I often wonder if this is a common thing across year levels or if we really were a part of something special. But for years after, I found myself wishing I could go back and do it all again.

A lot has changed since we were last here. The library is new, the IT centre is new, the Art and Tech centre is new, the chapel has moved, the BGC has changed, the Trade Skills centre is new, the Ag Centre and McNally Farm have expanded,

but most recently the new spectacular double court gym and STEM Centre. If you have any connections with students at the College now, be sure to tell them you gave the elevator a spin... they'll be most envious. Perhaps most upsetting of all the changes is that the beloved Year 12 walk way no longer exists. On a more exciting note, would you believe that Gallagher have won the past 5 Sports Days. It seems so much has changed, but on some accounts, it's like nothings really changed at all. I still get the same friendly greeting from Sir each morning, the same warm smile from Miss Russack that can improve your mood in an instant, the same genuine conversations from Mr Sheridan that make you feel like your wellbeing is his priority, Mr Scav still uses his laser pointer, Mrs Congdon still has her 3 rules, number 1 being that she is always right, and number 3 being that if she is in fact not right, refer back to rule number 1. Mr Fantinel still uses the same terrible joke about how students should be writing so fast that smoke comes off their page, Gibbo is still quite literally run off his feet and Mrs Gibson is still the tough nut we remember, who wants nothing but the best from us all.

Since leaving school 10 years ago, some of us went on to further studies, some got a trade, some of you have travelled the world, some of you are engaged, some of you are married, some of you have your own children, a lot of us have fur babies, some of you own your own business, some of you have bought a house or investment property.. or maybe even two. Regardless of our achievements, the fact that we are now independent adults surviving in the real world is a feat in itself, considering 10 years ago a large number of us were forgetting the codes to our lockers, misplacing our diaries, and letting the dog eat our homework.

Tonight is a great opportunity to catch up, reflect and reminisce... Not to compare achievements, but rather, share our stories and experiences. I know I'm certainly inspired by some of the things that you've all gone on to do since 2008. Maybe I'm getting sentimental in my old age, but I think everyone would agree that today has been a fantastic opportunity for us all and I'm certainly glad I came. I'd like to thank the teachers for taking the time to share in this experience with us, for showing us around and allowing us to visit a place that was once so important to us.

**So here's to us; the Class of '08'.**

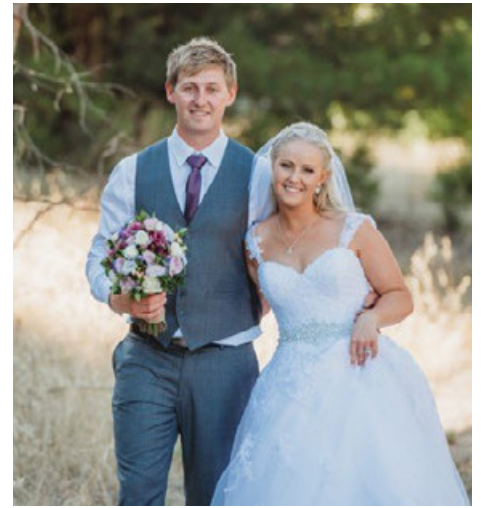
# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Wedding Bells



**BEC CAPURSO, Class of 2010**

Bec married Joel Millington on 3 November at Waverley Estate, Port Elliot. Bec and Joel live in Adelaide where Bec works as a Graphic Designer at Flinders University.



**KENDALL PRETTY, Class of 2012**

Kendall married Nathan Nunan on 5 January in Tanunda, Barossa Valley. Kendall and Nathan live in Port Pirie where Kendall is a teacher at Port Pirie West Primary School.



**DANIELLE HADGES, Class of 2001**

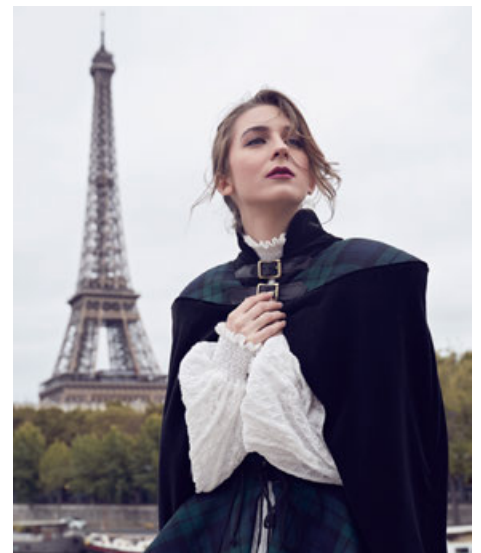
Danielle married Sasha Dedić on 17 March at the Glenelg Golf Club. Danielle and Sasha live in Adelaide where Danielle is a teacher at St Joseph's Hindmarsh.

## Paris Fashion Week Tori-Anne Gill

I was recently lucky enough to have been invited to showcase my label Dark Thorn during Paris Fashion Week in one of the most beautiful venues in Paris, the Le Grand Intercontinental. Along with the runway I also held a showroom for four days in Paris where buyers, bloggers, stylists could come and see my new collection and talk to me in person. While I was in Paris I also was lucky enough to have been invited to the Australian Embassy in France to attend their annual Cocktail Reception with the French Ambassador to celebrate Australian talent at Paris Fashion Week. Here I got to meet some other amazing Australian creatives as well as many people from other fields including Australian actors, bloggers and of course Edwina McCann herself, the Editor in Chief of Vogue Australia.

Paris has opened my eyes to all the opportunities that the world can hold and has really cemented my vision for Dark Thorn.

*Written by Tori-Anne Gill, Dark Thorn Clothing*



One of Tori-Anne's pieces being modelled in Paris



**ST MARK'S  
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# Social Snaps



Daniel Lobasso celebrated his 21st with his brothers and Old Scholars, Jayden and Matthew



Old Scholars celebrating the Kirk wedding recently were Emma Barratt, Alyce Edwards (Lynch), Brittany Aitchison, Terese Anne, Bec Kirk (Capurso), Nikki Caputo, Jessie Hammond, Hayley Combe and Ebony Spadavecchia



Celebrating the Dedić wedding were Emma Underwood (Clogg), Sarah McDonald, Michelle Holton (Pearce), Pat Tietz, Felicity Torpstrom (Ganley), Elisha Camp, Danielle and Sasha Dedić, Angelica Murn (Bellifemine), Elouise Dohnt (Nayda), Amy Moss (Parker), Lauren Simpson and Zoë Gower (Reed)



Old Scholars Donny DePalma, Martin Hayes and Bec Fahey are all Principals at Catholic Schools in our region



Celebrating a wedding recently were Jess Tobin (Katzorke), Jess Hill (Dunkley) and Abby Arbon (Williams)



The Class of 1992 caught up recently, special guest Karsten Krause who was an exchange student, came all the way from Germany for the celebration. L-R is Damien Freer, Maryke Palumbo, Anthony Fasciano, Julia Longo, Teresa Jones (Bellifemini), Anneke Malycha (Hellmanns), Loretta Pansini, Luke Shepley, Catherine Vering (Halls), Kylie Akker, Lindy Turner, Damon Ganley, Naomi Connor (Harmer), Stuart Nicolson, Tanya Monaghan (Eiffe), Joseph Longo, Deb Gogan (Polkinghorne), Karsten Krause, Anthony Eiffe, Greg Monaghan and Alex Alpe

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Our Newest Arrivals



**ASHLEIGH KUPSCH AND MICHAEL LYNCH, Class of 2005 and 2001**

Ashleigh and Michael Lynch, along with big sister Ava welcomed Bernie James Vera on 5 September. The family live in Laura, Michael manages Lynch and Saracino Constructions and Ashleigh is a teacher and photographer.



**TYSON FETHERSTONHAUGH AND LUISA KEANE, Class of 2002 and 1999**

Tyson and Luisa Fetherstonhaugh, along with big brother Ted welcomed Jake Patrick on 29 July. The family live in Port Pirie, Tyson is a Project Manager for Capital Works at SA Water and Luisa is a Senior CT Specialist at Port Pirie Hospital.



**BEN KUPSCH, Class of 2009**

Ben and Leah Kupsch, along with big sister Gracie welcomed Ed Dean on 6 September. The family live in Crystal Brook, where Ben is a baker at Kupsch's Bakery.



**OLIVIA THORPE, Class of 2006**

Olivia and Stuart Hill welcomed their first child Archer Nate on 6 November. The family live in Adelaide where Olivia is an Academic Tutor at UniSA completing her PhD and studying Midwifery.



**BRIONY FOLEY AND LACHLAN POLE, both from the Class of 2010**

Briony and Lachie welcomed their twins Leo Gerard and Jack Damien on 11 September. The family live in Port Germein, Briony is a teacher at our Bosco Campus and Lachie is a diesel mechanic at Kent's Garage.



**ST MARK'S COLLEGE**



# Our Newest Arrivals



**PAT TIETZ, Class of 2001**

Pat and Robyn Tietz welcomed Grace Veronica Kathleen on 29 April. The family live in Adelaide where Pat is an electrician.



**JAMES HELLMANNS, Class of 2002**

James and Sara Oehms welcomed their first child Ivy Marie on 13 October. The family live in Port Pirie where James is self employed at Hellmanns Tiling.



**JESS KARTZORKE, Class of 2011**

Jess and Chad Tobin welcomed Emmison Grace on 27 August. The Tobin's, including big brother Reign, live in Crystal Brook and Jess works at Allure, the Art of Beauty.



**NIKITA PORCELLI, Class of 2009**

Nikita and Nick Saunders welcomed their first child Nancy Layla on 25 August. The family live in Port Pirie where Nikita is self-employed at The Beauty Room.



**ADRIANA PORCELLI, Class of 2006**

Adrianna and Seth Roberts, along with big sister Hazel welcomed Heidi Vera on 6 July. The family have recently moved back to Port Pirie.



**LAUREN NAYDA, Class of 2004**

Lauren Nayda and Matthew Wintersgill welcomed their first child Ezra Paul on 22 November. The family live in Adelaide where Lauren works at Pulse Anaesthetics.



**PATRICK KEANE, Class of 2007**

Patrick and Katie Koster welcomed their first child Lottie Wynter on 9 July. The family live in Kadina where Patrick is a teacher at Kadina Memorial School.



**PAIGE SMALLACOMBE, Class of 1999**

Paige and Nigel Cross, along with big sister Amelia welcomed Madeline Dior on 9 October. The family live in Hamilton where Paige is a Customer Service Project Officer at Western District Health Service.



**JOSH BELL, Class of 2012**

Josh and Hollie, along with big sisters Tatum and Memphis welcomed Raegan Amayah on 30 October. The family live in Port Pirie, where Josh works at SA Power Networks.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Teacher and Old Scholars Art Exhibition



Exhibiting Old Scholar Kylie Coombas with Greg Hay



Old Scholar and Local Fashion Designer  
Tori-Anne Gill with Megan Congdon



Creative Arts Captain Allyson Diggins with Old  
Scholars Nathan Ibele and Aiden Fitzgerald



Exhibiting Old Scholar Renee Brentson with  
Allan McDonald



Exhibiting Teacher Paul Matthews with  
Megan Congdon



Old Scholar Annette Hedges with her pieces



Old Scholar Emma Fradd from the Class of 2007 and her band 'Heaps Good Friends' won the People's Choice Best Pop Artist Award at the 2018 South Australian Music Awards.



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## The Opening of the John Mullin Science Centre



John Mullin, Bishop Greg O'Kelly, Alan Zubrinich (Chair of the Board) and Greg Hay

A new Science Centre has been built. It replaces facilities that are 25 years old and, in our planning, we made a commitment to make this a 'state of the art' contemporary facility built for exciting scholarship and exceptional learning. It happened. We were amazed at the structure and creation and what added to the importance of the building was that John Mullin accepted the invitation to have the centre named after him.

When we all walked for the first time into the John Mullin Science Centre, we inhaled a breath just a little more deeply and held that breath. It was truly beautiful and we connected to something special about its invitation to learning. It had been the old gymnasium. It had been gutted and transformed. We hardly remembered the bouncing balls, the echoes of effort nor the Besser Brick dustiness. The John Mullin Science Centre was a celebration. It becomes a most significant building and sits symbolically at the heart of the Bosco community. When we walked in, it seemed to us to be about learning, working together, curiosity and excellence. And this is at the heart of Bosco. And it remembers a grand old school master John Mullin, the chemist who became a teacher and who worked in the erudite tradition of scholarship. It remembers the significance of a man who simply loved a subject, taught with stability and consistency and impacted on generations of school students.

At the official opening John had to stand and hear how important he has been to the school. He was honoured because of his 50 Years association with science teaching and leadership in the school. He spoke with a beautiful humility, a delicate sense of gratitude and a clear love of all of his students. We listened and felt very connected to a tradition within St Mark's. The building is fantastic and the man an inspiration. It is another St Mark's blessing.

*Written by Greg Hay*



The outstanding new John Mullin Science Centre, which was the former Bosco Gym.

## The Murphy Family



Karen, Sarah, Mark and Jane Murphy

In 1987 when I arrived the physical landscape of the school was very different. The College seemed geographically three separate schools. Yet, the ethos and spirit were evident and there was commonality in the unity in the teachings of Don Bosco.

We amalgamated, and the buildings and landscape continued to evolve and change. Education has advanced and progressed and the College has kept up with the modern changes (and I keep trying).

The Year 12's of 2018 recently graduated in class and style. I remember fondly these social occasions in the late 80's and in the 90's. Maybe not as fancy then but still very grand occasions.

These old scholars from my early years are now filling my classroom with their own precious children. Their parents my student's grandparents. It is a privilege and blessing to share the College story together. I delight when I hear "Miss Twiss". Mark joined the staff in 1994... and my name changed!

Many of the present College staff were amongst my early students. They studied, returned and became teachers of our daughters Sarah and Jane. There are many connections.

Our daughters left to study in Adelaide and Sarah has returned to Port Pirie to work at the hospital. Sarah completed a Bachelor in Medical Imaging at Uni SA and Jane will start her final year in a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Uni SA next year.

Sarah and Jane comment with interest on the recent magnificent buildings and how the College has changed in the few years since they graduated.

Mark and I are amongst the oldest serving teachers and our daughters now old scholars, how quickly those 30 years passed.

*Written by Karen Murphy*

# Graduation



Graduate Georgia Pisani with her dad Stephen Pisani who is an Old Scholar from the Class of 1989



The Hunter family celebrated Ellie's graduation recently. Both of Ellie's parents Rosemarie (Sciancalepore) and Matthew attended the College, and younger brother Thomas is going into Year 9



Graduate Stanley Halfacre with his sister Felicia, Old Scholar from the Class of 2015



Graduate Teekah Cunningham with her dad Peter who is an Old Scholar



Old Scholar Joseph Sciancalepore with his family including Mia who graduated this year



Old Scholars Hollie (far left) and Maggie (far right) Peterson with Gracie who graduated and Will who is going into Year 11



Graduate Jessie LaForgia with family, who are all Old Scholars- Adina, Dominic and Francie (Armenia)

# Little Lions



We love welcoming back our Old Scholars as parents of new students in our Little Lions transition class!



Old Scholar Phoebe Robinson with her son Oliver



Old Scholar Megan Burford (Emery) with her son Jett



Old Scholar Bernadette Ramsay (Papparella) with her sons James and Curtis (Year 1) and her husband Clayton



Old Scholar Jenny Scarce with her daughter Jayah



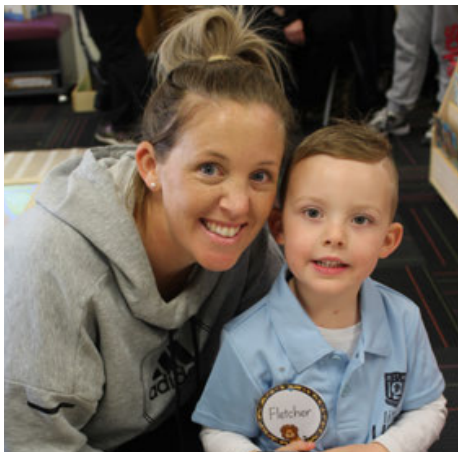
Old Scholars Abby Zubrinich with her daughter Millie



Old Scholar Natina Clarke (Pisani) with her daughter Poppy



Old Scholar Naomi Connor (Harmer) with her daughter Astrid



Old Scholar Kylan Reddaway (Oxford) with her son Fletcher



Old Scholar Abby George (LaForgia) with her son Finn

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**ATTENTION  
ALL PAST STUDENTS**  
of  
St Mark's College  
Port Pirie



You are invited to a  
**SCHOOL REUNION**  
Saturday 19 October 2019

Celebrating Anniversaries for Graduating Classes of  
1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

- 4pm** Tour of College
- 5pm** Drinks and nibbles in the  
Bishop Gallagher Centre

To register your interest please contact  
the College on 8633 8800.

Keep up to date with news and events via Facebook.

## We want to hear from YOU!



New baby? Just tied the knot?  
Maybe you have graduated from Uni?  
Or simply caught up with old school friends.



Send your photos or news to:  
**[oldscholar@smc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oldscholar@smc.catholic.edu.au)**  
and we will include it in the next newsletter!



*Christmas  
Blessings  
from  
St Mark's  
College!*

Our Receptions,  
Year 3s and 6s  
enjoyed being  
part of this years  
Christmas  
Pageant.



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