NEWSLETTER

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Charlotte and Carter share a precious moment

We gathered for the College AGM. We offered some tours. We wondered about the virus. Leaders met to discuss and I found my best orange outfit.

The impact of a virus

The strength of our community is always our care and our connection, our time together, the hope that we share, the way we are strong together. And now a microscopic foe is threatening the harmony of our connection. It has made people very sick. It has stirred up things. It has made us listen to rumours. It is even creating a demand that we separate from each other. It has forced Prime Ministers to speak and sportsmen and women to stop playing. It has caused businesses to cease and community life to pause. This miniscule tyrant seems to be demanding so much from us and its presence is a mystery and we have to take it very seriously.

I wish that I had a certainty in this unfamiliar circumstance. What I have is guidelines from SA Health and the Catholic Education Office. What I have is technology to contact you immediately if something is important. What I have is a deeply committed staff who will watch for the wellbeing of your children. I am determined to manage this crisis with you in a calm and reasonable manner. The priority is health and the hope is that we can continue with our learning.

At school we are beginning to put together techniques and strategies for effective isolated and on line learning should this be demanded of us. We are beginning to train the children in how to be more independent with curriculum challenges and discuss what would be reasonable if we are apart for a couple of weeks. We are determining processes which include our deep sensitivity to Child Protection protocols. e.g. if a teacher is coming into your home via internet technology we would expect your son or daughter to be dressed in school uniform and be in the lounge room or a public family space. Hopefully this doesn't all happen.

This virulent contagion that creates such unease, reminds us of the fragility of our lives and focusses us on significance of our family and community. I know what is important. It is our family and our care. It is us together, calmly going forward. My best wishes as we step together.

College AGM

The College community assembled in small numbers for the Annual General Meeting. This is our time for accounting to the College. Formal Reports are tabled from the 2019 school year and we elect a new Board for 2020. In this gathering I know that I am with competent, capable people. I had a deep sense of gratitude for the generous service that Board members were willing to offer. Much was achieved last year. I am now delighted to be working with our new 2020 Board of Management and feel confident that we will be united in our vision for a sound St Mark's future.

Board Members this year are: Father Jimmy Pantin (President), Alan Zubrinich, Danny Doyle, Daniel Lauder, Tracy Dear, Kate McBride, Chris Malycha, Meriam DeVries, Jo Court (Secretary). It is a talented group.

I acknowledge the work of Chris Rafanelli who has been on the College Board for six years. He has been committed and focused and leaves a wonderful legacy of Board achievement and memories of saying some very funny things. I also thank Jenny Scarce for her generous work on the Board and thank her as she retires from serving our community in this capacity.

KEY DATES

6 Red celebrating Harmony Day

I must mention the significant work of Deputies Marc Forster and Melisa Gadaleta who oversee their campuses and reassure a questioning Board at every meeting. I thank Katie Pole who is so determined to create an atmosphere of faithfulness and opportunities for sacredness. She attends Board meetings and reports on faith dimensions. And Jo Court as Business Manager was extraordinarily impressive with the Business Report. We are managed with clarity and firmness. It was most remarkable. The school is in sound shape. We begin again.

Tours around the school

This is our enrolment season. It is the time that we invite families in to look at our premises and help them with a consideration about enrolment. I have to say that I never get tired of the tours. Every time I step into a classroom or look at a building there are signs of great life and learning. The students seem to be very proud of the place. The teachers have great lessons happening. The buildings are well cared for and the grounds are neat. Sometimes I dazzle the tourists with the farm and its extraordinary learning. Sometimes I inspire them with the Junior Primary igniting potential. Sometimes we look at the upper primary and admire their growing competence. We see the students in the Bosco gym who are so well managed and so engaged and then in the STEM building there are wondrous moments of discovery. I'm also very proud of our seniors who find a bit of time to smile a hello. The best part is when someone at a desk recognises the tourist and offers an enthusiastic wave, a welcome and support in the big decision. St Mark's is a great place to look around.

The Bosco Leaders

The student leaders at Bosco gathered recently and I had a chance to see the work that they were doing together and to share some time dreaming and creating with them. They are a most impressive group and they are taking their responsibilities so seriously. It was a delight to be there. I am so grateful that the House leaders took time to work with our students. They helped them determine priorities and make plans. They helped see the gifts within and recognise the opportunity they have. It took a whole day of sharing and planning. There was plenty of fun and plenty of House unity. I am very glad that leadership formation is such a priority in the school.

Bullying No Way

Bullying does not have a place in our school. The deliberate and intentional focus on another person to upset or disempower is simply not part of our ethos and certainly not permitted. The College stands united with all communities to celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. We want to stand in harmony. Our students get to wear a shade of orange as a symbol and they certainly are reminded that we can't stand by and ignore intentional and hurtful behaviour. I thank the teachers for their work with students in helping to grow awareness and prevent bullying. I ask the families to let us know if we can support you in confronting situations and growing resilience. The College says no to Bullying.

Mr Greg Hay, **Principal**

Religious Education

From the APRIM

Sacramental Journey Begins
Last week a meeting was held for families of children wanting to celebrate one of the sacraments this year. For any families who were unable to be in attendance and would like to gain the information and documentation please go to the Parish Office 28 Norman Street Port Pirie 86323977.

Easter Re-enactment
Our Year 5 students are busy preparing to present the Easter Story for the Benedict community. While it was scheduled to be presented on Monday April 6 in this rapidly changing climate (due to the pandemic) this may change. We will update you as soon as possible regarding postponements and alternative arrangements.

Corona Virus
The time we find ourselves in is very foreign to us. Our control, freedom and routine has been broken. Like Lent we are in a desert experience where we need to take a step back and prioritise what is important and reflect on our actions and choices. We are challenged in this anxious and uncertain time (that is so far from what we perceive to be normal) to change our thinking. Now more than ever we need to act with a sense of community responsibility through acts of gratitude, kindness and love. I present to you a reflection below to recontextualise the position we find ourselves in.

Pandemic
What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath- the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love– for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

–Lynn Ungar 11/3/20

Katie Pole, **APRIM**

The Southern Cross
Click to access the latest version of The Southern Cross Living Catholic.

Harmony Day fun at Bosco

George, Indiana and Hugo with their Harmony Day posters

BENEDICT CAMPUS

From the Deputy Principal

Captains on the couch! Our Year 6 Captains answered questions and shared insights about themselves at a recent assembly

As we conclude Week 8 we seem to have more questions than answers in regard to the impact of COVID-19 on our school community.

May I take this opportunity to reassure families that we are receiving frequent updates from both the Federal and State Governments, Australian and SA Health, Catholic Education Office and other school related agencies. All protocols are being enacted immediately and as a school community we have been even more prudent with some directions ie limiting student contact from whole campus/ year level to class specific only. We are most concerned with the well-being of all students AND staff.

Please be mindful that for the remainder of the term we will not be holding:

- both the Week 9 and End of Term Assembly,
- R-6 Lenten Liturgies,
- Face-to-Face Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Year 6 Sleepover
- P+F Movie Night
- Mini Mark's

We also will not be participating in the Shackle Shield and our Year 6 Captains will not attend the ANZAC Day service. Please note SAPSASA events for Term 1 have been cancelled. Further information regarding the Easter Re-enactment (see APRIM article on page 3) will follow.

4 Blue's Class Mass on 26/3 will continue with the protocols issued by Bishop Greg in place unless further information is received before Thursday.

Thank you for your understanding as we endeavour to work through this constantly evolving situation. In the meantime, please enjoy some photos over this and the following pages of the work we have been proudly doing at Benedict.

Ms Melissa Gadaleta,
Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

'God gave me a family who love and care for me', Jag, Year 1 Green

'God gave me a family who love and care for me', Macy, Year 1 Green

Benedict Campus

Learning the traditional ways of the Indigenous

Year 3 students created their own art pieces with a combination of dot painting and pattern techniques.

Harry, Lauren and Mariana

Noah, Riley and Zara

Macy, Jack and Reagan

Dane, Cooper, Archer and Curtis

Congratulations

Star Salesian Students

6 Red	Olivia Possingham
6 Blue	Imogen Cadd
6 Green	Eden Ferme
5 Red	Joel Gebert
5 Blue	Emily Court
4 Red	Rykah Sismey
4 Blue	Saranyaa Pal
3 Blue	Harper Sismey
3 Red	Xavier Lunsmann
2 Blue	Georgia McIntyre
2 Red	Zali Nelligan
1 Blue	Amy Spence
1 Red	Maha Ahmad
1 Green	Bailey Dunbar
Rec. Blue	Fraser Cadd
Rec. Red	Lucy Arboit
Rec. Green	Spencer Deed

Star Samaritan Students

6 Red	Bailey Yarrow
6 Blue	Michael McGinnis
6 Green	Jacob Davis
5 Red	Angus Hall
5 Blue	Hamish Caputo
4 Red	Lexi Gebert
4 Blue	Amaliyah Jose
3 Blue	James Mudge
3 Red	Curtis Ramsay
2 Blue	Marcus Di Geronimo
2 Red	Alyssa Leak
1 Blue	Adele Yiannoulis
1 Red	James Ramsay
1 Green	Max Johns
Rec. Blue	Taylor Reid
Rec. Red	Ivy Adams
Rec. Green	Harry Bosworth

Benedict Campus

Little Lions take steps towards school

This term we welcomed our new Little Lions students who will begin Reception in Semester 2. The Little Lions have been busy learning new school routines, making friends and spending time with their Year 6 buddies.

In the past few weeks the Little Lions visited the Benedict school chapel and the Library. The Little Lions were very excited to borrow their first library book to take home. Each Little Lions chose a picture book and helped to borrow it under their name using the computer scanner. Dillon and Nate could not wait to go home and read their books with their families.

The Little Lions also took part in Clean Up Australia Day. They watched a clip about the importance of keeping our environment clean. Harry and Harlow thought that leaving rubbish on the ground was "gross" and asked, "Why do people do that?". The Little Lions worked hard to pick up rubbish using their gloves and buckets as they wanted to keep the school environment clean and animals safe.

Ms Teresa Gadaleta, **Little Lions Coordinator**

Eden cleaning up rubbish

Our Little Lions, Nate, Dillon, Layla, Eden, Harlow, Campbell and Harry borrowed their first book from the Library

Harry with his self portrait

Measuring in Maths

1 Red have been practicing their measuring skills, using informal measuring units and sorting from shortest to tallest.

Isabelle

Hudson

Millie

Benedict Campus

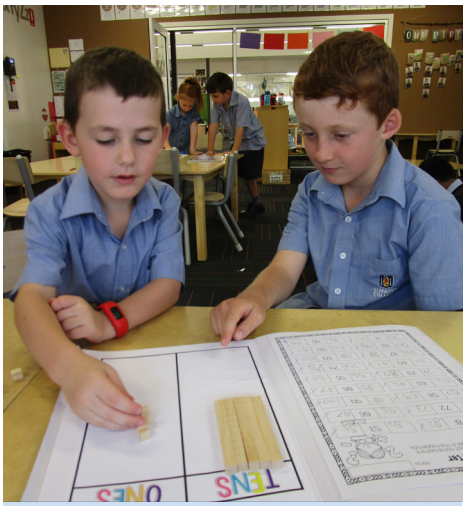
Around Benedict Campus

Fraser and Ceci helping to clean up the school yard for Clean Up Australia Day

Archie making a puzzle during Harmony Week lunchtime activities

Martha and Olivia working together in Maths

Sophie decorated a boomerang during Harmony Week lunchtime activities



Luke and Max learning about 'tens' and 'ones'

Lottie practicing her sorting skills

Xavier decorated bark during Harmony Week lunchtime activities

Reception Red helping to 'Clean Up Australia'

BOSCO CAMPUS

From the Deputy Principal

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

As we face the realities that confront us at the moment, our Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews were cancelled. Our connections to families and the support we provide to our Year 12 students remains a priority. Parents/caregivers that scheduled a time to meet with their child's Year 12 teacher will still be able to engage in a conversation with the teacher. Teachers will be contacting parents/caregivers via phone in lieu of the face to face interview. This process will be completed by Friday 27 March.

Cyber Safety

The following websites contain useful information for parents/caregivers on cyber safety. I thought these were worth sharing as an additional level of support as we continue to teach our young people how to be safe online (click below to follow the link to the relevant website).

- Iparent (parent information re technology)
- Bullying No Way (online safety)
- National Centre Against Bullying (information re bullying)
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner

Harmony Day

On Thursday we acknowledged the richness cultural diversity brings to Australia. Through the unity of wearing orange, our community celebrated inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background.

Below are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- we identify with over 300 ancestries
- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85% of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

These facts are taken from ABS 2016 Census Data. Check out the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

Mr Marc Forster,
Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

Working together for the Indigenous Garden

Indigenous students Jayden and Xavier have been building a shelter for the Indigenous Garden with the help of our College Maintenance team.

The shelter will house information about our local Aboriginal people, the Nukunu people, to further develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural history of our local community.

Bosco Campus

Year 7 Camp

Our Year 7s took some time out at Port Hughes, to bond and make new friendships.

Akaila, Louie, Jacob, Capri and Willow on the inflatable raft
Photo credit: Beyond the Classroom

Working together in the tug-of-war challenge

Mitchell, James and Sarim testing their raft
Photo credit: Beyond the Classroom

Mayah, Aliza, Amelia, Kodi, Sophie, James, Tex, Jayden, Jude, Ryder and Adelle created a mermaid sand sculpture

Molly, Chloe, Lucy and Alyssa enjoy an ice cream

Brock and Baylin enjoyed the laser tag

Group Two at the Kadina Playground

Around the College

Summer carnival fun!

On Friday 13 March, Year 6 and 7 students were involved in the Interschool Summer carnival, held at 3 different venues around Port Pirie. The students were involved in either Tennis, T-ball or Cricket and participated against other Year 6 and 7 students from surrounding schools.

It was a great day of sportspersonship, enthusiasm and teamwork. The smiles and laughter were proof of the fun day had by all. Thank you to the volunteers who helped as managers on the day, our students would not be able to experience these opportunities without your assistance.

Jo Wilsdon, **Sports Coordinator, Benedict**

Archie and Kycenn ready to bat

Alyssa takes a swing

Lukas ready to take a catch

Celebrating post game with a 'safe handshake'

St Mark's students represent Pirie

SAPSASA Cricket representatives, Baylin, Hamish, Trey, Aklan, Brock, Mitchell T, Tyron, Koby, Sam and Mitchell C

SAPSASA Tennis representatives, Davyn, Ryder, Ashley, Emily, James, Eden, Charlie, Cooper, Julius, Eliza, Bailey and Zoe with Coach, Carla

COMMUNITY NEWS

College Notices

Fee Discount
A reminder that College Fees paid in full by 31 March 2020 will receive a 5% discount. Contact the College for information.

Parents + Friends Committee
The Benedict Movie Night planned for Wednesday 8 April has been postponed until another date.

The Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser is still going ahead, please return your order form and payment by Monday 30 March.

Netball Update

All Port Pirie Netball Club Training is suspended by PPNA for the next 2 weeks. I will attend a Meeting on 2 April where we will gain further information about the progress of the season. Thank you for your understanding. Further information will be communicated in due course.

Katie Pole, **Netball Coordinator**

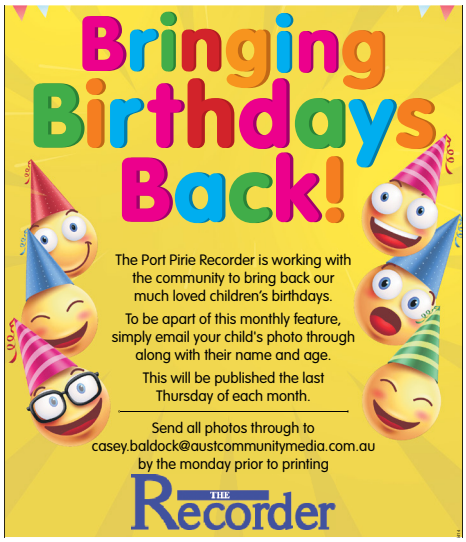
Community Notices

Come and support our St Mark's Band as they help raise money for The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation and Canteen.

Saturday 30 May, 7.30 - 11.30pm

Tickets available through the Northern Festival Centre, click here.

Supa Kids Club and Movie Night
The Supa Kids Club Family Celebration planned for Sunday 5 April along with the 'I Still Believe' Movie Night on Tuesday 7 April have both been cancelled.



Port Football and Community Sporting Club
Open daily from 9.00am