



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

ADMINISTRATION

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BENEDICT CAMPUS

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BOSCO CAMPUS

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SALESIAN HOUSE

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www.smc.catholic.edu.au



During the official opening of the Valdocco Centre, Bishop Karol blessed the crucifixes which feature in each classroom. Photographed are Year 3 students Millie, Lily and Finn.

New beginnings, attendance, and achievement

This week our Little Lions began their formal transition into Reception. It is heart warming to see the readiness for learning and the enthusiasm of the newest members of our learning community. Starting school may be a little daunting, but there is also much joy and excitement, and there is such hope and optimism for the future.

Each term, students complete the PULSE Check-In, a survey facilitated by Catholic Education South Australia. The responses in this termly check-in give us a barometer of how students are feeling about their learning, their wellbeing, and their relationships. We encourage as much participation as possible and honest responses so that we can follow up with students who are experiencing difficulties.

This term, participation was lower than previously, about 75% of the school population due to absence for one reason or another. As Mrs Freer has written, as a school we are seeing increased rates of what might be termed chronic absenteeism, where students are absent for ten days or more in each term. Similar rates of absenteeism are being seen across both Benedict and Bosco campuses, and the impact on learning continuity is likely to be profound. Notwithstanding that COVID has had a significant impact on attendance this year, it is important that we work together to ensure regular attendance to maximise learning and wellbeing.

For your information, in the PULSE Check-In students are asked to respond to the following statements by choosing Not Very Often, Sometimes, or Most of the Time:

Reception - Year 3

- My teacher cares for me
- I enjoy school
- I have friends at school
- My teacher helps me when I have problems
- I am learning at school
- I have a say in my learning
- I feel safe at school
- I feel I belong at this school

Year 4 - Year 12

- I currently feel that I matter to my teacher
- I currently feel that I am thriving at school
- Currently, I feel that I have positive relationships at this school
- When asked, my teacher supports me in managing friendship issues
- I feel that my learning needs are being met
- I am actively involved in co-constructing my learning
- I am feeling safe at school
- I feel like I belong in this school community



I encourage you to have discussions at home about these questions and your child's responses, and please keep working with us to resolve any concerns that arise.

Along with increased absence, we are also seeing a rise in the number of students not completing their learning requirements. Whilst accommodations and adjustments are being made because of diagnosed illness, or a recognised learning disability, we are clearly seeing a need to support students in developing independent learning and organisational skills to enable them to be successful in their learning and assessment. Responsibility for learning is a shared endeavour between the teacher, student, and parents. All students can be successful with high expectations and appropriate support at school and at home. As we near the end of the semester, and reports are distributed summarising achievements over the last two terms, please take some time to discuss attendance and achievement at home. Once poor learning habits are developed, they can be difficult to break.

In closing this week, I'd like to welcome two new members of staff to Bosco: Miss Cleo Li who is teaching Mathematics and Humanities, and Mrs Rupinder Kaur who will be with us from Week 10 teaching Business and Humanities.

Keep warm and well!

Dr Sandra Hewson, **Principal**



The Valdocco Centre was officially opened last week, photographed are Fr Jimmy Pantin, Mrs Nichii Mardon (Director- Catholic Education, Diocese of Port Pirie), Mr Greg Hay, Mr Denis Ralph (Chair, South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools), Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS and Dr Sandra Hewson, with Benedict Campus School Captains Sloan and Lewis

Opening of the Valdocco Centre

Last Thursday 16 June was the official opening of the Valdocco Centre. Bishop Karol Kulczycki was invited to lead in the Liturgy. During the homily, he made reference to the biblical scene when Jesus is establishing the foundation of His Church on St Peter, when He says to him: "Peter, you are the rock, and on this rock I will build my Church". Similarly, Valdocco is built upon the foundational values of the Salesian order and St. John (Don) Bosco.

The word 'Valdocco' connects deeply with the Salesian traditions of the College, with St John (Don) Bosco opening his first Oratory for a group of boys in Valdocco within the City of Turin, Italy. St John Bosco began his work with "the poor and abandoned" young people of Turin in 1841 and he established a small site in Valdocco. Don Bosco would gather the disadvantaged young people for recreation, religious instruction, Mass and prayer.

Built on the ideals of the Oratory, the St Mark's College Valdocco Centre, provides a home to belong, a classroom to learn and a place to grow faith. The Year 3 and 4 building is a beautiful space that will encourage scholarship and gathering. It is designed to be invitational and safe. It is beautiful to look at and teachers have done much work to further enhance this space as an inclusive learning environment.

It is modern and amazing looking. Even though there is lots of room, the classes are all together so you can see your friends next door! – Poppy, 3G

I like the outside area because there are lots of plants and there's room to play.
- Will, 3B

Faith and Mission



Isaiah, Ella, Marcus, Zali, Charlotte, Tessa, Pandorah, Madison, Xavier, Lexie, Jayce, Braxton, Della, Vy, Eddie, Luca, Archie and Madeline with Fr Jimmy on Saturday evening



Miller, Shelton, Emily, Brielle, Max, Anna, Connor, Amara, Georgia and Amelia with Fr Jimmy on Sunday morning

First Holy Communion

The Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated last weekend at Mass, commemorating the immense gift of the Eucharist in our lives and in the Church. In Latin, Corpus Christi means Body of Christ. This feast day allows us to focus solely on celebrating the real presence of Christ – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the bread and wine. It was therefore a very timely occasion for many of our Year 4 students to receive their 1st Holy Communion, at the celebration of Eucharist.

Students chose to attend Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass at the Cathedral and both Masses were joyous occasions for the Communicants. They were all very well prepared and congratulations must go to Mrs Pia Keain, Mr Matt Mead, Mrs Lauren Cable and Mrs Jenna George for their preparation. Thanks also to Clare Conaghty, Lenny Halfacre and Fr Jimmy for their contribution to Mass.

During the Homily, Fr Jimmy spoke of the significance of the day and described it as one of the most important days in a child's life, experiencing for the first time Jesus in their hearts through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. He then made reference to French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, a very powerful

man who ruled many nations, nearly the whole world. Fr Jimmy went on to explain that one day when Napoleon was asked about the most important day in his life, he responded, "The most important day of my life was my First Holy Communion Day."

This reality is something that may be hard for us as adults to understand, let alone the children in our care and this instance, the children receiving their first Holy Communion. It is however very pertinent and something that our Communicants should always remember.

I would like to also reflect on something that Bishop Karol said when he addressed the congregation at his Installation Mass. It has always stuck with me, particularly when celebrations like a First Holy Communion occur. Bishop Karol spoke of three factors that strengthen our commitment to family and named those factors as: common home, common table and common goal. What is most relevant, on this occasion, is the common table. Bishop Karol described the dining table as a place where we sit facing each other and offering the gift of life, just as the Altar offers us nourishment through the Eucharist. This message provides a warm (and timely) reminder for our Communicants and their families, that

our Church and school community can support the relationships that are present within our lives, by building environments of trust, kindness, love and support.

Refugee Week

This week we celebrate National Refugee Week. Refugee Week celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. The theme for 2022 is 'Healing.' Australia and the rest of the world have an opportunity to hit the reset button on how we behave towards one another. The importance of human connections has been underscored by the pandemic and such lessons can help us in so many ways. This week, we are encouraged to engage in activities, thoughts and prayers that will initiate healing and a united, fulfilled and connected society.

Mr Shane Arbon,
Acting Catholic Identity Leader

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 9: 27/6 - 1/7		Week 10: 4/7 - 8/7	
Mon	Semester 2 Timetable Commences Bosco Campus only	Mon	
Tues	T3 Receptions Orientation Day 2 8.45am - 2.00pm	Tues	Year 10 Work Experience NAIDOC Week
	School Photo Day Additional session for absent students		
	College Board 7.00pm, Bosco Conference Room		
Wed	Year 3 Excursion	Wed	
Thur		Thur	
Fri	Little Lions Session 14 Presentation Assembly 11.45am, Good Samaritan Hall	Fri	End of Term 2 Dismissal: Benedict- 12.20pm, Bosco- 12.30pm R-12 reports issued
	Year 5 and 6 Interschool Soccer Carnival		
			Year 12 Retreat

Benedict Campus:

Student Leadership

Week 8 has seen our student leaders create many opportunities for students to connect and engage in community life. I thank the JP student leaders for organising a Health Hustle, our Year 3 and 4 students were wonderful in supporting the Opening of the Valdocco Centre and the House Captains have organised a competition called Benedict's Friendly Feud. Next week we look forward to the Pop-up Performances which have been organised by the Year 5 student leaders.

Keeping Safe Curriculum

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is mandated to be taught in all schools from Reception to Year 12. The program helps children and young people to understand safety and respectful relationships with the aim of them being able to:

- recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult
- understand what behaviours are appropriate and inappropriate
- understand ways to keep themselves safe

This term classes have focused on Relationships, Emotions and Trust. All children have been invited to consider developing their own trust network. Trust networks could include family, friends, school staff, people part of your child's wider community network and also specific agencies designed to support vulnerable people such as Kids Helpline or Child and Youth Health Services.

Now that we have spent time unpacking this at school it would be good for families to discuss the concept of Trust Networks with their child too. Take some time to consider together who might be people to include as part of this supportive group.

Long Service Leave

I would like to wish Mr Bret Swensson and Mrs Jo Wilsdon well as they take some Long Service Leave for the remainder of this term. I hope it is a refreshing break and we look forward to seeing them back in the school community in Term 3.

Mrs Katie Pole, **Acting Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus**

Key Dates and Campus Information



Bosco Campus:

Without a doubt, COVID has impacted people socially, emotionally, and physically. For some students and families, impact has been minimal with relatively mild illness, or being a close contact, resulting in the required short period of absence from school. Some have experienced more serious or ongoing symptoms.

Since the spread of COVID in the community we are experiencing a significant decline in student attendance. This is understandable when absence has been the result of illness or because we were all following the guidelines earlier this year about staying home if we were close contacts. Staying at home is now only required for students who are unwell or have a positive COVID result.

However, we are becoming concerned at the high rate of significant absenteeism for some students.

Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10 days or more per term (Department of Education South Australia, Feb 2022). This has significant impacts on learning and wellbeing, as absence results in disengagement from schooling, failure to complete learning and assessment requirements and increased anxiety, and reluctance to attend school, which becomes a vicious cycle. The longer students remain absent, the harder it is to return.

All children and young people of compulsory school age are required to attend school every day that the school is open. Students up to the age of 17 must be enrolled in school or a full-time approved learning program, or (for older students) engaged in an apprenticeship or work. Legally we are required to report patterns in students' absenteeism, particularly chronic absenteeism, to the Department for Education, Catholic Education SA, and the Department for Child Protection.

As a College, we seek to work with families to re-engage students in regular schooling. Remote learning was only in place during lockdowns or periods of school closure. In some cases, the support of allied health professionals is important to determine the reasons for school refusal. It is not something that schools and parents can often manage on their own.

As reports are distributed at the end of the semester, please note the rate of attendance and work with us to improve attendance in the best interests of learning and wellbeing. For students to achieve their best, consistent attendance is required to ensure they are able to engage with school opportunities, social networking among peers, build supportive relationships with staff and achieve the desired results for their future. We are invested in working with you in partnership to ensure the best outcome for your child and their educational journey.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Acting Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

College:

Join Our Team : Office Administration

St Mark's College is seeking applicants for casual work in Office Administration as part of a pool of workers who can relieve when current staff are on leave (working hours will be adhoc and only as required). Two positions are available.

Before starting at the College, the successful applicants must have a current Working with Children Check, Drivers Licence and First Aid Certificate. Successful applicants will be required to complete RANEC Training (full day course).

Please submit your resume and covering letter by Wednesday 29 June 2022 to:

Jo Court, Business Manager, St Mark's College

PO Box 796, Port Pirie SA 5540 or jcourt@smc.catholic.edu.au

For more information please contact College Administration on 8633 8800.

Mrs Jo Court, Business Manager

Benedict Campus



EXCURSION > Reception Blue enjoying their first excursion, photographed at Port Broughton



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION > After learning about the features of a Catholic Church, our Year 1s created their own models! Photographed are Amahli and Rory.



ORIENTATION > Our newest Receptions had their first orientation day, photographed are Izak, Sienna and Joseph



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES > LEGO Club is back on Thursday lunchtimes and Ted, Ethan, Campbell, Fraser, Hunter and Xavier couldn't wait to get building!



EXCURSION > Reception Gold enjoying their first excursion, photographed at Redwing Farm



SRC > Our R-2 SRC leaders organised a successful Health Hustle for lunchtime this week, photographed are Harry and Emersyn

Bosco Campus



OUTDOOR ED > Year 11 students braved a 3-day bushwalk and camping experience in Wilpena Pound



AGRICULTURE > Year 9 students have been training the goats to walk on a lead, photographed are Amelia, Zoe and Lailah



WELLBEING DAY > Bridie, Lacie, Demi, Lyla, Panha, Ellie and Amahli engaged in cultural activities in an event hosted by the local Aboriginal Health and Community Group



TECHNOLOGY > Completed pieces by Year 11 students studying Furniture Construction and General Engineering, the pieces were created by (L-R) Callahan, Brodie, Tom, Marc, Charlie and Makon



KNOCK OUT HOCKEY > Congratulations to our 7, 8, 9 Hockey Team who finished third overall in the state knock out competition



AGRICULTURE > Year 11 student Kiera attended the ECO Vineyard Workshop ran by Ag Communicators recently

College Notices

College Scarves and Umbrella's available at the Benedict Campus

- Navy school scarves- \$10 each (limited stock available)
- College Umbrella's- \$35 each



Extra School Photo Day

Advanced Life will return on Tuesday 28 June to take photos of students who were absent for photo day!

Campus Tours

The following Campus Tours will be held next week:

Bosco Campus Tour

Tuesday 28 June, 5.30pm

Wednesday 29 June, 9.00am

Benedict Campus Tour

Thursday 30 June, 9.00am

All welcome, to register, visit:

www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/enrolment

Community Notices

PORT PIRIE VINNIES FORUM

St Vincent de Paul Society SA Invites the Port Pirie community to this forum to encounter Vinnies' work through the sharing of stories and information.

Who is this for?

For people who are curious about or interested in walking and serving alongside any who are living with poverty, and to engender a spirit of inquiry, flexibility and possibility either in existing works or new projects.

What to expect?

- Information and informed discussion on the needs of companions in the region, with a view to enhancing Vinnies services to meet the needs.
- Sharing information on different engagement / opportunities within Vinnies.

REGISTRATION:

rsvp2@svdpsa.org.au or 8112 8700

<https://www.trybooking.com/CALLT>



THURSDAY, 14 JULY 2022
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES
COUNTRY SA

85 GERTRUDE STREET, PORT PIRIE 5540



Craft and Chat

Come along and join other women to learn craft in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Day: Wednesday's, 11.00am - 1.00pm, for 9 weeks

Date: Starting Wednesday 3 August

Where: Port Pirie Community Centre, 28 Symonds Street

Cost: Free

To register, phone 0499420 923 or call into the Centre between 10.00am - 2.00pm.

Music Tuition

Wendy Palmer has lesson times available for piano, guitar and singing tuition.

For more information, please contact Wendy on 0439 164 899.

Weekly Specials

BENEDICT CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch:	
Week 9 Mon	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Chicken Tender Wrap + Fruit Box	\$4.50 \$6.00
	Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Loaded Baked Spud + Fruit Box
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Beef Lasagne + Fruit Box	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffin	\$2.00	Bangers and Mash with Veg and Gravy + Fruit Box	\$5.00 \$7.00
Fri	3 x Sausage Rolls + Fruit Box	\$3.00	Small Chicken Wrap	\$3.00
		\$5.00	+ Fruit Box	\$5.00
Week 10 Mon	Egg and Bacon Pastry Roll	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Fruit Box	\$4.00 \$6.00
	Tues	3 x Pizza Scrolls	\$2.00	Lamb or Chicken Yiros + Fruit Box
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pizza + Fruit Box	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Lemon Chicken and Fried Rice + Fruit Box	\$5.00 \$7.00
Fri	End of Term			

BOSCO CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch:	
Week 9 Mon	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Chicken Tender Wrap + 375ml Zero Can	\$4.50 \$6.00
	Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Loaded Baked Spud + 375ml Zero Can
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Beef Lasagne + 375ml Zero Can	\$6.00 \$8.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffin	\$2.00	Bangers and Mash with Veg and Gravy + 375ml Zero Can	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 x Sausage Roll + 375ml Zero Can	\$3.00	Chicken Wrap	\$6.00
		\$5.00	+ 375ml Zero Can	\$8.00
Week 10 Mon	Egg and Bacon Pastry Roll	\$2.00	Squash Dog + 375ml Zero Can	\$4.00 \$6.00
	Tues	3 x Pizza Scrolls	\$2.00	Lamb or Chicken Yiros + 375ml Zero Can
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pizza + 375ml Zero Can	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Lemon Chicken and Fried Rice + 375ml Zero Can	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 x Sausage Roll + 375ml Zero Can	\$3.00	End of Term	
		\$5.00		

Online Canteen Orders: www.flexischools.com.au

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752

