



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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Looking Back, Looking Forward

As we reach the end of the school year, there is much to celebrate. The year seems to have passed incredibly quickly, but it has been full of opportunities and experiences that have enhanced students' learning and wellbeing, enabling them to strengthen their knowledge, understanding and capabilities and build on their relationships. Time changes people, sometimes imperceptibly, but we are not the same people we were this time last year.

Our Little Lions from Semester 1 have started school, and our Semester 2 cohort are excited to begin school in January following their transition. Our Year 6s are ready to leave Benedict Campus and continue their learning in Year 7 at Bosco next year along with almost 30 students from surrounding schools.

Our Year 12s are now officially graduates following the lovely Graduation evening last Friday and are awaiting their SACE results eagerly in anticipation of what 2024 will hold for them, and the achievements of many students have been celebrated in the presentation of awards at Bosco and will be acknowledged next week at Benedict.

In reflecting on the year, I invite everyone in our community to think about how habits and experiences have impacted your life. Where did you challenge yourself and what, if anything, would you have done differently? Self-reflection is a necessary part of growth, and it is very worthwhile in setting goals for a successful 2024.

As this year draws to a close, I take this opportunity on behalf of the community to acknowledge and thank staff leaving at the end of the year. We say farewell and express our sincere thanks to

Mr Matt Sullivan and Ms Emily March who are re-locating to Adelaide, and to Miss Danae Holyman who has been a great support to students over the last 18 months. We also say farewell to Ms Toni Freer who has made a significant contribution to St Mark's College over more than 20 years, most recently in her role as Inclusion Education Leader. Countless students have achieved success here through Toni's work and partnership with families. At Benedict Campus, we farewell Mrs Lyn Howell and Mr Bret Swensson who have been on leave this year and are not returning after many years of service to the College. I also thank Mr Beau Allen who has been our inaugural trainee this year and Ms Amy Law who taught in both Year 2 classes.

I express my sincere thanks to all our staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. To all our parents, caregivers and friends, our parish family under the guidance of Bishop Karol and Fr Jimmy, and our College Board, ably chaired by Mr Daniel Lauder, I extend my gratitude for your support of our shared mission to bring out the best in our students and to prepare them to be hope filled and faith filled people of good heart. Our students are at the heart of who we are, and all we do.

In his homily on Sunday, Bishop Karol defined looking forward as 'waiting in joyful anticipation'. In the final weeks of Advent may we remember the joy that the birth of Jesus brought to the world. May we also look forward in joyful anticipation to new beginnings in 2024.

I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas. May peace and joy fill your hearts and homes.

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Faith and Mission



LITURGY > Our students in Reception Red and Green performed the story of the First Christmas for family and friends.

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the countless blessings that have enriched our lives and the unique journey we've embarked on together. The season of Advent provides us with a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the past, live in the present, and anticipate the promises of the future.

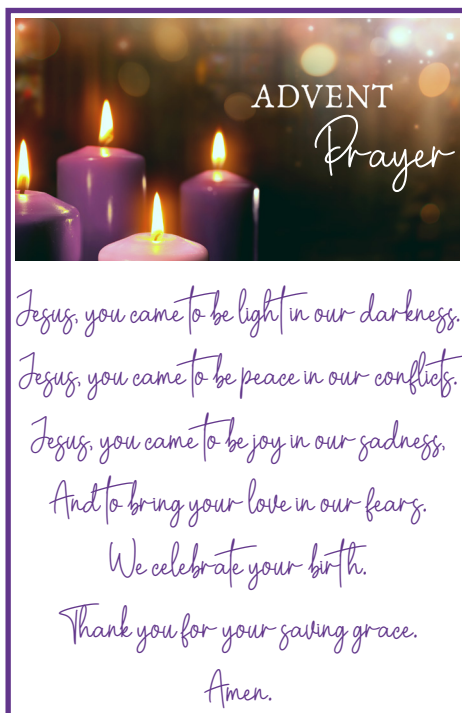
Reception Red and Green shared a beautiful nativity liturgy with their peers and parents this week teaching us all that despite the hustle and bustle, Advent invites us to pause, reflect, and cultivate a spirit of hope. As Bishop Karol put in his homily it's about looking forward in hope.

The staff at our school take immense care, reverence and hope when supporting our students their spiritual learning and experiences each year. It is a privilege to witness and inspires me each day.

We are blessed to work closely with our Parish. This year we welcome Fr Sijo Pynappallil CSC to St Mark's Parish and thank him together with Fr Jimmy, Deacon Gary and Claire for their presence during Masses and prayers at St Mark's College.

As we bid farewell to 2023, we take pride in the collective achievements and growth we've experienced at St Mark's this year, in particular the significant difference we have made through social action across the college. As we enter the Christmas season and welcome the new year, let us carry the spirit of Advent with us—a spirit of hope, love, joy and peace. May the birth of the Christ Child inspire us to continue to embrace compassion, generosity, and unity in the coming year.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."



Christmas Eve

- 6.00pm Children's Mass
Crystal Brook
- 7.00pm Children's Mass at St Mark's Cathedral
- 11.30pm Carols at St Mark's Cathedral

Midnight Mass at St Mark's Cathedral

Christmas Day

- 8.30am Redhill Mass
- 9.30am Mass at St Mark's Cathedral
- 5.00pm Mass at St Anthony's Church

SOUTHERN CROSS:

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

THE WITNESS:

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: 11/12 - 15/12		
Mon	A Night of All Things Christmas	Benedict Oval, 5.30 - 7.00pm
	Year 7 - 9 Activities Day	
Tues	Year 7 - 9 Swimming Day	
Wed	Year 9 Rite Journey Conclusion	
	End of Term 4	Dismissal at 12.30pm R-11 Semester 2 reports issued
Thur	Staff Professional Learning Day	
Fri	Staff Professional Learning Day	

Benedict Campus:

Upcoming events

Next week we have a few events planned to celebrate the end of the school year. You are very welcome to attend!

On Monday night we will celebrate Christmas 'Benedict-style'. You are welcomed to join us in a picnic from 5.30pm on the Benedict Oval. Our classes have been busy preparing a Christmas item to perform for you. The performances will start from 6.00pm. Students are to wear their PE uniform with a Christmas accessory. If the weather is unfavourable as is predicted, I will be in contact with families through Operoo and text message to inform you of a plan B.

On Tuesday at 12.20pm we will host an assembly where I will give out the awards missed at previous assemblies, as well as:

- Deputy Principal Awards for Term 4
- Recognising the contribution of our Semester 2 SRCs, House and School Captains, and
- Congratulating the participants from the 2023 Premiers Reading Challenge.

On Wednesday at 11.00am we will host the Semester 2 Celebration of Success Assembly where we will recognise academic excellence for this Semester.

And they are off...

Over the last two weeks we have welcomed our new students into the College for 2024. We began with a half day of Reception Orientation on Thursday 30 November.

There was excitement in the air, with a few nerves from parents and students. I must say how proud I was to welcome our newest students into the library for some time with their Buddies before they were shown their classroom for the day!

On Monday 4 December we welcomed new students from Years 1-6 in 2024 into our classrooms. They were filled with some nerves, but were welcomed into our community with open arms.

On Tuesday 5 December our 2024 Receptions came back, attending school for almost a full day. They were able to interact with each other and once again see their Buddies who helped them find some important places in our school.

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Key Dates and Campus Information



I wish you all a very happy, safe and joyous Christmas and holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 29 January 2024.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

Bosco Campus:

The year draws to a close

As the term draws to a close, we take the opportunity to give thanks for the year. Next week we say goodbye for now to a number of students and staff who are moving on to new pathways. We will miss their friendly faces and generous spirits.

I am grateful for the contributions Mr Matt Sullivan and Ms Emily March have made in their time at our College and wish them well in their return to Adelaide. After more than 2 decades of Service, Ms Toni Freer is moving on to new challenges at Caritas College. We will miss her professional dedication to all aspects of school life but most particularly her ability to support students of all abilities to thrive. Ms Danae Holyman, our inaugural Wellbeing Officer, is taking up new opportunities including married life after her wedding last weekend. We wish her all the best for her travels and work opportunities going forward.

Orientation

On Monday students who will be new to Bosco Campus in 2024 came along to familiarise themselves with the campus. These new students had opportunities to make new friends and get a taste for different learning opportunities. I hope the students left feeling excited about the year to come.

Presentation Night

Tuesday evening we gathered to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful scholarship and community activities of students at our Bosco Presentation Evening. It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance. We offer our congratulations to all those who received a prize or an acknowledgment. These awards recognise effort and commitment. Award recipients are listed over the page.

Final Days of School

Our Year 10 students completed their final exams this week and were farewelled on Thursday afternoon. These exams and the final days have set them up in preparation to begin full SACE studies in Year 11.

For our Year 7, 8 and 9 students we have 2.5 school days to go. Students will be connecting with peers and teachers in a variety of skill and team building activities in Week 9. I would like to remind families that as with all school days attendance is an expectation and unexplained absences will be followed up.

At our Annual Splash Day students have the opportunity to get their house off to a good start with points to be gained that will contribute towards the 2024 House Cup challenge.

Holiday wellbeing tips

Holidays can take some students away from friends and their usual school supports. Changes to routine can cause some young people to feel stressed, isolated, and alone. Below are some tips from Headspace to support your child to remain feeling connected ready to come together again for the 2024 school year.

Tips for adults supporting young people:

- Encourage them to stay connected: Social relationships are an important aspect of young people's general wellbeing. Friends can provide both play and support, and spending time with friends is also important for keeping and building existing friendships.

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Key Dates and Campus Information



- Encourage them to stay involved: Whether it is work, hobbies, clubs, or sports – involvement with these can help a young person feel connected to their wider community.
- Partake in physical activity: If your young person is feeling down or finding things difficult, physical activities such as walking around the block can help relieve stress and frustration.
- Keeping to a regular routine: Getting a good sleep each night helps young people feel energised, focused, and motivated. Getting up and going to bed at the same time each day can help normalise their body clock.
- Help-seeking and support: Ensure that young people have access to support numbers, locally and nationally; and that parents/carers also are provided with these details.

For students who find it more challenging to engage in school we will reach out and provide an opportunity to connect prior to the first day of school.

As this is the final newsletter for 2023 I would like to thank you all for your partnership in education and formation of our young people in 2023. Wishing you each a safe and joyful Christmas with blessings on the new year to come.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

Bosco Presentation Night

See the full list of award winners on page 8.



Our College leaders for 2023 and 2024 together for the last time!



Geoff Brock awarded Brodie the Service to College Award.



Dr Hewson and Bishop Karol awarded Sophie the Insignis Award.



Our Bosco Vocal Group set the scene for a special night of celebration.

Benedict Campus



PAGEANT > Our students and staff were spreading the Christmas cheer at Saturday's Port Pirie Christmas Pageant! (Photo credit: White Photography.)



RECEPTION > Reagan, Leo, Evelyn and their classmates made Christmas earrings with Mrs Porta.



RECEPTION > Alivia, Kai and their classmates decorated reindeer biscuits.



FAREWELL > We officially farewelled our Year 6 students at our End of Year Liturgy.



PASSION PROJECTS > Year 5s have been presenting their passion projects to the class. Layla presented her Grandma's dog Bailey as her passion!



LEADERS > We congratulate our 2024 Captains Madison and Braxton (centre) and Vice-Captains Anna and Archie.

Bosco Campus



ORIENTATION > Lachie, Dane and our 2024 Year 7 students engaged in a range of activities at Bosco Campus on Orientation Day.



MUSIC > Year 11 students Austin, Angus, Jazz, Minette, Cohen, Kylan and Charlie performed at the Senior Music Concert for family and friends last week.



RITE JOURNEY > The Year 9 Rite Journey girls donated 63 bags full of essentials to local women in need.



MUSIC > Aiden and Molly learning the electric guitar during Music.



CAMP > Year 9 students enjoyed their recent camp and a range of activities at Lake Bonney.

Bosco Campus



Bosco Presentation Night

Congratulations to all students who received awards at Presentation Night!

Year 7 Academic Excellence

Owen, Lewis, Lexi, Amaliyah, Linkoln, Tahlia, Peyton, Caprie, Alyssa, Liam and Elise

Year 8 Academic Excellence

Emily, Lara, Angus, Kaden, Ruby, Molly, Leana, Max, Eve, Peyton and Lilli

Year 9 Academic Excellence

Leila, Lili, Imogen, Harlee, Eden, Olivia, Jack, Liam and Bailey

Year 10 Academic Excellence

Jake, Mayah, Mae, Eva, Mitchell, Davyn, Keeley, Alyssa, Abbie, Madeline, Alexandra, Chloe, James, Alex and Kodi Stark

Stage 1 Academic Excellence

- **Biology:** Ruby
- **Outdoor Education:** Jessica
- **Stage 1 Agriculture:** Adam
- **Design and Technology- Furniture Construction:** Lucas
- **Physical Education:** Zara B
- **Sport Studies:** Claire
- **Nutrition:** Addison
- **Visual Arts- Design:** Ella
- **General Mathematics:** Emily
- **Psychology:** Zara
- **Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning:** Amahli
- **Chemistry:** Isabella
- **Pre-Specialist Maths:** Adan
- **Food and Hospitality:** Meg
- **Design and Technology- General Engineering:** Lucas
- **Physics:** Sophie
- **English:** Lilly
- **Music Experience:** Minette
- **Child Studies:** Amahli
- **Pre-Mathematical Methods:** Isabella
- **Essential Mathematics:** Rylan
- **Photography:** Zara B

• Legal Studies: Ella

• Society and Culture: Amahli

• Women's Studies: Ruby

Stage 2 Academic Excellence

- **Nutrition:** Kate
- **Design and Technology - General Engineering:** Callahan
- **Physical Education:** Alexa
- **General Mathematics:** Sophie
- **Specialist Mathematics:** Makon
- **Activating Identities and Futures (AIF):** Bella
- **Physics:** Callahan
- **Creative Arts:** Levi
- **Religion:** Ayeisha
- **Business Innovation:** Tayah
- **Essential English:** Jerylee
- **English:** Bella
- **Food and Hospitality:** Bella
- **Child Studies:** Taia
- **Psychology:** Aslin
- **Biology:** Bella
- **Integrated Learning B (Agriculture):** Connor
- **Mathematical Methods:** Makon
- **Music Performance:** Morgan
- **Chemistry:** Ayeisha
- **Agricultural Production:** Sanja
- **Visual Arts- Art:** Meteha
- **Society and Culture:** Amity

Character and Leadership Awards,

- **Year 7:** Jack
- **Year 8:** Ryan
- **Year 9:** Olivia
- **Year 10:** Trey
- **Year 11:** Isabella
- **Year 12:** Holly

Sportsperson's of the Year

- **Female:** Harper and Leana
- **Male:** Lucas

Art + Design Prize,

Junior Winner: Skye

Senior Winner: Meteha

Agriculture Industry VET Award: Adam

Ag Trades Industry Award: Jaxon

VET Tertiary Ag Award: Kiera

Eyre Trading Award: Connor

VET Student of the Year: Taliyah

Salesian House Award: Tayah

Rotary Award for Outstanding Citizenship: Amity

Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award,

Year 10: Trey

Year 12: Sophie

ADF Future Innovators Award,

Year 10: Mitchell

Year 12: Ayeisha

Elsa Chilvers Scholarship: Kiera

Soroptimist International Award: Kate

Uni SA Award for Academic Achievement: Bella

Teachers' Award: Jerylee

Salesian Service Award: Taia

Service to College Award: Brodie

Insignis Award (Best All Round Student): Sophie

Rowan Ramsay School Community Award: Ms Melissa Gadaleta



Congratulations to Year 9 student Olivia who has been announced one of the 2023 Governor's Civics Award for Schools winners for her persuasive argument about new AI technology.



Congratulations to Hugo, Max and George who represented Port Pirie in the U12 combined cricket against Port Augusta.

Community Notices

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Sto Niño, Port Pirie
Saturday, 20th January

St Mark's Cathedral
Tellowship & Lunch fellow
@ Good Samaritan Hall
More details soon

PORTPIRIE NYE PARTY

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

LARGEST FIREWORK SHOW OUTSIDE OF ADELAIDE

PETER COMBE •
 w/ FULL BAND •
GEN X •
TOM BARRATT •
LESKE •
+MORE •

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2023
 FROM 5PM - 10PM
 PORT PIRIE FORESHORE &
 SOLOMONTOWN BEACH
 BYO CHAIRS & PICNIC RUGS

FREE FACE PAINTING & BALLOON TWISTING
EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW N TELL
LARGE RANGE OF FOOD VENDORS
AMUSEMENT RIDES & ASMORE SK8 • MUCH MORE

SCA nyrstar

PORT PIRIE YOUTH THEATRE

is proud to announce our 2024 musical

elf JR.
 The Musical

Information Night
 Scan below

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SKILLS FOR ANY SEASON!
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