

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 9 February 2024



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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BOSCO CAMPUS

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SALESIAN HOUSE

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Our Year 12s proudly guided their Reception Buddies into the College Opening Mass.

Dream Big

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. Our fortnightly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what is happening at St Mark's College. I hope you find it interesting and informative as there is always something to share and celebrate in the day-to-day life of our busy community.

We have had a wonderful start to the year, and I am amazed at how quickly students have settled. I extend a warm welcome to our 78 new Reception students, and all our new students in primary, secondary and boarding. You are most welcome. I have walked many kilometres around the College this week, dropping into classes and talking with students and there has been an overwhelming positive and happy vibe!

Our Diocesan theme this year is 'Let your light shine', which is such a fantastic theme for a school. Every student has strengths and passions and should feel proud rather than shy about their capabilities. This year, I hope that each person in our community will embrace their learning with a desire for growth, and a willingness to share their skills and talents with others.

As a Salesian school, one of ten in Australia, we are guided by a Strenna each year, Strenna meaning 'gift'. This year we will focus on 'The dream that makes you dream' which is inspired by the dream John Bosco had as a youth to go out and help others. Let us dream big this year in our individual hopes and aspirations and collectively as a college.

An author I read often is Brene Brown and one of her mantras is 'Clear is Kind'. We have started the year working with students on clear expectations to create a positive, productive, and enjoyable learning community. Procedures to be 'Ready for Learning', and safe in the yard have been put in place and more will be developed as the year progresses. This approach is based on our learning about Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports, designed to ensure consistency of expectations so that students have clear guidelines to follow. I've been impressed by the calm and caring start to the year resulting from this approach and the great preparation and support of staff.

I encourage you throughout the year to make personal contact with teachers and maintain open communication that supports shared understanding about learning and wellbeing. I'm delighted to welcome some new staff to our college this year. Our new teachers are Kelsey Brown, Bree Williams and Virginia Chambers at Benedict campus, and Emily Donoghue, Krisztian Elmendorp, Riley Hayes, Eric Padman, and Wouter Scott at Bosco campus. We also welcome new ESOs Morgan Cullen, Alexa Manners, and Jazlyn McBride, together with Ellie Hunter and Alana Zubrinich (who started last year), along with new boarding supervisors Adam Bosworth and Christie Sims. Susan Read is our new Engagement and Wellbeing Officer working across both campuses to support the Wellbeing team to ensure

From the Principal



students are not experiencing barriers to attending school.

We have an exciting year ahead, not least with the building of a new boarding house. Whether you are new to our community, or continuing schooling with us, I thank you for choosing St Mark's College. We are here to work with you to achieve the very best outcomes for our students.

Let's work together to enable every person in our community to let their light shine.

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

New College staff

Meet our new staff who started at the College in Term 4, 2023 and Term 1, 2024.



Adam Bosworth
Boarding House Supervisor



Alexa Manners
Sports Trainee and Classroom ESO



Bree Williams
1 Blue Teacher



Christie Sims
Boarding House Supervisor



Ellie Hunter
Benedict Classroom ESO



Emily Donoghue
Bosco Teacher and
VET Coordinator



Eric Padman
Bosco Teacher



Jazlyn McBride
Classroom ESO Trainee



Kelsey Brown
2 Green Teacher



Krisztian Elmendorp
Year 9 Coordinator
and Bosco Teacher



Morgan Cullen
Administration Trainee



Riley Hayes
Bosco Teacher



Susan Read
Community Engagement and
Wellbeing Officer



Virginia Chambers
4 Red Teacher



Wouter Scott
Bosco Teacher

Faith and Mission



Deacon Gary Stokes blessing Year 3 students at the College Opening Mass.

This year, the Religious Identity and Mission of our College will be supported by a new Catholic Identity Team. This team comprises appointed members of staff in specific roles that cover these broad and vital aspects of our College life:

- Miss Brodie Nugent- **Catholic Identity and Mission Leader and RE Curriculum Leader (Benedict)**
- Mr Isaac Ellis- **Catholic Identity and Mission Leader (Bosco)**
- Ms Fiona Clarke - **RE Curriculum Leader (Bosco)**
- Mrs Megan Congdon- **Ecology and Social Action Leader (Bosco)**

Throughout the year, we will introduce ourselves and our roles in the Catholic Identity Team.

So far, the work of the Team has involved introducing our Salesian theme of 'The dream that makes you dream' and the Diocesan Theme of 'Let your light shine!'. We have also hit the ground running with many liturgies, prayer experiences and strategies to engage our students and staff with social justice actions.

These two themes have been highlighted in our Staff Commissioning Mass and R-12 Opening Mass in the past few weeks. Our Commissioning Mass welcomed our new staff to the College and sent staff out on their mission for the College. At our R-12 Opening Mass, we introduced these themes to our students. We blessed candles for each classroom and celebrated the formal blessing of our newly installed large wooden cross in the St Mark's Sports Centre, a kind gift, crafted elegantly by our very own Bosco Tech teacher, Mr Mark Murphy.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday liturgies will be the highlights of next week, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

We will keep you updated with aspects from each of our roles in upcoming newsletter issues.

St Mark's College Catholic Identity Team



A message from our Ecology and Social Action Leader

Next week we will begin the season of Lent and preparation for Easter. We will mark the beginning of this with Ash Wednesday liturgies across both campuses. At this time, we will also launch Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual fundraising campaign. Over the coming weeks, classes across both campuses will raise funds to help support remote and vulnerable communities across Asia, the Pacific and in Australia.

In addition to class fundraising efforts, a tax-deductable donation can be made directly to our online Project Compassion fundraising page by scanning the QR code below:



Together with your support, we can create lasting change today and For All Future Generations.

Mrs Megan Congdon, Ecology and Social Action Leader (Bosco Campus)



THE WITNESS:

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

SOUTHERN CROSS:

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

Faith and Mission



2024 Opening Mass



BLESSING > Candles from each classroom and Homegroup were blessed, pictured are Maggie, Archer and Jay.



CANDLE > Year 6 students Hayden, Braxton, Jayce, Xzavier, Miller and Archie with their blessed candle.



COMMUNION > Fr Jimmy blesses Rhys during Communion.



PRAYERS > Year 6 students offered the Prayers of the Faithful.



BLESSING > Deacon Gary blessed the new cross made by Mr Murphy.

Welcome to Salesian House

We welcomed our Boarders and their families at the Opening Liturgy!



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 3: 12/2 - 16/2			Week 4: 19/2 - 23/2	
Mon	Little Lions Session 2		Mon	Little Lions Session 3
	Parent Welcome Night - Year 7, 8 and 9 Bishop Gallagher Centre, 7.00pm			
Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am		Tues	
	Shrove Tuesday Liturgy Benedict Quad, 12.20pm			
Wed	Breakfast Club Good Samaritan Hall, 8.20-8.40am		Wed	
	Ash Wednesday Benedict R-6 Mass and House Liturgies			
Thur	2024 Reception Orientation 8.45am - 12.00pm	Bosco Student Leaders' Camp	Thur	
Fri	Little Lions Session 2		Fri	Little Lions Session 3

Benedict Campus:

Uniform

All students were given two visual laminated posters last week. One was who their teachers are and what specialist lesson they have on each day. The other was a visual schedule of which uniform to wear on which day. If these have been misplaced, please see our friendly office staff for a new copy.

Just a reminder that it is against school policy for students to have a SMART watch at school. Students are permitted to wear a watch; however, the watch should not be able to be used to call, message, take photos or videos or play music. Please be mindful that if students are wearing a SMART watch they will be asked to remove it.

Before School

As a school we have a duty of care to ensure your child/ren are adequately supervised at all times. Therefore, please ensure that your child/ren are not on school grounds before 8.15am. If they do present at school before 8.15am they will be taken to the OSHC service located at Benedict. Families will be billed for this service. OSHC opens at 6.30am each morning and provides supervision and breakfast for students until 8.30am when classrooms are open.

Please be reminded that if you enter the school ground before 8.25am you are required to wait in the Quad area. After 8.25am you are then able to enter the Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Wonderland.

Car Park

At the start of every school year there is always a period of refreshing ourselves with the regular routines in getting back to school. We also welcome new people within our community. We are very lucky with the facilities we have at our school and we are the only school in Port Pirie to have a car park.

Please be mindful of the use of the car park and the expectations within it. At St Mark's College we promote positive interactions with all involved. Staff are on duty to ensure the safety of students as well as consistent flow of traffic.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus



Key Dates and Campus Information



Bosco Campus:

Welcome to 2024

Welcome to our Bosco families for the 2024 school year. It is great to see a sea of faces again in the school yard, assemblies and classrooms. Students and teachers have been working hard on setting up learning intentions, success criteria, personal goals and establishing clear routines and procedures. By establishing clear structures from the start, we are developing agency within each student to make positive choices to engage and do the learning.

We are pleased to join some new staff this year to our campus as featured on page 2 of the newsletter. Mrs Hannah Lavis has also come across from Benedict Campus to provide learning support in our junior classes. Along with our new staff we also welcomed over 50 new students to the College at Bosco Campus.

Partnering with Families

So far this year we have had the opportunity to connect with our boarding and senior years families at the Boarding House Liturgy/BBQ and 10-12 Welcome Night respectively. Teachers and parents have been able to put a name to a face and begin a partnership in supporting our young people in their year ahead. Research has shown the impact of effective parent engagement in learning extends beyond the school and has been shown to result in stronger career aspirations and higher levels of participation in post-secondary training and education.

This year staff are working systematically to ensure we connect with each family over the first few weeks. I invite you to maintain that interaction with us throughout the year by reaching out to your child's home group and subject teachers to support their growth in 2024.

Dux Assembly

It was wonderful for our whole campus to celebrate and honour students who achieved outstanding results for their SACE in 2023. I thank them for making the time to come in and be recognised by us. One quote from our College Dux Aslin Spolding is a good provocation for all learners this year: *"I practiced initiative to gain teacher feedback, develop in-depth knowledge of subjects, and implemented study techniques. This left enough time to socialise and play sport, it's all about balance."*

Uniform and Grooming

Many thanks to our parents for ensuring students were well-presented in their Summer Uniform for their first day of school. Staff are now working closely with students on adhering to all aspects of our Uniform Policy. Could I ask parents to ensure that their child adheres to all areas of the College Uniform Policy which is clearly outlined in the guideline document:

➔ **Uniform Guidelines** click or visit: www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/uniform

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

College:

College Fees

For families choosing to pay their fees through a payment plan, you are reminded that you have until 29 February 2024 to set up a Pysmart contract. We urge families to do this as soon as possible. Pysmart contract links were emailed to families on the 19 December 2023. For families who cannot find this link, please contact Sarah Pilkington via email:

➔ spilkington@smc.catholic.edu.au to request that the contract link is forwarded to your email again.

Only those families who have elected to pay by the end of Term 1 and receiving the 5% discount will not be required to setup Pysmart.

College fee statements are in the post and should be delivered to you next week.

Benedict Campus



WELCOME > We welcome our new Reception students in Reception Yellow!



MINI MARK'S > Lara enjoying the first Mini Mark's Playgroup of 2024.



BUDDIES > Callie reading with her Year 12 Buddy Ruby.



WELCOME > We welcome our new Reception students in Reception Red!

Congratulations

to our Deputy Principal
award winners from
Term 4, 2023:

*Service and Contribution to
St Mark's College Community*

6R	Parker
6B	Eva and Sophie
5G	Alyssa
5R	Tessa + Zali
5B	Xzavier
4G	Fletcher
4R	Noelle
4B	Ava + Adelle
3R	Mia
3B	Maya
2R	Dillon
2B	Rory + Bastian
1G	Eli
1R	Archer
1B	Jensen
RG	Bruno
RR	Isaac
RB	Archer
RY	Darcy
RW	Ava

Congratulations to all of our students
who were recognised with College Value
awards this week.



WELCOME > We also welcome Reception
students Cooper, Sadie and Johan who were
unable to attend the first day of school.

Benedict Campus



WELCOME > We welcome our new Reception students in Reception Green!



STORY > Year 1 student Jax enjoying a story read by Year 10 student Cooper.



WELCOME > We welcome our new Little Lions and look forward to introducing a few extra friends in next fortnight's newsletter.



WELCOME > We welcome our new Reception students in Reception Blue!



LUNCH > Lunch time at Valdocco, pictured are Year 3 students Delaney, Gracie, Eden and Emerson.

Bosco Campus



WELCOME > We welcome our Year 7 students to Bosco Campus and to the new experiences and opportunities at high school.



AGRICULTURE > Our 2024 grape harvest has commenced with Agriculture students picking, weighing and crushing the grapes. Pictured are Alex and Adele.



DESIGN + TECH > Year 9s have started working on their first wooden projects. Pictured is Jack.



ENGLISH > Year 10 English students visited Benedict to read books with the Year 1 students. This term the Year 10's will be writing their own children's books which they will also share with the Year 1's. Pictured are Lucy, Scarlett, Raya and Halle.



DUX ASSEMBLY > We celebrated the exceptional achievements from the end of last year. Congratulations to Aslin (Dux), Sophie, Bella, Kate and Zara for their extraordinary efforts.



BUDDIES > Year 12 student Tom sharing a story with his Reception Buddy, Hunter.

College



Community Engagement and Wellbeing



My name is Susan Read and I am the new Community Engagement and Wellbeing Officer at St Mark's College.

I have been a qualified social worker since 2004 and am also a Mental Health Accredited Social Worker. I lived and worked in Port Pirie from 2015 until 2020 and have recently made the move back. I am very excited to undertake the role of Community Engagement and Wellbeing Officer within St Mark's College as schools are only starting to recognise the benefit of having social workers in schools. By having recognising the need for this role, St Mark's shows that is committed to positively and proactively supporting their students and families to build their coping skills and be connected to their school community.

I have previously been working at Autism SA within the Schools Program where I have been supporting students who had become disengaged to overcome often complex barriers and reengage into schooling. I work with students and their families in a way that is collaborative, strengths-based, non-judgemental and holistic. I have a long, varied history in social work including working in family support, domestic violence and mental health. I look forward to working with students, families and staff at St Mark's College. I will be located within the Student Hub at Bosco Campus and can be contacted by emailing:

➔ sread@smc.catholic.edu.au

Safer Internet Day

This week students across the College had the opportunity to engage in Safer Internet Day.

Safer Internet Day is an annual event dedicated to promoting a safer and more responsible use of online technology and digital platforms. Teachers used this occasion to empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital world securely.

The eSafety website contains resources for families as well, and is a great place to find information to help support our young people be successful the online world. To find out more, click the link below:

➔ [ESafety for Parents](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents) click or visit: www.esafety.gov.au/parents

Mr Ben McInnes, Digital Technologies Learning Leader

Congratulations!



CONGRATULATIONS > Congratulations to Year 10 student Lucas Gulin who was named the Young Citizen of the Year for Crystal Brook. He was recognised as he has shown an extraordinary talent and dedication for sport.

CONGRATULATIONS > Congratulations to Zara (Year 12) and Bella (Class of 2023) who were presented with their Merit Awards for outstanding academic achievement at Government House. Both Zara and Bella achieved an A+ for the subject Activating Identities and Futures (AIF).





A message from parent Jade Joyce: Hello and welcome to 2024!

With excitement and enthusiasm, I am reaching out to our College community's parents, grandparents, and carers to come and join the Parents + Friends group this year.

Everyone is busy and time is precious, so we are looking for ideas on how we can engage parents in activities without the pressure of commitment and meetings.

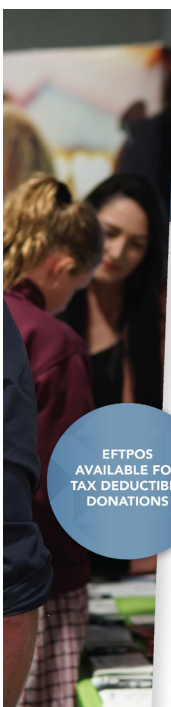
We want to engage our College community in welcome and fun! Our P+F supports our children and staff in various College events. Past events have included movie nights, sports day stalls, colour runs and more. We would love to see the fun continue this year!

Please join me for a coffee on Wednesday 14 February at 9am in the OSHC room at Benedict Campus to find out more, express your interest, and share your ideas. Children are more than welcome to come along too!

If you are unable to attend on Wednesday 14 February but would like to be involved, please email:

➔ info@smc.catholic.edu.au

Community Notices



the *Carly Ryan* foundation.

Parent Online Safety Presentation

Hosted by John Pirie
Secondary School
Monday 4th March 2024
6:00pm
Port Pirie Sports Precinct 50 Mary Ellie St

The presentation explores

- Online Safety
- Opportunities vs risks
- Privacy settings
- Awareness
- Managing self
- Emotional intelligence
- Resilience
- Critical thinking
- Understanding the law
- Image based abuse
- Respectful relationships
- Communication
- Practical guidance
- Connection to support services

carlyryanfoundation.com
Creating a positive experience online for all Australian families.

EFTPOS AVAILABLE FOR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Hot Shots Tennis

HOT SHOTS ... SO MUCH FUN!!!

Register your child's name for Term 1.

Don't miss out!!

Sessions start this Sunday Feb 11.

Contact Hot Shots Coach Grant Hanlon:
0414 320 840

Start Changing Lives Today




Are you interested in becoming a Foster Carer?

Join foster carers and the foster team for a coffee & chat
Sunday 11th, 18th, 25th February
1 - 3pm

Port Pirie Regional Library, 3 Wandearah Rd, Port Pirie
Call 88339023 for more information.

Linking Country SA

Weekly Specials

BENEDICT CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = Fruit Box)	
Week 3				
Mon	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Chicken Cordon Bleu Burger + Fruit Box	\$6.50 \$8.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Thurs	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Beef Curry and Rice + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Chicken Carbonara + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Week 4				
Mon	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Pizza Triangles	\$2.00	Chicken Cordon Bleu Burger + Fruit Box	\$6.50 \$8.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Thurs	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Chicken Stirfry + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Fri	3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Roast Beef and Gravy Roll + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00

BOSCO CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can)	
Week 3				
Mon	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Puff Doggies	\$2.00	Chicken Cordon Bleu Burger + Fruit Box	\$6.50 \$8.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
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Online Canteen Orders: www.flexischools.com.au

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752

