



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**



ADMINISTRATION
T +61 8 8632 2800
F +61 8 8633 0104

BENEDICT CAMPUS
T +61 8 8632 4735
F +61 8 8633 0568

BOSCO CAMPUS
T +61 8 8633 8812
F +61 8 8633 0104

SALESIAN HOUSE
T +61 8633 8803
F +61 8633 0104

www.smc.catholic.edu.au



Student leaders presenting 'welcome' from from different cultures.

Truth Telling

This week members of the Leadership Team attended the Diocesan Assembly, a gathering of religious, lay leaders and parishioners from across the vast Diocese of Port Pirie. The theme of the Assembly was 'Proclaim, Serve and Build'. Among the many good news stories, two of our Year 12 students, Ruby and Ella spoke of the focus on social action at St Mark's College. They shared their own experience of participating in the Vinnies Sleepout last year, and how their learning about homelessness in Australia inspired the year level to raise over \$20,000 for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Not only did they speak with confidence, but their pride in the College was evident and complimented by attendees. I could not have been more proud listening to Ruby and Ella articulate the importance of Catholic Social Teaching in helping to shape our students into good people who are building on the mission of Jesus and living out the Gospel values in their daily lives.

We are all God's people. None of us live or act in isolation. As such we have a responsibility to be aware of our impact, on the environment, and on the people around us, locally and further afield. Just as a pebble dropped into a pond sends ripples out that extend beyond the place of impact, so our words and actions send out ripples far beyond our immediate vicinity or our conscious awareness.

At the Assembly, Fr Jim Monaghan, Vicar-General of our Diocese, spoke of the importance of 'truth telling' in the Church, but this also made me reflect on truth telling in our College community. When any incident occurs, if we are going to move forward, we need to speak the truth, hear the truth, and take responsibility for the truth of what has

been and what is. Taking responsibility for the truth of words and actions can be difficult for adults let alone children and young people, but as parents and educators we serve our children well if we support them to develop this quality. It is the foundation of growth, responsibility, repair, and reconciliation.

Society is messy and schools are too. St Mark's is no different in being a microcosm of society, and people do not always behave as they should. Lots is written in the media and on local social media pages about bullying. In an ideal world we would not hear words that are designed to hurt or see actions that cause physical and emotional harm. But we do not live in an ideal world. We live in that messy world where we do our very best to work through issues as they arise and educate students about the impact of bullying and harassment, in person and in the cyber world of digital communication. I see how hard teachers work in this space, which comes from our care for students and our mission to be a safe place that teaches and lives Gospel values. We do not take bullying behaviours lightly; pretend they do not occur or push them under the carpet. We work with students and families to name and own what is happening, re-educate, and accept consequences as part of restoration and repair.

Truth telling is important and it is essential for all of us at St Mark's College, parents, and teachers, to support our young people in acknowledging and taking responsibility for their actions, so that every person has the conditions that will enable them to feel that they belong and can flourish. This is hard, ongoing work, but together we will make a difference.

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Faith and Mission



Bosco student leaders with Bishop Karol, Bishop Greg and Fr Jimmy

The Rite Journey – Calling and Departure Ceremony

On Monday last week, the Year 9s conducted their 'Calling and Departure' ceremony for the beginning of their 'Rite Journey'. This sunrise session began at the Solomontown Beach as parents and caregivers joined their children as witnesses of their commitment to the Rite Journey.

The Rite Journey programme is considered a contemporary and engaging way to approach the transition out of childhood into adulthood. Students participate in the structured programme, forming boys groups and girls groups, to discuss and discover more about themselves in a safe environment.

Year 11 Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning (SRM) – Vinnies Sleepout

Following on from the success of our 2023 Year 11 Vinnies Sleepout, our 2024 Year 11 cohort launched their fundraising campaign for this year's Vinnies Sleepout. On Wednesday this week, our Year 11 Coordinator, Mr Matt Munday presented to the students about the widespread situation anybody could find themselves in – becoming homeless. Students were presented with some startling facts and figures about homelessness in Australia, where the number of people who find themselves homeless is on a massive increase.

In their SRM classes, students are further studying the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church, especially on 'Human dignity' and 'Preferential option for the poor and vulnerable'. Students immediately began creating their fundraising campaigns for the sleepout, and within 24 hours had raised more than \$7,500. The students' ideas about how to raise money will be actioned and publicised in the next few weeks. To support our Vinnies Sleepout, visit the following fundraising page:



vinnies-sa.grassrootz.com/st-mark-s-college-port-pirie-vinnies-sleepout-2024



Year 3 students and Year 6 Student Leaders with

The night of the Sleepout is planned for Thursday, 9 May, which is Term 2, Week 2. Year 11 students will have an opportunity to find empathy with those who live without a home – gaining a glimpse into the lives of those who find themselves sleeping rough every night.

Mr Isaac Ellis,

Catholic Identity and Mission Leader, Bosco Campus

Chrism Mass

On Wednesday 20 March, a group of students and teachers from across the college attended the Chrism Mass at St Mark's Cathedral. The Chrism Mass is a very special event that sees priests and parishioners from all over the Port Pirie Diocese come together in preparation for Easter. During the Mass, Bishop Karol blessed the sacred oils that will be used for administration of the Sacraments throughout the Easter season and beyond. Representatives from each parish in the diocese then collected their portion of the oils to take home to their own church communities.

Several members of the St Mark's College community were privileged to play an active role in the celebration of the Chrism Mass. School Vice Captain Isabella Martlew delivered the Acknowledgement of Country, while eight students from Year 3 performed a liturgical dance during the gospel procession. Bosco staff member Isaac Ellis provided music for the Mass on the Cathedral's beautiful pipe organ. Our students participated reverently in the Mass and enjoyed the opportunity to gather with students from other Catholic schools across the diocese.

Ms Brodie Nugent,

Catholic Identity and Mission Leader, Benedict Campus

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: 25/3 - 29/3 | | | Week 10: 1/4 - 5/4 | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Mon | Little Lions Session 7 | SAPSASA Softball | Mon | Easter Monday Student Free Day |
| | Year 5 Easter Re-enactment | | | |
| | R-12 Staff Faith Formation | | Tues | Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am |
| Tues | Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am | | | Parent Teacher Interviews, R - 6 Good Samaritan Hall, 3.30pm - 8.00pm |
| Wed | Breakfast Club Good Samaritan Hall, 8.20-8.40am | | Wed | Parent Teacher Interviews, R - 6 Good Samaritan Hall, 3.30pm - 8.00pm |
| | Parent Teacher Interviews, Yr 10-12 St Mark's Sports Centre, 3.40pm - 6.30pm | | | |
| Thur | Bosco Easter Liturgy | | Thur | |
| Fri | Good Friday Student Free Day | | Fri | |

Benedict Campus:

What's been happening in Year 3

This week I popped into 3 Red to hear about all the wonderful learning that has been happening this term. The students were very engaged in telling me what has been happening in the past few weeks.

Isla started by telling me that "in Science we have been learning about plants and they are up on the windowsill". Each student has a bean plant up on their windowsill which they are using as an experiment to see how "plants grow how they are supposed to and how they survive" (Ethan). The class has explored how "plants reproduce and the life cycle of a plant" (Cheston). Delany said that they have also been learning about the life cycle of a frog.

In Mathematics the Year 3s have been learning about 3D shapes and their properties (Dillon).

In HASS "we have been learning about celebrations and commemorations" (Zed). Harlow was able to tell me that "commemorations are when we remember someone or something. Celebrations are celebrating something that has happened". Ethan told me that "Celebrations are traditions that happen every year".

The past two weeks have been very busy in our Year 3 and 5 classrooms. Teachers have been providing opportunities for students to engage with a range of question styles in order to prepare them for NAPLAN. Emersyn said that the Year 3s had been doing NAPLAN too see what they know in different areas. Ollie enjoyed doing the Numeracy test as she felt like "you get to learn more things". Delany enjoyed the Conventions of Language as she loves spelling. Others enjoyed the writing as they could fix up sentences and check if they were constructed properly. Others enjoyed the reading as they have a passion for reading.

Andrew Chinn

On Tuesday we welcomed Andrew Chinn into our school. Andrew worked as a classroom teacher in Catholic Primary Schools in Sydney, Australia for nearly twenty years before moving into his full time music ministry. Andrew has visited more than 1100 Catholic primary schools, performing in 3000 concerts across Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada sharing his music and his faith with children, teachers and parents. He has released 12 albums, 5 DVDs and 6 picture books, which are used widely by teachers and catechists in the faith development of children. In recent years he has developed the Butterfly House, an online RE Resource.

Andrew ran workshops with each year level and then a whole school concert to end the day. He engaged students from all year

Continued over the page

Key Dates and Campus Information



levels and it was wonderful to see the whole school participating. This was a special time for our Year 6 students who have been lucky enough to have multiple performances from Andrew, the first being when they were in Reception. Marcus was a main feature in the end of day whole campus concert. He reflected that "it was funny how he (Andrew) pulled up random people and made us all laugh. He would ask people to come up and when they tried to leave, he would say "don't leave yet... it's not over"". Xzavier said "it was such a fun time. He made us enjoy ourselves. We all had a good time. The whole school concert was great. It brought everyone together to showcase the songs. He called up us boys and we were called Marcus and his Groovy Gang".

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

Bosco Campus:

As a College, we value the partnership we share with parents and caregivers in the growth and development of our students. From time to time, it's necessary for us to reach out to one another to seek support, especially in the areas of learning and student wellbeing.

The flowcharts of communication have been sent out to support you in identifying the appropriate person to contact when these moments arise. You can request to be contacted by a teacher by calling the College on 8633 8800. Alternatively, you can contact staff members via email using:

➔ info@smc.catholic.edu.au with the name of the relevant staff member in the subject line.

Please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to support you and your child as they navigate some of the challenges that come with being a life long learner. We look to build skills and grow academically, socially and emotionally so that our students can flourish.



Harmony Day

On 21 March, we celebrate Harmony Day. It is a day of celebrating Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. I thank our College leaders supported by Mrs Jane Gibson and Mrs Megan Congdon in their efforts to plan activities to highlight the significance of the day. Our Boards created an inclusive piece of art featuring each of their thumb prints (pictured).

International Women's Day

I was a pleasure to listen to Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia speak at the Port Pirie Soroptimist's International Women's Day lunch last Friday. I thank the Year 10 and 12 female leaders for joining Dr Hewson and I. The Governor is a passionate advocate for all people having the opportunity to lead and work effectively in the world and a strong advocate for women.

Isabella said enjoyed hearing about the Governor's experience in leadership positions which were often undertaken by men.

Zara said she found it inspiring to listen and learn about Soroptimist's Australia's impact on women's empowerment.

I am grateful to the local Soroptimist branch for the invitation to join them and their continuing long term support of leadership of women in our College and the local community.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

Key Dates and Campus Information



College:

Parent Consultation - Communication Between Schools and Parents

Catholic School Parents Australia has extended an invitation to 46 schools across Australia including St Mark's College to be involved in a research project to hear the voices of parents and school staff about how to build and maintain effective school-parent communication.

A research team will visit St Mark's College on Friday 12 April 2024 to conduct one-on-one interviews and focus groups.

Want to be involved?

Contact Lisa Manners on 8633 8836 or lmanners@smc.catholic.edu.au for more details.

NAPLAN Wrap Up

We would like to congratulate all students who participated in NAPLAN for trying their best and for coming to school prepared. They should be proud of their efforts, and we thank our College families for their support through this process.

Mrs Kate Elmendorp, Middle Years Leader of Learning, Bosco Campus

College Board Nominations

Our College Board is an advisory body supporting the Principal in the effective governance of St Mark's on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie.

We are seeking nominations from members of College community to join the Board. Potential members of the College Board should:

- Possess an enthusiasm for and willingness to promote the mission of Catholic schools;
- Bring to the Board their gifts and skills
- Desire to give service to their school community;
- Have an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with all Members of the Board;
- Be prepared to undertake formation;
- Uphold confidentiality in Board matters and not pursue individual agendas;
- Have sufficient time for Board duties;
- Have a current police check clearance.

I welcome a conversation with you if you are interested, and encourage you to nominate for the College Board. Nominations, stating your name, experience and why you would like to join the Board, should be submitted to Lisa Manners:

➡ lmanners@smc.catholic.edu.au Board Secretary, by Monday 8 April.

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

Uniform Discounts

The following current St Mark's College uniform items have been marked as 50% off until fully sold at Mensland and MES Streetwear:

- PE Jacket for all sizes
- PE Tracksuit Pants for all sizes
- PE Shortsleeve Polo sizes 2-6 (limit of 2 items per student)
- PE Shorts sizes 2-6
- Girls dress sizes 2-6
- Girls winter skirt sizes 2-6
- Girls blue shorts sizes 2-6
- Girls blue pants sizes 2-6
- Boys grey shorts sizes 2-6
- Boys grey pants sizes 2-6
- Short sleeve formal shirt sizes 2-6
- Long sleeve formal shirt sizes 2-6
- Formal jumper sizes 2-6

Please remember there is a 2 year transition period from 2025 for all uniform items. This means you can continue to wear the current uniform right through to December 2026.

Mrs Jo Court, Business Manager



Benedict Campus



MINI MARK'S > Our Mini Mark's families gathered to celebrate National Playgroup Week with a playgroup party!



HARMONY DAY > Our Receptions created their own self portraits in a display of 'everyone belongs'.



YEAR 5 > Our Year 5 students collaborated to creatively depict 'Year 5'.



ANDREW CHINN > Benedict students were excited to participate in workshops with musician Andrew Chinn, finishing with a whole-campus concert.



SCIENCE > Year 6 students have been experimenting with soil salinity to see the survival rate of plants.

Bosco Campus



CAMP > Year 7s had a great time making new friends and trying new experiences on camp at Port Hughes.



PHYSICS > Year 12 students worked together to devise a water rocket that will travel a great distance. They tested air to water ratio, size of bottle and angle of the shot... And had lots of fun in the process!



DEVELOPMENT > Boarders Max, Archie and Annabelle view the plans on the site of the new boarding house with Dr Hewson and Dwayne of Barry Ramsay Constructions.



SCIENCE > Year 8s are 'clucky' over the newly born chicks they are monitoring. The students discovered a huge difference between the largest (72g) and smallest (55g).



PROJECT COMPASSION > Year 9 students have coordinated a number of fun activities to boost fundraising for Project Compassion! Pictured are Bryce, Joel, Tarisai and Dayna who sold cultural street food with the help of Year 12 Food and Hospitality students.



WOMEN'S DAY > Student leaders Finley, Imogen, Ariel, Isabella, and Zara along with Dr Hewson and Mrs Pole shared in the Soroptimist International Women's Day luncheon, enjoying guest speaker Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of SA.



TENNIS > Congratulations to our students who competed in Orange Dot Tennis this season. Good luck to our teams competing in this weeks Grand Final:
A Grade: SMC Red and SMC Blue, B Grade: SMC Blue and C Grade: SMC Gold and SMC Blue

Part-Time Job Opportunity

Metro Canteens is seeking an employee for 2 - 3 days a week. Duties will be food preparation, customer service and some general cleaning.

Applicant must be organized, work well under pressure, enjoy working with children and have excellent customer service skills

The position requires a mandatory DCSI (working with children) clearance.

If you are interested please send an updated resume to:

➔ jayne.james@y7mail.com or for more information phone Jayne on 0439 376 593.

Community Notices

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS
PORT PIRIE

QR CODES:

- MULTI DAY 18 - 20 APRIL
- SINGLE DAY 19 APRIL
- GOALKEEPING 18 & 20 APRIL

Free Webinar: Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram
Tuesday 26 March, 12.00 - 12.30pm
Managing different functions of social media, including chat and privacy, as well as positive conversations about social media use, managing content and reporting negative online experiences.

➔ To register, visit: www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars

Foster Care

Do you have spare time on week-ends?
Or maybe free time in the school holidays?

Did you know that you could apply to become a Respite Carer?

If you would like to know more about the difference Respite Carers can make to a child please contact us.

Ph 86339023
ucsa.org.au/foster-care

HOLY WEEK PARISH MASSES

Palm Sunday, 24 March:
Normal Mass Times

Holy Thursday, 28 March:
St Mark's Cathedral and Crystal Brook, 7.30pm

Good Friday, 29 March:
Stations of the Cross, Memorial Park, 11.00am
Stations of the Cross, Crystal Brook, 2.30pm
St Mark's Cathedral and Crystal Brook, 3.00pm

Holy Saturday, 8 April:
Blessing of Easter Baskets, 11.00am
Easter Vigil, St Mark's Cathedral, 7.30pm

Easter Sunday, 31 March:
Normal Mass Times
Crystal Brook, 8.30am
Redhill, 10.00am

Weekly Specials

IMPORTANT: Please ensure that your child's year level is correct on FlexiSchools.
Incorrect year levels can cause issues, particularly at Bosco Campus.
The year level needs to be updated each year.

BENEDICT CAMPUS

| | Recess: | | Lunch: (Drink = Fruit Box) | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Week 9 | | | | |
| Mon | Pizza Muffins | \$2.00 | Squash Dog + Drink | \$5.00 \$7.00 |
| Tues | Cheese Twist | \$1.00 | Lamb or Chicken Yiros + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |
| Wed | OOK OOK | \$3.00 | Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink | \$5.50 \$7.00 |
| Thurs | Hot Cross Bun | \$2.00 | Spaghetti Bolognese + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |
| Fri | Good Friday | | | |
| Week 10 | | | | |
| Mon | Easter Monday | | | |
| Tues | Small Sausage Roll | \$2.50 | Hot Dog + Drink | \$5.00 \$7.00 |
| Wed | OOK OOK | \$2.50 | Taco + Drink | \$3.00 \$5.00 |
| Thurs | Rat Bait | \$2.00 | Beef Stirfry + Drink | \$5.50 \$7.00 |
| Fri | 3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink | \$3.00 \$5.00 | Beef Lasagne + Drink | \$5.50 \$7.00 |

BOSCO CAMPUS

| | Recess: | | Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can) | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Week 9 | | | | |
| Mon | Pizza Muffins | \$2.00 | Squash Dog + Drink | \$5.00 \$7.00 |
| Tues | Cheese Twist | \$1.00 | Lamb or Chicken Yiros + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |
| Wed | OOK OOK | \$3.00 | Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink | \$5.50 \$7.00 |
| Thurs | Hot Cross Bun | \$2.00 | Spaghetti Bolognese + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |
| Fri | Good Friday | | | |
| Week 10 | | | | |
| Mon | Easter Monday | | | |
| Tues | Small Sausage Roll | \$2.50 | Hot Dog + Drink | \$5.00 \$7.00 |
| Wed | OOK OOK | \$2.50 | Taco and Salad + Drink | \$5.50 \$7.00 |
| Thurs | Rat Bait | \$2.00 | Beef Stirfry + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |
| Fri | 3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink | \$3.00 \$5.00 | Beef Lasagne + Drink | \$6.50 \$8.00 |

Online Canteen Orders: www.flexischools.com.au

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

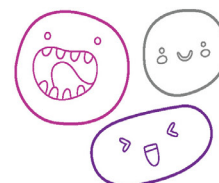
Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752



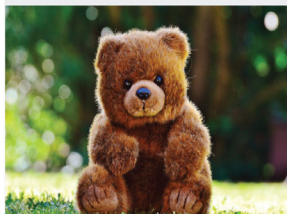




OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 15 - 26 April

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|------------------|---------------|
| IN-HOUSE | FULL FEE | \$67.00 | CCS REDUCED FEE* | \$10.05-36.85 |
| | FULL FEE | \$87.00 | CCS REDUCED FEE* | \$13.05-47.85 |
| EXCURSION / INCURSION | | | | |



WEEK 1

| Monday 15 April | Tuesday 16 April | Wednesday 17 April | Thursday 18 April | Friday 19 April |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Incursion Teddy Bear Picnic | In-House Lego Challenges | In-House Splat Painting | In-House STEM Building | Excursion Hip Hop Bounce |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Come bring your teddies and stuffed friends for a teddy bear picnic. Enjoy a picnic lunch and fun activities like cereal beading, group games and face painting 11:00am – 1:00pm | Join us for a whole day of Lego challenges! Build the special items and join them up to create a landscape of creations! | Grab a canvas and some water balloons and water toys filled with paint and create some amazing 'splat paintings' | Learn how to build catapults, parachutes, and other fun activities. Learn and explore why they work the way they do. | Have fun with a dance and a cheer session at Hip Hop Bounce! Depart: 10:15am Return: 1:30pm Transport: Private Bus |
| Outcomes: 1, 2, 5 | Outcomes: 1, 4, 5 | Outcomes: 1, 3, 5 | Outcomes: 1, 4, 5 | Outcomes: 2, 3, 5 |

WEEK 2

| Monday 22 April | Tuesday 23 April | Wednesday 24 April | Thursday 25 April | Friday 26 April |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Incursion Baker's Delight | In-House Stained Glass Patterns | Excursion Wadlata Outback Centre |  PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSED | In-House Comics |
|  |  |  | |  |
| A member from Baker's Delight is coming to OSHC to teach us how they make some popular baked goods! Start: 11:00am Finis: 1:00pm | Using coloured cellophane on templates to create 'stained glass' patterns! | We are off to Wadlata Outback Centre in Pt Augusta! Depart: 10:00am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus | | We will follow the directions of some online tutorials and come up with some amazing comic books to take home! |
| Outcomes: 1, 2, 5 | Outcomes: 1, 4, 5 | Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 5 | | Outcomes: 1, 2, 4 |