Dear St Benedict’s Community,

‘It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.’

Epictetus

Once, a long time ago, there was a wise Zen master. People from far and near would seek his counsel and ask for his wisdom. Many would come and ask him to teach them, enlighten them in the way of Zen. He seldom turned any away.

One day an important man, a man used to command and obedience came to visit the master. “I have come today to ask you to teach me about Zen. Open my mind to enlightenment.” The tone of the important man’s voice was one used to getting his own way.

The Zen master smiled and said that they should discuss the matter over a cup of tea. When the tea was served the master poured his visitor a cup. He poured and he poured and the tea rose to the rim and began to spill over the table and finally onto the robes of the wealthy man. Finally the visitor shouted, “Enough. You are spilling the tea all over. Can’t you see the cup is full?”

The master stopped pouring and smiled at his guest. “You are like this tea cup, so full that nothing more can be added. Come back to me when the cup is empty. Come back to me with an empty mind.”

I wonder what space we have in our minds and hearts to be open to the stirrings and whisperings of the Spirit? Is there room for God to work through our lives? I encourage you to empty your cup, so that it may be filled anew.

Books for Classrooms
Thank you to the parents and grandparents who spent time yesterday covering our new books for students to read in the classroom. I noticed a few parents and grandparents carrying a box of books home as well to sit and do in the evenings. While I really appreciate your help with this, I know the students will be even more appreciative of your help so they can enjoy reading them so much sooner. We still have a couple of boxes of books left to cover, so if you are able to take part of a box to cover of an evening or weekend please contact the front office.

High Expectations for Students
Last week I visited the Year 5/6 History Expo where groups presented their learning about the Gold Rush to visitors and other students from the school. It was a fantastic experience. I watched short plays about the licensing for gold mining, listened to brief talks about the influence of the Chinese during this time, heard
about the impact of gold mining on the development of Melbourne and was convinced that the Eureka Stockade had a lasting impact on Australian democracy.

The BYOD program in Year 5/6 has enabled each student to collect and organise rich information about Australian history and also present it to us in meaningful and engaging ways. The level of knowledge was excellent and the analytical thinking by some was impressive as well.

I was reflecting this week on the high expectations we set for students at St Benedict’s when Kindergarten students came to me to tell me about compound words they had identified, more palindromes they had discovered and how the number of vowels in a word is not equal to the number of ‘claps’ (syllables).

High expectations of students is fundamental to good teaching and learning. Most importantly is believing that they can achieve them and then setting students up for success to do the thinking and learning required to get there. I was proud to see high expectations of students across all of our classes.

Matthew Garton

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE**

**First Communion**
A reminder that our special reflection and retreat day on the Eucharist will be held this coming Sunday, 5th June. We will begin with Mass at 9:00am and conclude by 1:00pm. Students will work in the 5/6 classrooms after Mass. Parents will firstly take part in adult faith formation in the church and later join the students. Anyone interested in taking part in the adult faith formation on Eucharist is most welcome to do so and will be a great addition to the group.

**Sorry Day**
Last Thursday Year One did a superb job of leading us in a special liturgy commemorating Sorry Day. Our prayer focus was made particularly distinctive as it included our own cross made by the 2015 Indigenous students of St Benedict’s. Particular thanks to Tony Liston for leading us on the didgeridoo, accompanied by his grandson, Ari, on the clapping sticks.
First Friday Mass
This Friday, 3rd June, the whole school will come together for the First Friday Mass for the month of June. Students and teachers in Years Three and Four have been very busy preparing for this Mass. Mass begins at 10:00am. We look forward to seeing as many parents and families as possible. Parents are invited to morning tea with the staff in the library after mass. Morning Tea is provided by the families of Years Three and Four.

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator

SCHOOL EVENTS

Parliament of Youth on Sustainability

What is one action we should take to reduce Canberra’s ecological footprint?

That is the question that some of our Year 5/6 students have been pondering on since the beginning of Term 2. Through many lunch time meetings and lots of research at home, Mia, Alexander, Alyssa, Nandan, Sophie and Anica decided to tackle the issue of vehicle pollution. Together they developed a proposal that the ACT government should start an initiative called “Free-Bus-Friday” and offer ALL bus services at no cost on the first Friday of every month.

On Monday 30th May Mrs Stratford, Mrs Magers and Mrs Thomas had the pleasure of accompanying these students to attend the Parliament of Youth on Sustainability held at the Australian National University. At the Parliament of Sustainability the students presented their proposal and listened to the proposals of students from other ACT schools. All students had the opportunity to vote for the proposals that they thought were the best and the best proposals were then presented to some of Canberra’s politicians.

Our St Benedict’s students presented their proposal enthusiastically, listened attentively to other students and participated whole heartedly. Unfortunately, St Benedict’s did not make it into the top two, but the students were fortunate to have the opportunity to speak individually with our Education Minister, Mr Shane Rattenbury, our Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Kate Auty and our Minister for Environment and Climate Change Mr Simon Corbell about their proposal. Well done to the students who were outstanding in representing St Benedict’s.

Melanie Stratford
Gold Rush Museum
On Thursday 26 May students in Years Five and Six created museum displays to share their learning about people and events of significance in Australia throughout the 1800s. Family of the 5/6 students, as well as students from across the school, came to visit our temporary museum and were impressed with the depth of knowledge and creative efforts on exhibit. There were posters, movies, plays, multi-media presentations and informative presentations. There were bushrangers and poets, the Eureka Stockade and the growth of Melbourne as a city. We even learned that one student has a personal connection with an ancestor who was a miner in the Gold Rush! All of the students are congratulated on their excellent efforts – we look forward to their next learning journey.

Year 4 Students’ Interview
with the
Director of Catholic Education Mrs Moira Najdecki

A few weeks ago we interviewed Mrs Najdecki, who is the Director of Catholic Education.

How has the school changed since you were here?
Mrs Najdecki said the school has changed massively. When Mrs Najdecki attended the school there was no hall, no library and no Year 6 block. There was just dirt and mud. The courtyard was similar to when she was at the school. The spire, however, came from the convent when she was in Year 2 or 3 and the statue of St Benedict was still out the front of the school but in a different location.

What advice would you give your 10-year-old self?
The advice Mrs Najdecki would give her 10-year-old self would be to enjoy school, make the most of it, enjoy yourself, 10 is a good age.

Who would be your ultimate dinner guest?
Mrs Najdecki ultimate dinner guests would be her favourite authors, who would include Colm Tobin, Marion Halligan and Christos Tsiolkas.
What has been your career timeline and why did you choose this career?
Mrs Najdecki loved school and wanted to be a teacher. She spent 16 months teaching and then had some children. When Mrs Najdecki’s children were at school, she returned to what she loved doing, which was teaching.
Mrs Najdecki loved teaching English, it was her favourite subject. She also taught History, Religion and is also trained to teach Geography.
Mrs Najdecki has taught at St Clare’s College, St Francis Xavier College, (where she was also Assistant Principal), Merici and St Mary MacKillop (where she was principal). After working at St Mary MacKillop, she decided to work at the Catholic Education Office, where today she is the Director.

Do you travel a lot?
Mrs Najdecki is required to travel quite a bit in her job. She is away 3 days a week either in Melbourne or Sydney for meetings or visiting schools. Mrs Najdecki loves to visit schools.

If you could have a super power what would it be?
Mrs Najdecki would choose Transportation as her super power. Although she thought that travelling was a good time to listen to audio books and podcasts.

Favourite subject at school?
Mrs Najdecki’s favourite subject at school was English.

What do you wish for in the future?
Mrs Najdecki hopes that all our schools are happy places.

Interviewed and written by – Julia, Matthew, Imogen and John

SCHOOL NOTICES

Canteen
FRIDAY, 3 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am

Helpers Needed

11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed

MONDAY, 6 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am

 Helpers Needed

11.30am – 2.00pm
Helpers Needed

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Jacinta V, Edith B and Hugo R.

Weekly Notes
The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website.
- Winter Uniform Order – Due by 3rd June
- Woolly Wednesday – 15th June
- School Fee Reminders – Due by 17th June

Dates to Remember
- 3rd June – Whole School Mass 10.00am
- 3rd June – Morning Tea after Mass - Library
- 5th June – Eucharist Mass & Retreat Day, 9.00am – 1.00pm
- 7th June – P&F Meeting, 6.30pm

Thank you for all help given. Please let Belinda know at the Front Office if you are able to help (even for an hour or two). Any time will be greatly appreciated.
Nancy Lyons, Canteen Manager
✓ 13th June – Queens Birthday (Public Holiday)
✓ 14th June – Rostrum Public Speaking Competition
✓ 14th June – ICAS Writing 9.30-11.00am
✓ 14th June – School Board Meeting, 6.00pm
✓ 15th June – Woolly Wednesday
✓ 15th June – ICAS Spelling 9.30am – 11.00am
✓ 19th June – Eucharist Mass & Practice 9.00am – 11.00am

House Point Winners
The points for Week 3, Term 2 were Murramai 1,455, Arakoola 2,760 and Tangara 2,670.

At the end of Week 5, Term 2 the year totals were: Murramai 11,697, Arakoola 12,760 and Tangara 12,240.

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners: Arakoola 2,760!

Well done to Kindergarten who earned the most house points (2,030)!

P & F Updates
Entertainment Books for 2016/2017
The books have now been reconciled. If you would still like to order a book please go to https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au and if you still have your book and do not want it please return it asap.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Parish News
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm

Weekend Mass Times
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am
Youth Mass 7.00pm
Charismatic Mass 7.00pm (last Sunday of the Month)

Baptisms: 11.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

Kingdom Kids Ministry: Next Mass 12 June. Families are warmly invited to the 9.00am Mass and children are welcomed and encouraged to join in the activities of Kingdom Kids. Enquiries can be made to Anita or email her on kingdomkidsministry01@gmail.com. Remember the prayer wall for those intentions you want the children to pray for.

Mini Vinnies: This term our St Benedict’s Mini Vinnies team have turned their thoughts to those who live on our streets or are in some way homeless. We will begin knitting / crocheting squares on Fridays at lunchtimes. We are in desperate need of the wisdom and skills of our knitting/crocheting community. If you can knit or crochet and could give a little time on Fridays, 1.30pm to 2.10pm, to help children perfect their own talents with these useful skills it would be most appreciated. For more information, please contact Meaghan Younger at St Benedict’s School on 6295 8027.

TV needed for homebound resident at Gowrie Court. If you can help please ring Helen on 0415 599 949.

Merit Certificates Recipients
KINDERGARTEN    Jillian H and Amelia J
YEAR 3/4E        Willoughby J and John C
YEAR 3/4B        Mia B, Matthew S, Layla C and Jordan C
YEAR 5/6S        Mason T
YEAR 5/6Y        Nandan T, Anica K and Susanna C
ITALIAN          Jacinta V and Marcello M
G.A.T.E. WAYS PARENT ENROLLED MID YEAR FESTIVALS - OPEN FOR ENROLMENT
The Canberra K-7 Festival will be hosted by Canberra Grammar School in Red Hill on Monday and Tuesday June 27 and 28 from 8.45 - 2.30. Information can be found at [www.gateways.edu.au](http://www.gateways.edu.au) and go to Parent Enrolled Programs.

Mothers Love Conquers the World
Mothers Prayers group would like to invite all mothers, aunties, grandmothers and female carers to Monday morning prayers at 9.30am. On the last Monday of each term the Mothers prayers group meet in the school Library.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS AT WANNIASSA, HARRISON and PALMERSTON!

Elementz Rhythmic gymnastics is happy to offer recreational and competitive Rhythmic Gymnastics programs for children 2yrs and older.

Elementz prides itself in offering high-quality, dynamic programs that fuse the fundamentals of dance and gymnastics with ropes, hoops, balls, clubs and ribbons. Rhythmic Gymnastics is our passion and we firmly believe it promotes flexibility, strength, coordination and body awareness, working independently and in teams, self-discipline, fun and friendship.

Classes are on every day!

Call today to arrange an obligation free trial class or enrol.

For more information go to our website [www.elementz.com.au](http://www.elementz.com.au)

Spaces are limited so please get in touch!
TERM TWO TO-DO LIST:
- pay for Amy’s school camp
- buy James new School shoes
- find out more about Saver Plus!

Match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500.

You may be eligible if you have:
- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular income from work (you or your partner).

Contact Aoife Berenger, your local Saver Plus Coordinator:
02 6283 7606 or 0448 730 305
aoife.berenger@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Canberra and Queanbeyan region by The Smith Family.
Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Would $500 assist you with education costs? Would you like to build on your money management skills?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition. Gain some new skills too.

To be eligible you must:
- have a child at school or starting next year AND
- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card AND
- have some form of income from work, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

Call or SMS Aoife your local Saver Plus Coordinator at The Smith Family on 6283 7606 or 0448 730 305.

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government, with ANZ providing matched savings for participants.
Workshops for Kindergarten To Year One

Monday 4 July

Dr B Ologist-Caterwauling Capers

What do you think of when we say Big Cats? Do you think of oversized kittens or ferocious predators? Big cats are among the most powerful animals on the planet. Worshipped and feared throughout history, spend a day with us exploring the world of Big Cats.

Tuesday 5 July

Dr R.K. Ology- Terracotta Warriors

Dr. R.K.Ology is joining the Swish Team and he is looking for eager young archaeologists to unearth the mysteries of the Terracotta Warriors. Budding archaeologists will learn to use a pick, swivel a sieve, tap a trowel and brandish a brush. Be prepared to uncover some interesting artefacts and learn about the ancient and fascinating Terracotta Warriors along the way.

Wednesday 6 July

Engineer Enrico-Sink or Float

Discover why some objects float, whilst others sink. Examine the wonder of buoyancy through the exploration of objects that sink, objects that float, and objects that act quite strangely indeed. Once you have explored these concepts you will then design and build your very own ‘sea-worthy’ vessel. Now for ultimate test – will your boat sink, or will your boat float?

SWISH
SPECIALISED WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SWISH Education
Email: enquiries@swisheducation.edu.au
www.swisheducation.edu.au
Workshops for Kindergarten To Year One

Thursday 7 July

Professor Makin A Mess-Corrosion, Erosion

If we Huff, and we Puff and Blow as hard we can could we blow down a house? Do you think a house made of sand or mud could hold up to wind or water? Our natural environment destroys things every day! It takes things that are perfectly fine and then ruins them. Find out how, when you get ready to corrode metals, erode soils and more. A fun-filled, dirty, and down-right destructive day!

Friday 8 July

Magical Moments- Unicorns and Mythical Creatures

Boggarts, centaurs, unicorns, mermaids, chimaeras, Cyclops, elves, griffins, Pegasus and dragons – the list is endless! Join in on researching, unearthing and learning all about the magical word of mythical creatures. Not only will you discover a swathe of literature, myths and legends but you will also design, create and make your own mythical beast to take home. Will you need wings? Horns? Tail? Or Fins?

Monday 11 July

Phoebe Physics-Vroom Vroom

What makes things move? What is in an engine? How does a steam engine work? How has the way we propel vehicles changed over time? By looking at different types of vehicles, you will be able to answer these very questions. Then you will need to ‘buckle-up’ as you design and build your very own self-propelled vehicle. How far will your vehicle go?
Workshops for Kindergarten To Year One

Tuesday 12 July

Portia’s Portal to The Moon

Maybe there really is a man living in the moon? Perhaps it is made of cheese? Why does the moon change shape? And why do we only have one moon? Discover the moon, the role it plays for Earth and why it keeps changing its shape every day. Look at ancient myths about the moon and discover some interesting ancient folktales about Earth’s largest satellite.

Wednesday 13 July

The World of Chocolate

Investigation of chocolate! Invention of chocolate! Creation of chocolate! Digestion of chocolate! It is food for the mind, and one of the world’s most favourite indulgences. But did you know it has been around for over 4000 years? Come along and explore the fascinating world of chocolate; from its incredible scientific composition, to cooking, to literature, to art – this has it all – certainly all things chocolate!

****PLEASE BE ADVISED that chocolate will be used and possibly consumed in this workshop. If your child has any allergies or medical conditions associated with chocolate please do not enrol them in this workshop.

SWISH Education
Email: employees@swisheducation.edu.au
www.swisheducation.edu.au
Workshops for Kindergarten To Year One

Thursday 14 July

Professor Makin A Mess Explosions

Booom... need we say more? This is a workshop filled with chemical reactions, some will fizz, some will be loud, some will be bright and some will blast off. So get ready to put your lab coats on because today we are chemists ready to experiment and it’s going to get messy!

Friday 15 July

Fractured Fairytales

Take a fairy tale, twist it around, write a script, design a costume, add a prop, practice your lines and stage a play! Become a dramatist for the day as you explore the funny, weird and often silly world of fractured fairy tales and all the fun that goes with it!