



# St Benedict's Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER 1

7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

*Let mercy live among us*

### PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2018 school year! Monday morning was full of excitement. It was great to see so many people at our first morning assembly and sharing in the moment.

Welcome to our 18 new Kindergarten students and the 14 other children across the other classes. Welcome also to the many new families that have become a part of the St Benedict's community and story. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the coming years.

#### Opening School Mass

Our First Friday Mass for February will be this Friday, 9th February at 10:00am. It will also be our Opening School Mass for 2018. Year Six Leaders will be blessed during this mass and they will receive their leadership badges at this time. This will also be our first opportunity to celebrate mass with our new priest Fr. Dan Beneditti. All members of our school community are invited to join with us in celebrating this Eucharistic liturgy. Parents are welcome to join staff for morning tea in the Library after Mass.

#### Ash Wednesday

Lent begins early this year and as such Ash Wednesday is next week, 14<sup>th</sup> February. The school will be joining the Parish for Mass at 12:30pm at St Benedict's church. All students from Year 1 to 6 will participate in this liturgical celebration and receive ashes for the start of our Lenten journey. Families are most welcome to join with us for this mass. As a day of fasting and reflection there will be no morning tea afterwards.

#### Meet and Greet

We will hold an *Open House: Meet and Greet* next Thursday evening, 15th February. Parents are invited to come into the classroom with their child between 5.00pm and 6.00pm to meet the teacher, see the learning environment and collect information about class operations for the year. Families are then invited to share a sausage sizzle with other members of the community from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Feel free to bring a picnic rug and picnic, and enjoy spending some time getting to know other parents and children in a relaxed social setting.

*Nurturing personal and academic growth...*

*...a journey from Kindergarten to Year 6.*

We look forward to seeing you all there. If you are able to assist in cooking sausages or serving them, please let Belinda know in the Front Office. Thank you to the Parents and Friends who provide the free sausages and drinks for the occasions.

### **Student and Family Information Update**

On Monday we sent home a record of the information we have about your child on our system at school. Please take the time to look it over and be sure that the information is correct, particularly all contact details for carers, parents and emergency contacts. With the information updated we can communicate with you directly and quickly should the need arise. Please return the signed form, with or without any amendments by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

### **Student Health and Medical Information**

Please ensure we have the most up to date health and medical information about your child, and that any medication that is needed during school hours, even if only occasionally, is supplied to the front office with a medication dispensing form. This form can be found on the school website.

### **Class Parent Representatives**

Each year a parent or two volunteer to be the Class Representative. It is a very simple yet crucial role that helps parents to connect with each other and assists in building a supportive school community. We will be sending home a note shortly inviting parents to volunteer to be that person. Please fill in the form or email the Front Office ([Office.StBenedicts@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Office.StBenedicts@cg.catholic.edu.au)) to let us know of your interest. Someone from the Parents and Friends will then be in contact with you.

We have a great year planned and look forward to working with you all in growing our young students to be 'the best they can be'.

God Bless

Rachel Smith  
Principal

## **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE**

Welcome to the school year 2018. This year our school community will be seeking to deepen our understanding of scripture through guiding our students in engaging with the 'Worlds of the Text.' This approach aims to build a rich understanding of the scriptures by reading them contextually; exploring the world *behind* the text, the world *of* the text and the world *in front* of the text. Our school community will also be focusing on fostering different forms of prayer and worship to allow us all to be drawn into an understanding of our shared humanity and our global Church.

### **Opening School Mass**



Our First Friday Mass for February will also be our Opening School Mass. The 2018 Year Six Student Leaders will be commissioned and blessed during this Mass. All families are warmly invited to join us in this liturgical celebration to mark the beginning of our new school year. Mass begins at 10:00am in the St Benedict's School Church. Parents are most welcome to stay

after Mass for morning tea in the Library with the Staff. Thank you to our Year 5/6 families who will be providing the morning tea.

### Sacraments



At the Meet and Greet there will be Parish enrolment forms for all families wishing their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist 2018. It is the Parish practice that Catholic children in Year Three prepare for First Reconciliation and Eucharist. More information will be with the enrolment forms next Thursday. The Sacrament of Confirmation at St Benedict's Primary School will be offered in 2019 for students in Years 5 and 6.



### Ash Wednesday



Next Wednesday our school community will be attending the 12:30pm Parish Mass for Ash Wednesday. All families are welcome to join us for this day of penitential prayer. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. The ashes which we receive on our forehead, are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church that help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

Natalie Wright

Religious Education Coordinator

### SCHOOL SNAPSHOT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

One of the most important roles within a school is to regularly evaluate programs and procedures to ensure students are functioning at their optimum and feeling comfortable in the educational environment. St Benedict's Primary has commissioned Mark Crouch Educational Consultancy to develop a process to review Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education outcomes in our school. The *Snapshot* involves Mr Mark Crouch having conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents, staff and community members.

#### **St Benedict's Primary School will be undertaking the *Snapshot* on THURSDAY 15/2/2018**

The purpose of these conversations is to undertake an 'audit' of current practice. It is important to note that responses provided by both adults and children will be anonymous. Following the review process, the school's executive will be provided with feedback which will help us shape plans for 2018 and onwards.

Parents/Carers and community members are most welcome to speak with Mark to provide a personal perspective. I am providing you with the following timetable and ask that you contact the front office if you would like to speak with Mark with your own views.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 12:15 – 1:15pm      Aboriginal parents and community**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2:30 – 3:00pm      Non –Aboriginal parents and community**

If you are unavailable during these times, please contact the front office and we will try to make an alternative time.

I am also sending home notes seeking permission for students to speak with Mark Crouch, so that their honest opinions can be considered as part of this process.

Kind regards,  
Alana Quirk

## Teachers PD

Last week staff returned to school for a busy but very worthwhile five days of professional learning activities. Over the week staff engaged with a variety of focus areas including the Digital Technologies curriculum, Google Educator, Growth Mindset and the development of our own Learning Dispositions to guide our current education practice.

### Implementing the Digital Technologies Curriculum

Led by Ms Toni Falusi (ACT Project Officer for The Computer Science Education Research Group), staff learnt more about the Digital Technologies curriculum and ways various resources (including spheros and bee bots) can be used to as valuable tools for student learning. Staff enjoyed experimenting with these technologies and are already planning for ways to incorporate them into their classroom learning programs.



### Google Educator

Teachers also commenced under the guidance of Mrs Melanie Stratford an online program to develop their skills in using Google tools within the classroom. Upon completion of their 12 hour training program and 3 hour exam, staff will receive certification as Google Educators. This certification will be completed over first term.

### Spirituality Day

On Wednesday, staff participated in faith formation activities focused on prayer. This was a beautiful day that provided staff with opportunities to stop, reflect, pray and focus on developing their relationship with God.



## Growth Mindset and Dispositions of Learning

The term '*growth mindset*' refers to a way of thinking, learning and taking on challenges. A person with a growth mindset believes that they can learn, change and develop needed skills through dedication and hard work. They are better equipped to handle setbacks and know that hard work and effort helps them accomplish and learn. This view fosters a love of learning and resilience.

On Thursday, teachers investigated the science and research (of Carol Dweck) behind growth mindset and learnt about its implications and possible applications within the school environment. We explored how we could teach students about how their brains work and how new connections are formed when they try new things and practise them, over and over.

Staff then focused on commencing the development of a set of '*learning dispositions*' (or characteristics) considered most important to our school. This work will continue throughout the year, as staff further develop a clear and common language of learning for our students, staff and community that will help promote a way of thinking based on a growth mindset. This common language of learning will help enhance our learning programs and environment at St Benedict's. Watch out for more information about this later in the year.

## Making Mathematics Visible

Inspired by previous work our school did with education consultant Leonie Anstey, all staff came together on Saturday for a day of learning on 'Making Mathematics Visible'. A dynamic and extremely knowledgeable Leonie worked with teachers to develop their skills in teaching rich and layered mathematics activities that engage all learners and assist them to develop strong understandings of number concepts. Staff were very excited by this professional development and have already begun to implement some of these strategies within their Mathematics lessons.



## Weekly Notes

The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website.

- First Day Bytes
- Systemic School Family – Due Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Student Information Checklist – Due Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Canteen Menu
- BYOD Handbook
- ICT User Agreement for 2018
- Social Media Release Form for 2018
- School Fees – Due by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March



## Dates to Remember

- ✓ 9<sup>th</sup> February – Opening School Mass & blessing of student leaders, 10.00am
- ✓ 13<sup>th</sup> February – School Board Meeting, 6pm
- ✓ 14<sup>th</sup> February – Kindergarten rest day & assessments
- ✓ 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday Mass, 12.30pm
- ✓ 15<sup>th</sup> February – Open House BBQ Meet & Greet for families & teachers. 5.00pm
- ✓ 20<sup>th</sup> February – Parents and Friends AGM, 6.30pm (all welcome)
- ✓ 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Swimming Carnival, Kindy – Yr 6
- ✓ 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1<sup>st</sup> March – Year 5 & 6 Camp to Birrigai
- ✓ 27<sup>th</sup> February – Kinder to Year 2 Parent Reading Night

**All notes can be found on the website, please check regularly.**

## Canteen

**THURSDAY, 8 FEB**

**9.00am – 11.30am**  
HELPERS REQUIRED

**11.30am – 2.00pm**  
HELPERS REQUIRED

**FRIDAY, 9 FEB**

**9.00am – 11.30am**  
HELPERS REQUIRED

**11.30am – 2.00pm**  
HELPERS REQUIRED



Helpers are required for our little canteen to run as nearly all food is made fresh on site – keeping our little ones healthy.

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome to the new families and welcome back to those who are returning for 2018. My name is Cara Cook and I manage the Tuckshop at St Benedict's. This year is my second year in the role, and I am so looking forward to another exciting year.

A little about myself for those whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. I am a mother of two beautiful children (they are students at another Catholic school), wife, qualified chef, passionate runner, university student studying Bachelor of Nutrition... Always up for a chat...

As a small school, we open Thursday and Friday of each week and if you have any capacity, it would be wonderful to have you join me in the canteen. Once a term, once a week, three hours in the morning or afternoon, one hour; whatever your capacity, there is always room for you in the canteen and I can always find you a little job. Help is always welcomed in the kitchen. Please visit me on a day the canteen is open or visit Mrs McRae at the front office to discuss further.

Here's to an exciting 2018.

Cara Cook, Canteen Manager

## LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing will start in week 2. Please have a think about the books you would like to borrow.



## Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool is open every Thursday and Friday between 2.50pm to 3.15pm by appointment. Please inform Mrs McRae at the front office.



**Happy Birthday** to the new children at St Benedict's who celebrated their special day over the holidays: Summah G, Antoni T and Gabriel D. We would also like to wish the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Leila C, Matthew S, Gordan S and Nobel S.



## Student Banking

WELL DONE to all the students that continued to bank last year. Student banking will recommence in week 2.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2018 School Banking program information pack from the school front office or visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) to register

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives from the Commonwealth Bank \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).



## NSW Student Travel

If your child lives and travels from New South Wales the NSW government provides a School Drive Subsidy. If this applies to your family please go to [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive) or phone 131 500 for more information. Otherwise contact Belinda at the Front Office for information to be sent home.

# 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month

