Dear Parents and Carers,

Enrolment Interviews
I have met some absolutely wonderful children as part of the 2017 enrolment interviews this week and thoroughly enjoyed the conversations with each child and their family. I also feel very privileged that families are willing to share the care and learning for their son or daughter with us and confident that we can help these children to continue to grow as young, energetic and optimistic learners.

Why we love our Primary Learning Program (Years 3-6)
When I meet our young Kindergarten students for next year I also think about our current Year 6 students, especially those who began with us in Kindergarten and the achievements they have made in this time. Our Year 5 and 6 students have such fantastic opportunities due to the very size and focus of our school. Every single one of them will learn to:
- organise and run whole school assemblies;
- organise and run prayer for their entire Year level;
- build a caring and supportive relationship with a younger student and be their ‘big buddy’;
- apply for and take on a leadership role in a specific portfolio and develop this area within the school;
- learn to use technology to collaborate on and express their learning in productive and meaningful ways;
- participate in influential activities such as Rostrum and Parliament of Youth on Sustainability;
- engage in community service opportunities to give back to the school and wider local community; and
- much more.

What is unique about St Benedict’s is that every single child has this opportunity, not a selected few as part of a larger cohort. If you are in Years 5/6 at St Benedict’s, you are given responsibility and the opportunity to grow in confidence and leadership.

In the last few weeks I have run into several of our past students, all in Year 11 or 12 at a local schools (Narrabundah College, St Clare’s and St Edmund’s) and all attended St Benedict’s until graduating in Year 6. I always ask them what they learnt from their time at St Benedict’s and they always express their thoughts with great fondness. Their parents often comment about the confidence and independence their children had when they entered high school.

As I look at our youngest future students I hope that I will be having the same conversations into the future.
Federal Election

At the request of Catholic Education, the following information is provided to assist you in understanding some of the key facts about Catholic schools in Australia and the key issues facing Catholic education in the lead up to the Federal election.

Key facts about Catholic schools in Australia

- More than 765,000 students attend 1,731 Catholic schools across Australia.
- With 91,000 staff in those schools, Catholic education is a significant Australian employer.
- Catholic schools receive government funding, which covers 65 per cent of the cost of schooling in the ACT. Fees and private income cover the rest.
- Catholic schools are welcoming and inclusive communities, with the number of students with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doubling over the past decade.
- Almost one-third of students in Catholic schools are non-Catholic.

Key issues for Catholic schools

1. **Respect for religious freedom in Catholic schools.** Catholic schools, respecting the rights and freedoms of parents and carers to choose schooling for their children in the Catholic tradition, should continue to be free to form and instruct students in the Catholic faith and celebrate the faith as an integral and inseparable aspect of the life of the Catholic school.

2. **Government funding that keeps pace with school costs.** Government policy to increase school funding at the rate of CPI from 2018 could see funding increases fail to keep pace with school costs. Such a decision could lead to fee increases, affect school quality or even lead to school closures.

3. **Government funding that is needs-based.** School funding should reflect students’ learning needs, with greater educational need attracting additional funding. Catholic schools’ commitment to meeting the learning needs of all students requires appropriate government funding.

4. **Government funding to support the construction of new Catholic schools.** More than 70 new Catholic schools are planned in the next five years to meet growing demand for school places. Without additional capital funding, these schools may not be built. Government funding is also needed to maintain and upgrade existing Catholic schools.

5. **Respect for the autonomy of Catholic schools.** The ability of Catholic schools and systems to meet the local needs of a school community is one of their strengths. Government funding arrangements should respect the identity, integrity and autonomy of Catholic school and education systems.

Source: My School funding data 2014. Note: Catholic sector includes both systemic and non-systemic Catholic schools.* Includes deductions for capital improvements.

Bike safety

It’s wonderful to see so many students and their parents riding to and from school. Safety is so important when cycling. We know you agree when you ensure that your child is wearing a bike helmet. I also encourage all parents to wear helmets when riding with your child to and from school. Firstly, it sets a great example about road safety for every little one who sees you. Secondly, it is actually the law and for your own safety. Please help us teach the children about safety by wearing a bike helmet as well.

Matthew Garton

Principal
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LIFE

First Communion
Thank you to the families who braved the wet weather on Sunday to celebrate Mass with our parish and then took part in our Eucharist Retreat. It was a great day of faith formation and community building. Special thanks to Mrs Basedow and Ms Ellison for supporting our children in this journey.
I look forward to seeing all First Communion candidates at Mass again on Sunday 19th June. We will have our final preparation session following Mass and should be finished by 11:00am.
If you haven’t made final payment to the Office of the $20 administration fee could you, please settle this account as soon as possible.

First Friday Mass
Thank you to Years Three and Four for your prayerful leadership of Mass on Friday. It was wonderful to come together to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart and to remember Jesus’ immense love for all of us.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass
Sunday 3rd July is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. St Benedict’s Parish is fortunate to be hosting the Diocesan Mass for this special day. Bishop Prowse will be the celebrant for the 9:00am Mass, focusing on our Indigenous brothers and sisters and our shared journey of reconciliation. I understand it is the first Sunday of the mid-year school holidays but it would be a wonderful community building opportunity to make a special effort for our families of St Benedict’s School to attend the 9:00am Mass on Sunday 3rd July and be a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Meaghan Younger
Religious Education Coordinator

SCHOOL EVENTS

Athletics Carnival
The Athletics Carnival is a whole school event, Kindergarten to Year 6. The carnival will be taking place at the Woden Park Athletics Field (also known as Phillip Oval 3) on Thursday 23rd June, 9.15am to 1.00pm. The students will be transported to and from the Oval via a bus.
What to Bring:
- Full Sport Uniform including Jumper and sport shoes / running shoes.
- All students may wear a coloured Tee Shirt to support their sporting house colours.
- Water Bottles
- Lots of Food for Recess and Lunch

SCHOOL NOTICES

Canteen
FRIDAY, 10 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am
Jenny Clark
Helpers Needed
11.30am – 2.00pm
Jenny Clark
Helpers Needed
MONDAY, 13 JUNE 9.00am – 11.30am
Queen’s Birthday
Public Holiday
11.30am – 2.00pm
Queen’s Birthday
Public Holiday

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

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day this week: Matthew S, Ruby S, Fionn L, Arabella S, Gabriella S.

Weekly Notes
The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the website.
- Parent Teacher Interview – Due by 15th June
- Tuckshop – SPECIAL LUNCH TERM 2 – Due by 17th June
- Woolly Wednesday – 15th June
- School Fee Reminders – Due by 17th June

Dates to Remember
✓ 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
✓ 23rd June – Athletics Carnival
✓ 24th June – ACT 12&U Swimming Championships
✓ 24th June – School Reports to go Home
✓ 27th & 28th June – Parent Teacher Interviews

Merit Certificates Recipients

KINDERGARTEN George P and Ruby S
YEAR 1 Zack W and Ragsajan R
YEAR 2 Emily S and Obi O
YEAR 3/4E Riley W
YEAR 3/4B Julia N
YEAR 5/6S Alyssa T and Michala O
YEAR 5/6Y Lennox C and Djanaya B
ITALIAN Johny M and Ashley L

House Point Winners
The points for Week 6, Term 2 were Murramai 3,710, Arakoola 2,260 and Tangara 4,225.

At the end of Week 6, Term 2 the year totals were:

CONGRATULATIONS to this week’s winners: Tangara 4,225!

Well done to Year 3/4E who earned the most house points (4,340)!
P & F Updates

Entertainment Books for 2016/2017
The books are now being reconciled. If you still have your book and do not want it please return it ASAP. If you would still like to order a book please go to https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Parish Pastoral Council  Fr Stephen Fletcher  6295 7879
RCIA Coordinator  Matthew Toohey  0409 157 552

Neighbourhood Care
Gowrie Court  Helen French  6239 4300
Meals  Parish Office  6295 8027

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.

Sunday Youth Mass: The St Benedict’s youth Mass was packed last Sunday evening. Youth Mass is held at 7pm on the last Sunday of every month. Next Youth Mass is 26th June.

Refugee Week – 19 to 25 June: St Vincent de Paul Society calls on Canberrans to help Asylum seekers without income. For more information, see copies memorandum from the Archbishop’s Refugee Committee in the foyer of the church. Our Parish refugee contacts: Mr Tim McKenna (0416062849) and Deacon Rembert (62957879).

Reflecting on Domestic/Family Violence – For Such a Time as This. Three Churches (Anglican, Catholic and Uniting) are hosting a day on Family Violence in response to the growing concern about this aspect of Australian society. The day includes an outline of domestic/family violence, experiences of field practitioners and advocates, life stories, a prayer reflection and a brief address by senior Church leaders. A booklet of stories and reflections will be available for all; the booklet includes a call for a year of prayer for healing of those affected by Family Violence.

The Forum will be held on Saturday 18th June, from 9.30am – 4.00pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Crn Kings Ave and Blackall St, Barton. There is no cost, but as space is limited, registration is essential. Go to http://bit.ly/1sOMmD3. You will need to bring your lunch; beverages will be provided.

For more information, contact Margaret Ryan 0417418838 or commissionforwomencg@gmail.com or Delia Quigley 0438018799 or deliaquigley@yahoo.com
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 and go to Parent Enrolled Programs.

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

• To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
• Help with some ideas on raising children.
• Support in the important job you are doing.
• To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
• To build better relationships in your family.
• Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.
• Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 3833
Workshops for Year Two and Year Three

Monday 4 July

Engineering- Short Circuits

This is a hands on workshop where students learn how electrical circuits really work. Resistors, sirens, bells and buzzers. What will you make?

*Please note that models will not be taken home. They will be deconstructed at the end of the workshop to allow for the re-use of materials.

Tuesday 5 July

Phenomenal Physics- Fantastic Flying Machines

From Leonardo Da Vinci and his flying machine drawings to the Wright brothers historical first flight, from jet engines to space shuttles and the emerging world of drones. In this workshop we look at the history and science of flight. Students will create and test a range of flying machines in this workshop from the simple to more complex models.

Wednesday 6 July

Weird World- Unsolved Mysteries

UFOs, Bermuda Triangle, Big Foot, escape from Alcatraz, the Loch Ness Monster, Skeleton Canyon Treasure, the deaths at Tutankhamen’s tomb… all unsolved mysteries of our weird, weird world. Perhaps it is not at all that mysterious – perhaps there is an explanation. Perhaps you should find out...

SWISH
SPECIALISED WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SWISH Education
Email: info@swisheducation.edu.au
www.swisheducation.edu.au
Workshops for Year Two and Year Three

Wednesday 6 July

3D Printing workshop
(Class size limited to 6 students)
Discover the world of the 3D printer. Learn about this amazing technology, and learn how to use the software to design your own models.

**Please be advised that individual model designs may not be able to be printed due to time constraints however everyone will take something home.**

**Also note that this is a repeat of the class held in April. If you attended that class we advise you not to enrol unless happy to repeat the same lesson.**

Thursday 7 July

Medieval Siege
Castles under siege, can you defeat the enemy castle, can you design a castle to withstand a siege? Can you build a machine strong enough to knock down castle walls? Find out in this exciting workshop

Friday 8 July

Tynkering Around
Do you know how to write a code to create your own computer game? Want to learn? In this hands-on workshop we will be learning about computer coding and introducing basic coding skills with Tynker.

**Please be advised that this is introductory level so no prior coding skills are needed to enrol in this workshop.**
Workshops for Year Two and Year Three

Monday 11 July

Cryptography - The Enigma of Codes

Cryptography from the Greek word kryptos (hidden) and graphia (writing). Codes have been around as long as there have been people to communicate. From kids at play to sophisticated encrypting machines this workshop will look at the science and art of codes.

Tuesday 12 July

Claymation 2 - I stop Motion

In this workshop you will plan, script, photograph and then manipulate your images in order to produce a stop animation piece. Design your character plot your storyboard, pose your character, ‘snap’, edit, add effects and then finalise your mini-movie to take home. Build on skills you may have learnt in previous Claymation workshops but please note that Claymation 1 is not a pre-requisite for this workshop.

*Participants will need to bring a USB stick on the day if they wish to take their work home.

Wednesday 13 July

Rube Goldberg Machines

Ever heard of Rube? If not I bet you would recognise his machines? In this workshop students will learn about energy, simple machines and modular design by building a small Rube Goldberg machine of their own design. Students will work in teams and then combine all their machines into one

SWISH
SPECIALISED WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SWISH Education
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www.swisheducation.edu.au
Workshops for Year Two and Year Three

Giant Rube Goldberg Machine
Thursday 14 July

Photography 2: Photography Effects
Do you love taking a photo? Do you have an eye for an image? Would you like to learn about the special effects used by professional photographers? This workshop will equip you with the skills required to take extraordinary photographs. You do not have to have completed photography 1 to enrol in and enjoy this workshop.

*Participants must bring a USB stick on the day of their workshop if they wish to take their work home.

Friday 15 July

World of Chocolate
Did you know that chocolate has a 4000 year old history? Anthropologists have found evidence that chocolate was produced by pre-Olmec cultures living in the area known today as Mexico as early as 1900BC. In this sweet workshop we will explore the history and world of chocolate. But be warned all is not theory and history, we will have a full day of hands on chocolate exploration.

*****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.

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