Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Each day our staff prays together at 8.30am for about 5 – 10 minutes. We each take turns to lead it and this week it is my turn. I would like to share with you a poem that I am using:

“One ship drives east and another west
with the selfsame winds that blow;
’Tis the set of the sails and not the gales,
which tells us the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea and the winds of fate
as we voyage along through life;
’Tis the set of the soul that decides its goal
and not the calm or the strife.”

Author Unknown

Have you ever sat down and named the values that drive your actions and relationships? Taking a few minutes to reflect on what is important to us helps us to remain calm and focused in the chaos that can be part of modern day families. Understanding what is important to your family and setting aside time to live that is crucial to building strong, resilient children who can weather an unexpected storm.

At St Benedict’s we strive to hold our motto: ‘to work and pray’

and our values of

Dignity, Optimism, Integrity, Respect, Compassion,
Excellence, Spirituality and Community

as the sails that set the course we follow. We work with students to reflect on and identify their own developing values and feel privileged in helping to form young, resilient boys and girls. Thank you for working with us in this endeavour.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES
Thank you to the Parent Representatives in each class who have volunteered their time and energy to build community and communication in their child’s classroom. They play a valuable role in connecting families with the classroom and school and we are most appreciative of their work. The Parent Representatives met yesterday to get organised for the term. Thank you to Tracy Kraljevic for her coordination of this group.

INFORMATION NIGHT
I hope to see all of you at the Parent Information Night this evening. It is a crucial contact point between school and home and a chance to hear and receive, in one hit, much of the information about your children’s learning opportunities in 2012. It begins in the hall at 6.00pm.

OPENING MASS
If you do have the opportunity to join us for Mass this Friday at 10.00am in the church to celebrate the opening of our school year we would love to see you.

Wishing you every blessing,

Matthew Garton
Principal (Acting)

UPDATING STUDENT/FAMILY INFORMATION
It may be necessary over the course of the year to contact parents concerning their children. It is extremely important that accurate information on home phone numbers, addresses and work details are kept on school records. A Student Information Checklist will be sent home with each child today, please read this carefully and record any changes and return it to school by Friday, 24 February.
MEET & GREET
FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY - 5.00PM – 7.00PM
Everyone in the community is invited to join us at the annual MEET & GREET next Friday, 24 February from 5.00pm. This is an opportunity for families to meet up with friends and make new ones. Families can choose to bring their own picnic fair or take advantage of the sausage sizzle. If your family is able to join us could you please return the GREEN flyer sent home today letting us know how many sausages your family will be ordering for catering purposes and return it to school by Tuesday 21 February. There will be a fantastic jumping castle for the children to enjoy as well as another opportunity to enjoy the playground equipment.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is available at St Benedict’s and is processed each Wednesday. Information Kits will be distributed to all Kindergarten children today. Information Kits are available at the Front Office for students in other years who would like to commence School Banking.

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their special day during the week: Ruby T., (15th), Tom McG. (18th).

AWARDS OF THE WEEK
Congratulations to the following children who have earned Merit Awards in the last week:
YEAR 1  Nicholas F., Josephine S.
YEAR 2  Rose L-B., Madeleine S.
YEAR 3  Will C., Vanessa M.
YEAR 4  Ella G., Marcus G.
YEAR 5/6L Amelia D., Sophie J.
YEAR 5/6S Cassie C-S., Alen A.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MURRAMAI Team who earned 1247 points for last week making them the winners for the week. WELL DONE !!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
“All guests are to be treated as Christ” Rule of St Benedict

OPENING SCHOOL MASS
St Benedict’s whole school Mass to open the 2012 school year will be held this Friday, 17th February. Mass starts at 10:00am. We invite all families to join us in this special celebration. Parents are most welcome to share morning tea in the school library after Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY
Mass for Ash Wednesday will be held in the St Benedict’s Church at 10:00am next Wednesday 22nd February. Year 4 are busy preparing to lead us in this special Mass to start Lent. As this is a day of fasting and abstinence we do not have a morning tea afterwards but we still welcome all guests to join the staff for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass.

FOCUS LITURGY
The Focus Value at St Benedict’s for Term One is “RESPECT”. Years 5 & 6 are preparing the Focus Liturgy to help us consider ways we can and do show respect to others. Families are most welcome to join the whole school community at this liturgical celebration on Friday 24 February. The liturgy will begin at 10:30am in the school hall. As usual parents are invited to join the staff afterwards for morning tea.

CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION
As is our custom, we will be offering all families the opportunity to take part in Project Compassion, run by the Catholic Mission organisation, Caritas. Money raised through Project Compassion assists those in need in Australia and around the world.
On Ash Wednesday all families will receive a small box for collecting donations for the Project Compassion Lenten appeal. Suggestions include giving up ice-cream or biscuits or chocolate for Lent and the money not spent on these treats is added to the donations box. Any donations need to be returned in the last week of Term One, after Easter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

ST BENEDICT’S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
The St Benedict’s Parish has programs for the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. There will be no Confirmation at St Benedict’s in 2012. Enrolment forms for these programs will be available at the St Benedict’s School Information Evening tonight.
or from the Parish Office. For further information after the Information Evening please contact Mrs Sue Anderson at school or Mrs Felice Kasita at the Parish Office.

**URGENTLY NEEDED**

We urgently need coathangers at school. If you have some spare wire coathangers at home that you no longer need, please drop them off to the Front Office. Thank you in anticipation.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS’ SOCCER CARNIVAL**

St Matthew’s Primary School, Page will be hosting the 2012 Catholic Primary Schools’ Soccer Carnival this year at the University of Canberra, Bruce playing fields on Sunday, 18 March. Registration forms were sent home with all children from Year 3 – Year 6 and need to be returned to school by this FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY so that teams can be formed and we can submit them to St Matthew’s by Wednesday of next week. No late lodgement of teams will be accepted.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR COACHING AND MANAGING OF SOCCER TEAMS**

Information will be sent home to those parents who have volunteered to help with coaching or managing of teams once the teams have been registered.

**HOCKEY ACT**

**Hook in2 Hockey – Come and play**

As a fast and fun sport, hockey is one of the fastest growing sports world-wide that can be played at any age. Three registration days are being held across Canberra in the coming weeks. For more information about registering to play hockey and for information on our wide range of participation opportunities visit: [http://www.hockeyact.org.au/](http://www.hockeyact.org.au/)

**HEAD LICE**

Head lice have been reported to the school - please check, and if necessary, treat your family for head lice. There is no need to treat everyone if no head lice are found but you need to look for the head lice.

Accurate information on treatment and control of head lice can be found at the school office.

---

**CANTEEN NEWS**

**ROSTER**

**FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY**

Rachel D., Emma McA., Sam B.

**MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY**

Rachel D., Sally C

**PLEASE FILL IN THE CANTEEN VOLUNTEER SHEETS THAT WERE SENT HOME LAST WEEK AND RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE CANTEEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO RUN SMOOTHLY FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.**

**DIARY DATES**

**FEBRUARY**

**WEDNESDAY, 15 FEB**

Parent Information Evening

**FRIDAY, 17 FEB**

Opening School Mass – 10.00am

**MONDAY, 20 FEB**

Kindergarten commence full days

**TUESDAY, 21 FEB**

Shrove Tuesday

School Board – 6.00pm, P & F Meeting 7.15pm

**CENSUS DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, 22 FEB**

Ash Wednesday

**FRIDAY, 24 FEB**

Focus Assembly – 10.30am

Meet & Greet – 5.00-7.00

**MARCH**

**FRIDAY, 2 MAR**

First Friday Mass 10.00am

Schools Clean Up Day

5-7 MARCH

Year 5/6 School Camp

**MONDAY, 12 MAR**

Canberra Day

**TUESDAY, 13 MAR**

Swimming Carnival

**THURSDAY, 15 MAR**

Year 6 Mountainview Mass

**SATURDAY, 17 MAR**

St Patrick’s Day

**SUNDAY, 18 MAR**

Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival

Sabbath Week

**TUESDAY, 20 MAR**

School Board – 6.00pm, P & F Meeting 7.15pm

**FRIDAY, 30 MAR**

Palm Sunday Liturgy – 10.30am

**APRIL**

**SUNDAY, 1 APRIL**

Palm Sunday

Daylight Savings ends

**THURSDAY, 5 APRIL**

Holy Thursday Liturgy 10.30am

**FRIDAY, 6 APRIL**

Good Friday

**SUNDAY, 8 APRIL**

Easter Sunday

**MONDAY, 9 APRIL**

Easter Monday

**TUESDAY, 10 APRIL**

Easter Liturgy – 10.30am

**FRIDAY, 13 APRIL**

ANZAC Day Liturgy – 10.30am

End of Term 1

**MONDAY, 30 APRIL**

Term 2 Begins