



**ADMINISTRATION** 

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Our Year 12 students from Polding who were winners at Bosco Athletics Day.

## Bosco Athletics Day

What a fantastic day we had last Friday at Bosco campus for the annual Athletics Day (Sports Day). It was a huge success in so many ways: attendance and participation were excellent, camaraderie and sportsmanship were evident throughout the day, long-held records tumbled with some outstanding performances, and the community spirit was second to none.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved. Such a day takes considerable preparation and organisation beforehand and the day itself was a long one for staff who kept going with the same enthusiasm and stamina that we saw from our students. Thank you to Jade Joyce and all the parents and friends who organised and ran a drinks and cakes stall throughout the day, and to Rotary for providing a delicious BBQ. Such community spirit and support are heartwarming and very much appreciated.

As the day ended, we welcomed Bishop Karol to assist in congratulating our age champions and presenting the shields. Congratulations to Polding for taking out the win after a drought of more than twenty years, and to all students for contributing to such a great day and earning points for their House.

## Children's University

I'm delighted to announce that we are partnering with the University of Adelaide to launch Children's University at St Mark's College. Children's University offer students aged 5-14 recognition for pursuing

learning experiences outside the normal curriculum, and beyond school. Parents can choose to enrol their children (we are trialling this from Years 3-8) at a heavily subsidised cost of \$5 per year, and students are given a passport to record personal learning hours through the year. This can involve a sport (10 hours per sport per year), curriculum extension (i.e. anything outside of normal classroom hours, for example leadership training at lunchtimes), or any other learning such as Art gallery and museum visits at weekends or during the holidays. Two staff have been trained as Coordinators to sign off on passport activities, Mrs Hannah Lavis at Bosco, and Mrs Micaela Porta at Benedict, and they are very excited to get this underway. At the end of the year if students complete 30 hours of their own learning they graduate and participate in a Graduation Ceremony. Students can progress to high levels over several years. We will be launching this initiative with students in Week 8 this term and offering a Parent Information session. This will be a great way to acknowledge students' personal learning interests and promote a commitment to learning.

## Online Safety

On Monday evening this week, I attended the Carly Ryan Foundation Parent Online Safety Presentation, hosted by John Pirie Secondary School at the Port Pirie Sports Precinct. It was a powerful reminder of the dangers our young people face in an online world, sometimes interacting with people that they do not know personally or

Continued over the page

# From the Principal



sharing personal information or images. Teaching students to be safe online is part of our curriculum, but it is critical that parents know how their children are using online media and who they are interacting with. Whilst the presentation was not about cyber bullying, the online world often provides a vehicle for bullying and harassment. Do you know who your children have on social media and what is being shared? If you have any concerns, please report them. We have a shared responsibility to keep our young people safe.

Dr Sandra Hewson, **Principal** 

# College:

## **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.

Members of the Board have a delegated responsibility from the Bishop for the overall well-being of St Mark's College. The Board ensures we operate within the policies and guidelines of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, promotes educational excellence, exercises financial stewardship, ensures compliance with legal obligations and fosters harmonious and positive collaboration within the school community.

One Board member is concluding their service to the Board at the AGM in May and I sincerely thank Tracey Dear for her support and contribution to the Board. This means 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:

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

I look forward to hearing from you!

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

# Faith and Mission





Patrick, Isabella, Jessica, Curtis and Nick with Mrs Congdon on Clean Up Australia Day.

# Hear both the Cry of the Earth and The Cry of the Poor (LS. 49)

Two key Catholic Social Teachings call us to respond to 'The Cry of the Earth' and the 'Cry of the Poor.'

These two things are not mutually exclusive, as the Pope draws our attention to in his 2015 encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. Integral ecology teaches us that we need to consider our relationship to God, to human beings and to the earth itself.

Lent is a special season for reflection and action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through Project Compassion, students across the College, have been called to live it more profoundly, responding to the Cry of the Poor, by giving generously, and seeking out ways to raise money for those in need.

Students have reflected on and responded to the Cry of the Earth this week by participating in Clean Up Australia Day events. We are all called to be stewards of the land upon which we live. Students were invited to consider their individual impact on the environment and ways that they can respond, not just for one day, but for every day.

Of notable mention is Year 12 student.

Jessica Doyle who, in response to a task for the Stage 2 Religion, Spiritualities and Meaning course, organised her own clean-up event in the local community, collecting sixteen bags of roadside rubbish. She provides one example of how the young people in our care can be empowered to make change.

This week also sees the beginning of the new FOGO bin system in the Port Pirie Regional Council area. This provides us with an opportunity to respond to the Pope's call, and to God's call, in a positive way. Landfill, especially food waste, releases greenhouse gases (particularly methane), a huge contributor to climate change. Landfill can also destroy natural habitats for wildlife, and ground leaks can cause a liquid called leachate to contaminate nearby water sources. These impacts are often felt most by the poorest communities in the world those who have no choice but to live near landfill sites, and those communities impacted by rising sea levels.

As a Catholic community we have the opportunity and responsibility to respond to this by using this system correctly. At home, we can educate our children to see waste, not as a

### **THE WITNESS:**

Click here for the latest edition.



Bentley helping to 'clean up' at Benedict.

necessity, but as something we should aim to eliminate. We can all contribute to a circular economy by reducing the waste we produce and keeping precious resources out of landfill by using the bin systems provided to recycle correctly.

The world environmental crisis is much bigger than a few bins in a small regional area, and we cannot change the future for every vulnerable community in the world. But through raising money for Project Compassion and reducing our waste at home, we, as a community, can make a difference – we can hear and respond to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Mrs Megan Congdon, Ecology and Social Action Leader, Bosco Campus

# **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

### **SOUTHERN CROSS:**

Click here for the latest edition.

# **Key Dates and Campus Information**



Our College Calendar is continuously being updated on our website: <a href="www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/news/calendar">www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/news/calendar</a>. Click to find the most accurate event information.

Week 7: 11/3 - 15/3				Week 6: 18/3 - 22/3			
Mon	Adelaide Cup Public Holiday			Mon	Little Lions Session 6	Be	
					Rite Journey Launch Solomontown Beach, 6.45am		NAPLAN Bosco
					Winter Sport Registrations Due		
Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am			Tues	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am		
	Primary Campus Tour Benedict Campus, 9.30 - 10.30am				Diocesan Assembly		
	Middle to High School Cool, Parent Presentation Student Hub at Bosco Campus, 6.00 - 8.00pm						Campus
Wed		Ag Crutching Course	NAPLAN Benedict and Bosco Campuses	Wad	Diocesan Assembly and Chrism Ma	ass	
				Wed	Parent Teacher Interviews, Yr 10-1. St Mark's Sports Centre, 3.40pm - 8.00pm		
Thur				and Bosco	Harmony Day Celebrations		
				Thur	Secondary Campus Tour Bosco Campus, 5.00 - 6.00pm		
Fri	Little Lions Session 6			Fri	Little Lions Session 7		

# **Benedict Campus:**

# What's been happening in Year 2:

Last year we began our journey of using InitaLit in our Reception and Year 1 classes. This term we have been able to access our data report from the 2023 Year 1 Phonics Check. Our results are very pleasing. By analysing our data, we can pinpoint that our change in how we teach students to become fluent readers and writers is having a positive impact on our students. Our data shows that we are above the region and Catholic Education South Australia averages.

This year our Year 2 cohort have begun their journey with InitaLit. Our teachers have conducted the two-day training prior to this year commencing allowing them time to plan the roll out successfully. This week I visited 2 Blue to hear more about their learning.

Rylan told me that they have been "learning about things we know about. This is called revision. We are doing revision, so we don't forget them".

Adelyn expanded on this and told me that "in InitaLit we are learning about sounds and words. We are looking at how many syllables each word has".

Archie said that they learn about Tricky Words. Today's focus was on the word "different". They broke this word up into syllables and looked at its meaning.

In writing they have been looking at imaginary texts and constructing their own imaginary text.

In Mathematics the Year 2s are looking at numbers and place value. Alfie and Archer told me that they have been learning to count to and beyond 1000. They have been looking at 5 digit numbers.

Aisha told me that "a digit is a number you join together to make different numbers".

Adelyn also said they have been making numbers using blocks.

# **Key Dates and Campus Information**



### **Hamman Mathematics Competition**

On Wednesday 6 March some of our talented students of from Year 4-6 participated in The Mathematical Association of South Australia mathematical challenge, the Hamann Schools Mathematics Competition.

Students had 60 minutes to answer the questions under test conditions. The 17 questions were designed to be of a problem-solving nature allowing students to be extended whilst exploring and using their own strategies to come to a solution.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers sponsor monetary prizes for the top students in the competition. We look forward to hearing how our students went!

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

# **Bosco Campus:**

# Parent/Teacher/Student Conversations

As a learning community, we are taking a deep dive into our understanding of learner agency this year. The more active and empowered students feel in their learning and that teachers feel in the teaching, the better the outcomes are for all.

As a first step along this journey to growing our St Mark's Learning Community is a change from the traditional Parent Teacher Interviews. These meetings will become a 3 way conversation. We are asking that all students attend all these meetings this year. This will enable all have a voice and present their perspectives in getting the best outcomes for each students' education.

The Year 10-12 Student Learning Meetings will be on Wednesday 20 and 27 March. Invitations to book appointments will be sent out soon. Please ensure your child is available for the times that you schedule.

### Pulse Check In

Over the last 2 weeks, students have participated in a short online Classroom Pulse Check-In. This quick survey has been developed to get an indicator of how students are currently feeling about their experience in school. It allows us to identify if we need to have a conversation with students and plan supports for them.

To enable a review of students, your child's Home Group teacher and I will have access to their responses to facilitate follow up and support as required. Please be assured that, as your child's prime caregiver, any concerns or support required will be communicated and discussed with you in advance.

There are a range of simple questions about your child's life at school, their learning, their sense of belonging, safety, and friendships. A sample of the Check-In is available here:



## www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/classroompulse.

De-identified data from all CESA schools will be used by Catholic Education SA to identify trends to assist in future planning for the support of the learning and wellbeing for students across South Australia.

### Uniform

Thank you to all parents for the encouraging partnership we are receiving in supporting students to

# DRESS & SKIRT LENGTH POLICY Skirt Length - Adult & child sizes DRESS Length - Adult & child sizes SKIRT LENGTH - Adult & child sizes SKIRT LENGTH - Adult & child sizes SKIRT LENGTH - Adult & child sizes

# **Key Dates and Campus Information**



meet the College uniform expectations. We are working to maintain consistency in expectations and responses to those who are not meeting the expectations.

One area that has presented difficulty has been the length of dresses and PE shorts. The shorts should be seen as the same length for all students unless they are rolled over at the top.

To assist with dress lengths, we have worked with Permapleat and Mensland to ensure stock is meeting the expectations. You will see the Dress and Skirt Length Policy (on previous page) available with the purchases.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

# College:

# **Uniform Changes and Discounts**

As you are aware, last year the College Board endorsed some changes to our uniform to make it more comfortable for students. Students in Reception to Year 2 will transition to an active wear uniform (PE) and the PE uniform has been improved for all students to Year 12. The following new uniform items will be available at the beginning of 2025, but there will be a two-year transition period (2025 and 2026) to allow families to get value out of uniform already purchased:

- R-2 Active Wear / R-12 PE uniform: shorts, fleece trackpants, short and long-sleeved polo shirts
- A zipped fleece jacket that can be worn all year round with formal and PE uniform
- House polo shirts

To ease the transition for our mid-year Reception students, they are permitted to wear the current PE uniform for Semester 2.

We have worked with our uniform suppliers and the great team at Mensland to discount stock of current uniform that is being phased out. PE uniform will be discounted by 50% from the week beginning 18 March, so if you need to replace any items, grab a bargain!

## 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 Imanners@smc.catholic.edu.au for more details.

## REMINDER: Middle to High School Cool presented by Madhavi Nawana Parker of Positive Minds Australia

Year 5 - 12 Families:

Let's gather together for this online workshop on-screen in the Student Hub at Bosco Campus on Tuesday 12 March 2024, 6.00pm - 8.00pm. See Operoo for all the details.

# **REMINDER: Winter Sport Registrations**

A reminder to families that registrations are due for netball, football, soccer and hockey by Monday 18 March. To register, visit:

www.smc.catholic.edu.au/community/sport/sport-registration

All Sports Vouchers must be completed and emailed with the child's name, the sport that the voucher will be used for, current school year level of child and grade or level of sport your child will participate in (if known).

# **Benedict Campus**





LEADERS > Our Benedict Student Leaders were officially commissioned. Pictured are Year 6 SRC Leaders Parker, Jarva, Xzavier, Mariah, Isaiah, Chloe with Dr Hewson.

# Congratulations to all of our students

to all of our students who were recognised with College Value Awards this week.

RESPECT - RESILIENCE - FAITH - SERVICE - COMPASSION



YEAR 4 > Paxton, Ryan, Charlotte and their classmates planted their Hairy Heads ready to watch them grow!



MINI MARK'S > Rosie enjoying fairytale dress-up and craft day at playgroup.



MORNING CIRCLE > Year 5s were getting the positive energy flowing trying to achieve a 'human knot' during Morning Circle.



LITTLE LIONS' > Our Little Lions are growing in confidence as they reach Week 5 of the program. Pictured enjoying a 'campfire' are Mimi, Macy, Hamish, Ashlyn, Ronnie and Jaeger.



GYMNASTICS > Reception and Year 1 students have been enjoying learning gymnastics as part of their PE program. Pictured are Sadie, Remy, Isaac, Jack and Cooper.

# **Bosco Campus**





LEADERS > Our Bosco Student Leaders were officially commissioned.



FOOD + HOSPITALITY > Year 11 students recently completed their Café Brunch unit, planning, preparing and presenting a suitable dish to be served in a café for brunch.



WRAP > During WRAP students competed in the primary-style Sports Day Games building the excitement for Athletics Day. Pictured are Taneisha, Lauren, Jack and Jace.



TEXTILES > Year 7s have been learning a range of new skills since starting high school! One of these skills is hand stitching. Upon mastering the skill, students designed and stitched their own emoji keyring! Pictured are Peyton, Mateisha, Archie and Curtis.



CREATIVE ARTS > MINETTE
Meet our Creative Arts Captain
Minette, who is focussing on Solo
Vocal Performance as part of her
studies.

Minette enjoys being able to express herself through her talents and enjoys the overwhelming and emotional feelings after a performance. Minette says that Creative Arts is her 'passion' subject and while she aspires to work in Medicine or become a Vet, she will continue singing for the love of it!



CREATIVE ARTS > BRODIE

Meet our Creative Arts Captain

Brodie, who is focussing on

Theatre Sports and Improv as

part of his studies.

Bradio prious theatre because

Brodie enjoys theatre because it is an opportunity to meet new people and play interesting roles. Brodie has aspirations to study psychology or creative arts drama or writing.

Brodie says that Creative Arts is fun and explores a range of options in the creative industry.

# **Bosco Athletics Day**





Year 12s competing in the 400m.



Harvey takes a leap.



Jasper competes in javelin.



Lily breaking the high jump record.

# FRANK LAURITSEN MEMORIAL SHIELD (OVERALL WINNER):

1st	Polding	2181
2nd	Bosco	1977
3rd	Gallagher	1966
4th	McNallv	1759

## **RECORDS BROKEN:**

U13	Zaid	400m	1:04:31
U13	Sloan	800m Triple Jump	2:57 8.29m
U13	Mateisha	Long Jump	3.67
U13	Lexi	800m Triple Jump	3:00 8.29m
U15	Lily	Long Jump High Jump	5.25m 1.56m
U16	Dane'	1500m 800m	5:22 2:25:68
U16	Beau	Triple Jump 800m	12.29m 2:10:05
Open	Maverick	400m	56:16
Open	Petrus	800m	2:09:17

## **AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS**

U13	Zaid and Sloan
U14	Harry and Tahlia
U15	Archie and Lily
U16	Beau and Alyssa
Open	Trey and Zara



Last Friday the Parents and Friends braved the heat and donned team colours for Bosco Athletics Day!

On behalf of the Parents and Friends I would like to say thank you very much for all those who supported the stall, through donations or time, making the day a huge success.

## Special thanks to:

- Maurie Mezzino from SD Caputo and Sons, for set up and supply of ice and fridge
- Office and Maintenance staff for purchase and delivery of goods
- Jayne and Kylie from Metropolitan Canteens for use of the cool room

Everyone's contributions are greatly appreciated. Congratulations to Polding for breaking the drought after 20 years!



Meville Thomson

We remember with fondness Neville Thomson who passed away on 29 February 2024.

Neville entertained us for over 22 years as the announcer at Sports Day, passionately cheering on the students as they competed. He was also active in the school and parish communities.

Our thoughts are with Jenny, Kristen, Matthew and families as well as his sister - Sr Cheryle Thomson.



## **EASTER DONATIONS: BOSCO CAMPUS**

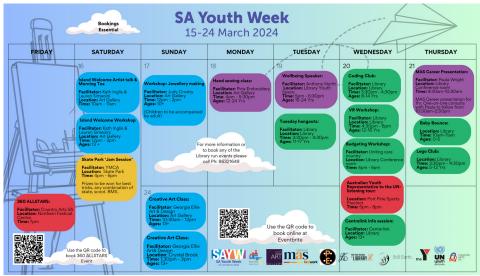
The Student Leadership Group are doing an Easter raffle fundraiser for Project Compassion.

We are looking for donations of chocolates and any old easter baskets or boxes. Donationscan be brought into Homegroup or the Front Office by 22 March.Thank you for your help! Jess, Karly and Isabella

# **Community Notices**







# 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 7 Mon	Public Holiday				
Tues	Cheese Twist	\$1.00	Egg and Bacon Muffin + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00	
Wed	00K 00K	\$3.00	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00	
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Schnitzel and Gravy Roll + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00	
Fri	3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Metro Burger + Drink	\$6.50 \$8.00	
Week 8 Mon	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.50	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00	
Tues	Egg and Bacon Pastry	\$2.00	Chicken Cordon Bleu Burgers + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00	
Wed	00K 00K	\$2.50	Chicken Carbonara + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00	
Thurs	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Beef Goulash + Drink	\$5.50 \$8.00	
Fri	3 x Mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Hot Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00	

BOSCO CAMPUS					
	Recess: Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can)				
Week 7 Mon	Public Holiday				
Tues	Cheese Twist	\$1.00	Egg and Bacon Muffin + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00	
Wed	00K 00K	\$3.00	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00	
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 $\textbf{Online Canteen Orders:} \ \underline{www.flexischools.com.au}$ 

**Flexischools:** 1300 361 769 **Metro Canteens:** 0447 978 752

