



Important Dates

Uniform Transition-
Full winter or full
summer uniform for
Weeks 9 and 10

Monday 16 September 2024

SAPSASA Track +
Field

Monday 16 September 2024

College Board
Meeting

Tuesday 17 September 2024

College Sports
Assembly

Tuesday 24 September 2024

Coaches
Presentation

Tuesday 24 September 2024

Principal's Update, T3, W8



The phrase 'Good Samaritan' is familiar to all of us. At our Staff Retreat this week, Sr Marie O'Shea, a member of The Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, led us in contemplation of the story that became the foundation and inspiration of the first religious Congregation founded in Australia.

At St Mark's College, our vision and mission are based on two significant and complementary charisms, that of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, and the Salesians of St John Bosco. When we talk about charism, what do we mean? It is essentially a story informing a way of being and living. As we learned, the charism of the Good Samaritan Sisters is 'a story to enter, a language to speak, a group to which to belong, a way to pray, a work to undertake, and a face of God to see'.

Key values of Benedictine spirituality include Love of Christ and Neighbour, Humility, Stewardship, Hospitality, Community, Justice and Peace. We are invited to think about how these values are present in our lives. How do we demonstrate welcome, care and compassion for people in our families, our school, the wider community and those living at the margins of society? The wisdom of the parable of the Good Samaritan is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago, when Jesus told the story to his disciples and invited them to 'go and do likewise' (Luke 10: 25-37).

We make choices all the time in what we say, how we act and how we respond to things happening to us and around us. We can perhaps all see ourselves in the parable of the Good Samaritan and, depending on circumstances at the time, we may be the victim, the robber, the passerby or the Good Samaritan. Sometimes, deliberately or not, we may act like a robber, stripping people of their dignity, leaving them hurt or humiliated. It is hard to see people who cause distress as 'our neighbour', just as it is hard to accept the passers by – the people who could have done something about it and chose to cross the street instead.

Being the Good Samaritan is not always easy, but it is the path we are called to take for the good of all. Perhaps it starts with asking RUOK, a simple question that we do not ask often enough.

12.09.24

Faith and Mission, T3, W8



Staff Retreat

On Monday this week, our staff took time out from their busy schedule to reflect on our story and what our calling was to St Mark's College. This was told through the lens of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict use this as the framework of their way of life, in the Benedictine Tradition.

During the morning, the staff were engaged with breaking open the parable together and reflecting on the life of the school since the Good Samaritan Sisters established Catholic Education in Port Pirie in 1890. A photographic montage of our history captured some of the pivotal moments in the evolution of St Mark's College. We also looked at the Good Samaritan Sisters' presence in other countries as they answered the call to outreach from places like Japan, the Philippines and Kiribati.

Staff organised activities in the middle of the day to engage with acts of service and outreach in our local community. This was to action out the Good Samaritan theme of being neighbourly to all, especially those in need, just like the Good Samaritan Sisters. Many groups took the opportunity to tend to our ecological approach to the Good Samaritan story, to not walk past the suffering, especially in our natural environment.

At the end of the day, with multiple exposures to the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the day concluded with a Cathedral Mass to experience the prayer aspect of the Good Samaritan life – to find the presence of Christ in the words of God.

We thank Sr Marie, for her pivotal role in the progression of the day and assisting with the organisation of the sessions. As our last remaining Good Samaritan Sister in Port Pirie, her presence and involvement were vital ingredients to the success of the day.

May the Holy Spirit continue to sustain our work to be neighbourly through showing mercy and compassion to all.

St Benedict and St Scholastica, pray for us!

St Mark, pray for us!

Nativity of Mary

On 8 September each year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Nativity of Mary (i.e. Mary's birthday). Year 5/6 Gold hosted a class Mass in the Benedict Chapel to mark the occasion. It was a joyful celebration of the Eucharist complete with prayers, music and even balloons. Mass was celebrated by Fr Jimmy with a message from Deacon Gary. Those gathered gave thanks for the motherly love of Mary and

prayed that she would guide them in growing closer to Jesus.

The Witness

[Click here](#) for the latest edition.

Southern Cross

[Click here](#) for the latest edition.

*Ms Brodie Nugent, Mr Isaac Ellis, Ms Fiona Clarke and Mrs Megan Congdon, **St Mark's College Catholic Identity Team***

Uniform- Winter to Summer

From Monday 16 October, students are able to wear either full winter or full summer uniform during Week 9 and 10 (unless a scheduled PE day). Full summer uniform should be worn from Term 4, Week 1.

Click to view the current [Uniform Guidelines](#).

11.09.24

Benedict Campus Reminders, T3, W8

Key Dates: Week 9 and 10

- **Little Lions Session 7**
Monday 16 September, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **Mini Mark's Playgroup – Police Visit**
Tuesday 17 September, 9.00am – 10.30am
- **Benedict Sports Day**
Friday 20 September
- **R-12 Sports Assembly**
Tuesday 24 September, 12.20pm at St Mark's Sports Centre
- **R-6 Health Checks by Aboriginal Health**
Wednesday 25 September
- **R-12 My Team Colours Day**
Friday 27 September
- **End of Term 3**
Friday 27 September, 1.05pm dismissal

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

St Mark's College recognises that portable electronic devices are a part of modern life. These devices help families stay in touch during emergencies, providing security and peace of mind. However, they can also bypass the College's internet filter, potentially exposing children to harm and disrupting the learning environment. Our school's core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. St Mark's College discourages students from bringing mobile phones/smart watches to school; however if parents feel it is necessary for their child to have a phone/watch in their possession at school the following should be applied:

- Smart watches should be placed in Airplane mode so calls and messages cannot be received or sent, or data accessed. At the completion of the school day, students are permitted to use their mobile phone/smart watch once they have left the school grounds.
- Phones are to be kept in school bags (or lockers at Bosco) at all times in a discreet internal pocket for safety.
- If students need to contact their parents during the day, the school's policy is that they do so through the school office.
- Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones/smart watches on school excursions. In instances where students need to contact their parents on such activities, this will be organised by supervising staff.
- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, or for any other communication that is necessary throughout the school day (such as changes to pick up routine) the school office remains the vital and appropriate point of contact. Office staff will ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way. Parents should not contact students directly on their devices whilst they are at school. This includes via call enabled watches and BYOD devices.

2025 Class Placement

Towards the end of this term and into next term, staff will begin the extremely considered process of class placement for 2025. If you have a request based on educational outcomes, please collect a form from the Benedict front office to complete or fill out on the link below:

[Click here](#)

Please note: requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

Please ensure your form is returned by Friday 27 September, (Week 10, Term 3). After this date, no further request can be placed.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

What's been happening at Benedict Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 7 and 8...



11.09.24

Bosco Campus Reminders, T3, W8

Key Dates: Week 9 and 10

- **7C Weeroona Island Excursion**
Monday 16 September
- **7M Weeroona Island Excursion**
Tuesday 17 September
- **Stage 1 Physics Excursion**
Tuesday 17 September
- **Year 7 + Drama Excursion - Elf**
Friday 20 September

- **R-12 Sports Assembly**

Tuesday 24 September, 12.20pm at St Mark's Sports Centre

- **R-12 My Team Colours Day**

Friday 27 September

- **End of Term 3**

Friday 27 September, 1.05pm dismissal

7-12 mid-semester reports issued

RUOK Everyday

Over this week we have focused on the wellbeing of ourselves and others as part of R U OK Day? On Tuesday our College captains facilitated an Assembly attended by our College engagement officer and guest speaker Evan Garnaut. Evan spoke of mental health and wellbeing and the special ways we can check in on and look after our mates. On Wednesday, students engaged in wellbeing activities during lunchtime lead by student leaders. Today students at Bosco had the opportunity to connect in the yard with a soft drink, sausage and a game or two.

Excursions

Different learning areas have been consolidating their classroom learning out in the community.

Year 7/8 students complemented their learning in Italian through a visit to the Port Pirie Boat Museum. This was a very timely visit given the annual Blessing of the Fleet Feast this weekend. Students were able to look at the Our Lady of Martyrs Italian Community historical display of their experiences in migrating to settle in Port Pirie.

The Arts students have ventured down for experiences in Adelaide to broaden their understanding of pursuits in Music and performance.

Our Physics students will venture off on a STEM excursion to Adelaide next week to participate in Engineering experiences at UniSA.

I am grateful to our teachers for giving these learning opportunities to our students.

2025 Planning

At this point in the year background planning is well underway to create learning and classes for students in 2025. Staff will soon commence the process of providing advice on the best structures and classes for optimal learning.

Elective subject offerings are constructed around student strengths and subject preferences. Students are then placed in a Home Group for Core learning and Pastoral Care. If you have a request or consideration based on educational outcomes for 2024 classes, email me kpole@smc.catholic.edu.au by Friday, Week 10, Term 3. Please note requests for friendships and specific teachers will not be considered.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

What's been happening at Bosco Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Bosco Campus during Week 7 and 8...



12.09.24

R U OK? Day



At St Mark's, we encourage that every day is 'R U OK?' day and promote positive behaviours amongst students and staff. In celebration of the national 'R U OK? Day' the College encouraged a number of activities across the week to raise awareness:

- Bosco students heard from Evan Garnaut (Uniting Country SA) about mental health and wellbeing and the special ways we can

check in on and look after our mates,

- Decorating the R U OK wall,
- Wellbeing activities held on Polding Lawns and in classrooms,
- Benedict students wore a touch of yellow and decorated the campus with important messages of encouragement and support,
- Bosco students wore a touch of yellow and enjoyed lunchtime activities with a sausage sizzle, games on the basketball court and the staff and student band playing some tunes.

Wellbeing is of absolute importance to the College. Staff are equipped to assist students at any point of their schooling journey. If your child needs assistance, don't hesitate to contact the class / homegroup teacher in the first instance.

College students and their families can also access support with our Engagement and Wellbeing Officer and School Counsellor contracted through Centacare. Simply phone the College on 8633 8800.



Success at Adelaide Show



Agriculture

The College was proudly represented by 28 Agriculture students (from Years 9 – 11) at the Adelaide Show last week. The students were involved in showing Poultry and Eggs, Merino Sheep and Wool, and Boer Goats, as well as taking part in the Grand Parade and Wool and Sheep judging competitions.

All of our Agriculture students have worked hard with the animals at McNally Farm over the past two terms, getting them ready for this final competition. We commend them on a job well done.

St Mark's received the following awards at the Adelaide Show:

- Chloe H won second place in Poultry Production competition.
- St Mark's College placed third in the overall, Poultry Production Poster, Eggs and Chickens Schools Competition
- Ruby H along with her goat 'Houdini' and Chloe H (Goat Handler Mentor) won a fifth place ribbon
- St Mark's College placed first and second for our zone in School Merino Fleece Competition.

Textiles

Our Textiles students entered 16 creative pieces in this years Adelaide Show. The pieces were entered in 3 categories and 8 awards were received.

Years 10 students were required to enter as part of their subject and took home 1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons. Year 9 students were invited to enter and won 1st, 2nd & 3rd in one category and 2nd & 3rd in another.

Congratulations to:

13-14 year old- Class - 419 - Decorative Article, showing creative use of various materials

- 1st Dayna E
- 2nd Taisai W
- 3rd Kaden H

15-16 year olds- Class - 424 - Applique or Patchwork, any suitable article or garment with embroidery stitches

- 2nd Isabel I
- 3rd Lily M

15-16 year olds-Class - 425 - Any Decorative Article, showing creative use of various materials

- 1st Dane' M
- 2nd Shyla S
- 3rd Halle C





13.09.24

College Sport, T3, W8

Netball

A big thank you to our coaches and players for making it a great season of netball! Congratulations to our St Mark's Celtic Netball Premiers for 2024:

- U12 - SMC Blue (MVP: Lia A)
- D - SMC Blue (MVP: Shyla S)
- C - SMC (MVP: Eve P)
- A Res - SMC (MVP: Sarah D)

Our U11 Blue, U13 Blue, F Blue teams gave it their best but were beaten by strong competition on the day.

Congratulations to our Association Award winners:

- Calalou K- A Grade: Team of the Year
- Sarah D- A Reserves: Runner Up Best & Fairest A Reserves: Best Player of the Grand Final
- Zoe R- C Grade: Best & Fairest Betta Home Living Award
- Eve P- C Grade: Best Player of the Grand Final
- Sloan C- D Grade: Best & Fairest
- Shyla S- D Grade: Best Player of the Grand Final
- Amaliyah J- F Grade: Best & Fairest Betta Home Living Award
- Lexie C- 13 & Under: Runner Up Best & Fairest
- Macy L- 13 & Under: Betta Home Living Award
- Della S- 12 & Under: Best & Fairest
- Brielle W- 12 & Under: Runner Up Best & Fairest
- Maddison B- 12 & Under: Runner Up Best & Fairest
- Lia A- 12 & Under: Best Player of the Grand Final
- Indiana Mc- 11 & Under: Best & Fairest
- Isabella Mc- 11 & Under: Betta Home Living Award
- SMC BLUE: Indianna Mc & Rubi D 11 & Under: Goal Throwing Award

Soccer

Congratulations to all of our coaches and players on a great season with St Mark's Soccer Club!

Congratulations to our Premiership teams:

- Primary: joint winners: SMC Falcons and SMC United
- Junior High - SMC Falcons
- Senior High - SMC

Good luck to our teams playing off in the Cup Final tonight at Byrne Park!

To finish the season our U7 and U9 players were presented with their medals of participation last weekend!

Tennis

Tennis registration is open for the 2024/25 season. See Operoo to register your child by Monday 16 September.

Mrs Katie Pole, **Sports Council**



Bake Sale at Benedict Sports Day



Can you donate some baked goods for Benedict Sports Day?

Donations of biscuits, cakes, slices and savouries can be delivered to the Good Samaritan Hall, Benedict Campus on Thursday 19 September, 5.00 - 6.00pm, fridge available.
(Please include an ingredients list.)

The Bake Sale will support our local Royal Flying Doctors Service!

2023 Yearbook Orders

Orders are now being taken for College Yearbooks for 2023 Semester 2 Little Lions and extra copies at \$26 per copy.

PLEASE NOTE: All 2023 R-12 families will automatically receive one copy.

Donate now for Share the Dignity!

Our Year 9 Rite students are fundraising to help local women and teenagers this Christmas through Share the Dignity. If you would like to donate to help this cause, please drop your donation into College Administration. [Click here](#) to see ideas for donating!

Thank you for your support!

College Calendar

[Click here](#) to access the College Calendar for all 2024 events.

Canteen Specials

[Click here](#) to check out the weekly specials for the upcoming fortnight.

Community News

> **Hiring Swimming Pool Attendants**

Multiple positions available in Gladstone, Spaulding and Jamestown.

> **Night Owls Social Lawn Bowls**

Register now for the summer season!

> **Come and Try Cricket**

South Port Cricket Club- for players 5+ years

Tuesday 24 September, 4.00 - 5.00pm

> **Junior Cricket Registration and Training**

Wandearah Cricket Club- for players 5+ years

Wednesday 18 September, 4.00 - 5.00pm

Mini Mark's Playgroup



Tuesday mornings, 9.00am – 10.30am held during term time

All welcome!

[Read More](#)

Study Hub



Need assistance with your study?

Visit the Bosco Campus Student Hub after school daily until 4.30pm.

Out of School Hours Care



Available at Benedict Campus for Before School, After School and Vacation Care.

[Click here](#) to see the Term 3 Vacation Care schedule for the upcoming holiday break!

[Find out more about OSHC.](#)

College Quick Links

College Uniform

[Uniform Policy and Guidelines](#)

[Uniform Buy, Swap and Sell](#)

Parents + Friends Community

[Join our community!](#)

Term Dates 2024

Term 1 - Monday 29 January - Friday 12 April

Term 2 - Tuesday 30 April - Friday 5 July

Term 3 - Tuesday 23 July - Friday 27 September

Term 4 - Monday 14 October - Tuesday 10 December

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