6 May 2013

Principal’s Message

Enrolments

Last week all members of our Leadership team were involved in conducting enrolment interviews with families wishing to enrol their sons and daughters for 2014, 2015 and 2016. We have plenty of places available for year eight for 2014 and 2015, and year 7 for 2015 and 2016. It was a lovely experience for us to meet families and prospective students wishing to join our community.

Our enrolment policy gives preference to families from St Benedict’s Primary School, along with our other major feeder schools of Our Lady of the Way, Petrie and Holy Spirit, Bray Park. We also welcome enrolment applications from Catholic families in the area and others willing to support the catholic ethos of the college. I would like to encourage all families who are currently in our primary feeder schools from years 4 – 7 to consider placing an application for enrolment as soon as possible as places are filling fast and I would not like parents from these schools to miss out because we have primarily been built to service the secondary college needs for these primary schools.

Below is a chart indicating the distribution of students coming to us from various primary schools in and around the region. Over time we would expect that the majority of our enrolments would be coming from our three primary feeder schools (listed first). Parents need to register their interest by completing an enrolment form otherwise they run the risk of families from other catholic schools, state schools and independent schools taking their slice of the pie!

Please contact the college secretary, Lea Rubio, for more enrolment information.

P&F Meeting

Those interested in forming the executive of the St Benedict’s College Parents and Friends Association are warmly welcome to attend a meeting to be held in the SBC Administration Block at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 21 May. We intend to hold the P&F meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, term time. Hopefully, this will avoid clashes with P&F meetings held at our primary feeder schools.

Our first meeting will be a casual occasion, mainly designed as a meet and greet with information about the function of a Parents and Friends Association. Weather and lighting permitting we will also conduct a tour of the new classrooms.

Please register your interest with the College Secretary of your intention to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mothers’ Day

This Sunday is Mothers’ Day and I’m sure that most of you and your families will be doing something special to celebrate with your mothers and perhaps grandmothers.

The origin of Mother’s Day goes back to the era of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The celebration of the day as we know it today is a recent phenomenon and really only about one hundred years old. Today the festival of Mothers’ Day is celebrated across 46 countries (though different dates) and is a hugely popular affair. Millions of people across the world take the day as an opportunity to honour their mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving them life, raising them and being their constant support and well wisher.

The earliest history of Mothers’ Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to a number of their maternal goddesses. Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, to a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies
in honour of the mother goddess began some 250 years before Christ was born. The celebration was made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple which lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades.

Early Christians celebrated a Mother’s Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honour of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. Then, in England during the 1600’s the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday. After a prayer service in church to honour Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

On this occasion, servants, apprentices and other employees staying away from their homes were encouraged by their employers to visit their mothers and honour them. Traditionally children brought with them gifts and a special fruit cake or fruit-filled pastry called a simnel.

However, the custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. Then the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought the custom home, and commercial enterprises and used it as an occasion for sales; so unfortunately, it became rather commercialised.

Today Mothers’ Day is celebrated in several countries including US, UK, India, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and Belgium. People take the day as an opportunity to pay tribute to their mothers and thank them for all their love and support. The day has become hugely popular and in several countries so much so that phone lines witness maximum traffic. There is also a tradition of gifting flowers, cards and other gifts to mothers on the Mothers’ Day. The day has remained commercialised to a great extent. Florists, card manufacturers and gift sellers see huge business potential in the day and make good money through a rigorous advertising campaign.

While flowers, cards and gifts are nice, all we really want is for our children to tell us that they love us and really do appreciate everything we do for them.

Don’t let Mothers’ day go by without telling your mother that you love her dearly. And why not take a moment to pray to Jesus through the intercession of Our Lady ( His mother) as has been done for thousands of years to keep safe and bless all mothers in the very special responsibility they have in nurturing, protecting and growing us all.

God’s blessing for the fortnight ahead.

Claire McLaren
Principal

Competition Options and Subject Selections

This term has presented many opportunities for students to engage in some competitions across a variety of learning areas. These competitions are great for extending students’ thinking and can give them valuable skills in being in a competitive environment with other secondary students.

Below are some opportunities that are being offered to students in the early weeks of Term 2.

QUT Confucius Institute Chinese Speaking Competition

This is a competition for students studying Chinese and involves preparing a speech to recite in front of a large audience. Date: Saturday 18 May at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus. We currently have two students representing St Benedict’s College at this competition.

Dorothea McKellar Poetry Competition

All students are currently studying poetry in English, and this nationwide competition allows students to explore their poetic skills, imagery and ability to convey feeling and meaning through this genre. Students have been invited to enter this competition during English classes. Due date for entries is 30 June.

For more information click the link:
http://www.dorothea.com.au

‘My Story My Content’ Short Film Competition - Topic: ‘I Love Movies’

This short film competition provides an opportunity for Australian students at all levels to tell a unique story about themselves, their creativity, and why that is worth protecting. It is an initiative of the Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation (IPAF) and Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM).

‘My Story My Content’ provides students with the opportunity to make a short film (no longer than sixty seconds) celebrating Australian screen creativity. The theme for this year’s competition is ‘Why do I love movies?’. This line, or an adaptation of it, must appear as a spoken line, caption, or in some other way within the film, which must be made specifically for this year’s competition.

Entries do not have to fit into any particular genre. They may be fiction or non-fiction, live-action or animation. Films can be submitted either by individual students, groups of students, or an entire class.

Due date for entries is Monday 1 July. For more information go to http://mystorymycontent.com/

Pathway Options and Subject Selections

Soon, students will be led through some career lessons where they will audit their skills and interests and will be asked to start thinking about their subject choices and potential career pathways in the coming weeks.

St Benedict’s College offers multiple pathways for students. These pathways include university courses, using OP (Overall Position) subjects; trades and apprenticeship pathways, where students can use a combination of OP, Non-OP courses and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificate courses; and post school employment pathways were students can choose Non-OP and VET courses to build their senior suite of subjects.

The following links may assist in enhancing understanding about post school options and the OP, non-OP and VET pathway options:
Cross-country Wrap Up

The College Cross-country was held last Thursday. Our course was based around Lake Eden and the North Lakes Town Park, with students running 2 laps of the lake. The participation rate was high, with students vying to gain both points for their house and a chance to compete in the upcoming Pine Rivers District Carnival. There was an added incentive for students to run their hardest, with bonus points being awarded to every student who was able to “beat the teacher”. Congratulations to the fourteen students who managed this feat!

Cross Country Champions for the College are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>Jane Cashman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner-up</td>
<td>Olivia Witalik</td>
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2nd place Christian Pares, 1st place Jack Hotham, 3rd place Angus Mitchell

1st place Jane Cashman, 2nd place Olivia Witalik, 3rd place Jasmin Daunt

With all points for the afternoon collated, Maurus ran out convincing winners on 48 points, followed by Hildegard (36 points), Petronax (32 points) and Scholastica (24 points).
Good luck to following students who have been selected to compete in the Pine Rivers District Cross Country Carnival to be held on Friday 10 May at Pine Rivers Park, Strathpine: Jane Cashman, Olivia Vitalik, Jasmin Daunt, Caitlin Brown, Jack Hotham, Christian Paras and Angus Mitchell.

Pastoral Care

The College has made it a priority that students receive a holistic education. An aspect of this is a formal Pastoral Care program, which runs for one period each week. During this program students will continue to work through a variety of topics including interacting with others, careers, cyber responsibility and safety, risk-taking, creative thinking and skills for success.

Last week during the Pastoral Care lesson students watched the dramatic presentation Cyberia. This presentation focused on the real life challenges which students face on a regular basis regarding their responsible use of technology. Cyberia highlighted the possible outcomes that can occur form the choices that we make in our use of technology. One of the key themes addressed in the presentation was the issue of cyber-bullying. Our students have access to excellent technology to enhance their learning, and it is important that students are regularly reminded of their responsibilities when it comes to their use of it. Please take the time to discuss not only the Cyberia presentation with your son or daughter, but the wider areas of cyber-responsibility and cyber-safety.

Sam Anderson
Assistant Principal Administration

Religious Education News

There is an old Jewish-Christian tradition that says: God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with an act of love to bestow. No one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love. These are entrusted only to me. According to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered only to a few, or to all the people in a large city, or even to all those in the whole world. It all depends on God’s unique plan for each person.

The greatest gift of God, one would think, is the gift of life. The greatest sin of humans, it would seem, would be to return that gift, ungrateful and unopened. In our St Benedict’s Community we are not called to try to make people into something that they are not, but to invite them to be and to grow as whom they already are. And so we thank you, Lord, for making us people of quality. We pray that we may use our gifts well and not keep them unused, unwrapped, because a gift is no good unless it is shared. We thank you that we are people of quality whom your hands have made. May you be blessed forever through the work of our hands!

Special Blessing for Mothers

I have my mother to thank for helping me to be the best person I can and to use my gifts to help others. Let us pray a special blessing for all our Mothers.

Bless all who ‘mother’ and bring new life in any way, these ‘mothers’ who teach and guide, who encourage and heal. Invite them to the table of your eternal feast, these ‘mothers’ who feed and nurture the life that has been entrusted to them. Embrace them warmly in the intimacy of your love, these ‘mothers’ who embrace with affection those who are helpless and dependent. Bless them today with all good things: with health, with laughter, with joy and with love, with pride in their ‘children’ and the support of many friends. May all ‘mothers’ who have nurtured life in others be themselves nurtured one day in your strong embrace, there, for all eternity, to rejoice with their families and friends.

Peace and Blessings

Cheryl Bell
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Student Wellbeing

The first ANZAC Day occurred in 1914 all over Australia and in London, where parades occurred in all major cities with convoys of cars carrying injured soldiers who had come back from the war. Later during the Second World War, the day was commemorated to recognise and remember all those who have fought for our country and those who have fallen in any war.

This year, nine of our students attended the ANZAC Day March in Redcliffe, remembering those who have fought and died for us. These students wore their uniforms with pride representing our College as they marched down the esplanade of Redcliffe showing respect for the ANZACs and for those in combat today. Thank you to those students who attended the march for our College, helping the ANZAC spirit live on.

Cassie McCosker
Campus Minister

Student Wellbeing

Families that work well

Families have changed a great deal in recent decades and there are now many different forms of family, as well as different styles of parenting. One thing is certain - whatever ‘family’ means to you it is usually the most significant influence on your son or daughter’s life. The family in which your child grows up will have a big impact on how well he/she will cope with situations, relationships and living. Just as a loving, caring family can create a person with a healthy self-esteem, so an
unhappy, fearful family can lead to low self-esteem and a range of problems. Sometimes unhelpful ways of doing things, habits and patterns form in our families without us realising that this has happened. We often just know that life seems harder and not enjoyable anymore as a parent. You may find it useful to think about how your family works.

**Helpful reminders**

- Create a healthy climate for talking, listening and expressing feelings.
- Value the differences in each family member.
- Be quick with praise and slow with criticism.
- Sharing power promotes trust and caring.
- Develop friendships for support.
- Make time to be together.
- Hold on to your values.

**Do you need support?**

**Parentline** 1300 30 1300

**Relationships Australia (Qld)** 1300364277 (There is an office at Strathpine)

Please feel free to call me and make an appointment if you would like to talk about your concerns.

Kind regards

**Kim Rienecker**  
**Guidance Counsellor**  
**krienecker@bne.catholic.edu.au**

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**Students Cook Up a Storm in New Kitchen**

Our Year 8s are already making good use of their new Home Economics kitchen in our recently completed Technology Building.

Last Wednesday students from one of our classes were eagerly whipping up banana muffins under the guidance of Home Economics teacher, Deanne Frischkorn who indicated that she is very pleased to be working in this well equipped kitchen with its modern and up to date equipment. “The kitchen is light, bright and airy, with good cross ventilation”, she commented. Other highlights for her are the floor to ceiling storage in the spacious storeroom and the sliding drawers which provide ease of access to the equipment.

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**Gonski School Funding – Information for Parents**

The media has reported extensively the negotiations that continue between the Federal and State governments and with the Catholic and Independent sectors regarding future school funding. The Gonski funding model remains under negotiation, however the following statement from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission provides an update of the progress being made and as further information comes to hand, we will pass this onto parents:

**Outcomes of Gonski still unclear for Queensland Catholic Schools**

In a recent Catholic Leader article, QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said:

“While the QCEC welcomes the Federal government’s commitment of an additional $1.4 billion funding for Australian Catholic schools (indexed over six years), there are still a number of unknowns to be worked through before we can develop a definitive position on the Gonski funding model.

“QCEC continues to do detailed modelling work to validate the figures provided by the Department (DEEWR) and assess the impact for the Queensland Catholic sector share of the additional funds.

“The funding position of Catholic schools comparative to other schooling sectors is also critical to assessing the model, and we are not yet aware of the details of modelling carried out by the Independent and Government schooling sectors.

“In this respect, I commend Premier Campbell Newman for forming a group comprising the Catholic, State and Independent schooling sectors and senior government officials, that will review the proposed funding model and
help inform the State Government prior to the 30 June decision deadline.

“The final outcome that the Gonski model would deliver for Catholic schools in Queensland is also dependent on a significant injection of funding from the State Government.

“QCEC is committed to ongoing negotiations with both State and Federal governments to achieve an equitable funding outcome for Catholic schools.

**Winter Uniform**

Today, our students commence wearing their formal winter uniform to school each day.

*For girls*: blazer and stockings to be worn each day.

*For boys*: blazer, long trousers and short black socks to be worn each day. (Short cement socks will be the required winter sock once stocks arrive.)

Please note that blazers are to be worn to and from school each day and can be taken off during the day if it is hot. We will encourage students to keep blazers in lockers when not being worn. When the weather is really cold, families have the option of purchasing a college jumper which can be worn under the blazer.

Students are required to change into their sports uniform at school for PE lessons and for inter-school sport. Change rooms are now available.

**Uniform Shop**

*Opening Hours: Each Friday morning from 8.00am-9.00am, during school terms.*

The Uniform Shop is independently managed and operated by:

L J Apparel  
Ph: 3208 6906  
Email: info@ljapparel.com.au

Convener:  
Jenny Brown  
Ph. 0408 336 127  
Email: pjcegg@bigpond.com

For the convenience of families, Jenny is very happy for orders to be placed over the phone or via email. Students can then easily collect the order on Friday mornings.

**Parish News**

Children’s Liturgy will now be held on the first and third Sunday of each month at St Benedict’s during 9.30am Mass. Please bring your child along and let them encounter the Good News of Jesus Christ in a way they can understand.