



**St Benedict's College**  
**eNewsletter**

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1 February 2016

## Principal's Message

### 2016 Begins

A new year...a new beginning. This year started buoyantly with 100 Year 7 students buzzing excitedly in the Multi-purpose Area last Wednesday. They were joined by our Year 11 cohort who spent part of the day helping the Year 7 students to settle in. The rest of the students commenced on Thursday and this year we are proud to boast a total of around 370 – and counting!



Our Year 11 students embark on their Senior phase of learning and we are excited that we have a number of new Senior teachers to provide the best education to enable students to reach their future career goals. For the younger students in Year 7 we will focus on helping them settle into secondary college life – organisation, time management, making friends, exploring new subjects and having fun whilst learning. The older students have been asked to be good role models to the younger students, act as buddies, and to get the best out of their senior years in readiness for fulfilling their senior pathways and various courses of study.

Each year I like to challenge students and staff to focus on three things which will help them get the best out of life at St Benedict's College. I have kept the first of these challenges essentially the same since the college commenced because I think it is so important. Our challenges for this year are:

**Be Positive:** Develop a positive mindset ; be positive in the way we meet, greet and interact with others; in the way we approach tasks; in the way we meet challenges; in the way we handle setbacks;

**Get Involved:** Participate, get involved, inspire each other; look after each other; be active and proactive; don't let life pass you by;

**Try Your Hardest:** Accept the challenges that life throws at you, challenge yourselves and others to do the best that you can with all that you have in everything you do.

### Staff News

There were some late changes to staff at the end of last year and some of our parents may not be aware of these.

We would like to sincerely thank Mrs Bell for her dedication to her role of Assistant Principal Religious Education since the college opened. She has played a significant part in enhancing the Religious life of the college through our Liturgies, Masses, prayer opportunities and social justice activities. Mrs Bell has been seconded to St Joseph's Primary at Bracken Ridge to fill a vacancy there. We wish her our blessings as she moves into this Leadership Role at one of our catholic primary school neighbours.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome **Peter Olley** to our Leadership Team as acting APRE. Peter has previously held the positions of APRE, Middle Leader and a consultant Education Officer of Religious Education for BCE.

The following staff are also welcomed to our St Benedict's community:

**Debra Guthrie** – Curriculum Leader Science  
**Marcus Bellchambers** – Curriculum Leader Industrial Technology  
**David Fenwick** – eLearning and Network Leader  
**Cassie Geissmann** – Pastoral Leader Years 9 and 10  
**Brenda Brohman** – Teacher  
**Dominic Clarke** – Teacher  
**Tricia-Kate Meehan** – Teacher  
**Grady McNamara** – Teacher  
**Sarah Meder** – Teacher  
**Liesl Mikula** – Teacher  
**David Rowbotham** – Business Manager  
**Sharon Thomas** – Principal's Professional Assistant

We are blessed to have so many new staff to enrich our curriculum and provide pastoral care and support to students in the varied roles undertaken.

## Traffic and Parking

There is always a lot of congestion and additional traffic around schools in the first couple of weeks as parents get used to the drop off and pick up schedules. The turn-around is used by both the primary school and the college and to help alleviate congestion we have staggered our finishing times so that we do not finish at the same time as the primary school. The college finishes school at 3.00 pm on a Wednesday and Thursday with other days finishing at 2.30 pm. As the primary school finishes at 2.45 pm each day, our parents should have easy access and flow through at these times.

### **Please follow the following rules for the safety of your children and the management of traffic flow.**

1. Do not park in any of the turn-around areas; this includes drop off and pick up lanes. These areas are for stopping only and at no time should a parent park and leave their vehicle.
2. Do not park in any area line marked for buses. These areas are adjacent to the Primary Hall. There are numerous buses which come into the college both in the morning and in the afternoon. Parking in these areas makes it difficult for buses to stop and unsafe for students to embark and disembark the buses.
3. Secondary students being dropped off or picked up can do so anywhere in the pick-up/drop off zone; for ease of access this can be done off the smaller car park or just outside the Administration building. Students with younger siblings are allowed to line up with the primary students in their pick up zone so that there is only one stop for parents. We have asked secondary students to wait in our Multi-purpose undercover building for parents.
4. We provide 40 mins of supervision for students whilst waiting to catch the bus on a 2.30 pm finish and 20 mins of supervision on 3 pm finish days.
5. If parents or buses are late in picking up students we ask students to come back to the office for safety after 3.20 pm.
6. Parents wishing to park may do so in either of the car park areas. Both car parks provide numerous spaces and are shared by the primary and secondary staff as well as being available for parents. These are the only areas for parking. Please refrain from parking on the footpaths, green verges or the oval.

## Opening Mass

All parents are invited and most welcome to attend our Opening Mass which will be held on Friday 12 February, 9.30 am at the Holy Cross parish Church. This is a special occasion Mass as we will be commissioning our Year 11 students into their Senior Phase of leadership and learning.

## Student Achievements

Over the holidays, Year 11 student **Pele Vaeagi** was selected in the Australian Team in three events for Taekwondo World Championships. Pele and his family will be travelling to Italy in September to compete, which is just reward for the commitment that Pele and his family have made over many years. On behalf of the College community I would like to congratulate on Pele on his incredible achievement, and wish him well at the World Championships.

Also over the holidays, Year 11 student **Christian Paras** travelled to the United States of America with a North Brisbane Basketball Program. He applied for and was accepted as part of this program, which gave him the opportunity to attend a number of both College and NBA games along with working with a number of elite coaches throughout his two weeks in North Carolina. Christian is one of our most dedicated and hardworking students and I would like to congratulate him on making another significant step towards his achieving his dreams.

**God's blessings**  
**Claire McLaren**  
**Principal**

## From the Deputy Principal

### Welcome to learning in 2016

Students have been preparing themselves in the first week of school for learning by becoming familiar with the tools needed for learning: timetables, laptops, eDiary, stationery and texts for each subject. We look forward to featuring examples of student learning in forthcoming newsletters across all learning areas.

### Year 11 learning finally begins

With 28 OP and Non-OP subject courses ready, 9 TAFE courses being studied externally in an off-campus one day a week mode, and 4 School Based Apprenticeships underway, we begin the Senior Phase of learning with much excitement and energy. Students have returned eager to learn and challenge themselves in a more independent way to reach their goals. With so many experienced Senior teachers on staff with many excellent results in subjects, we look forward to the learning ahead and the outcomes that students will achieve if they put in the effort with their whole heart.

### Year 11 Subject Changes process

After the extensive SET Plan process of conversations with SET Plan mentors and interviews with parents, students' plans for pathways and potential career goals have been made. Therefore there is a process that needs to be followed to ensure students are not inadvertently cutting off their options with a subject change. The process is as follows: see Mrs Dempster for an initial subject discussion and to collect a subject change form. This form is taken to Mr Lavercombe to discuss pathway and QCE points implications and is then endorsed or otherwise by parents. Some courses incur additional costs and these are listed on the subject change form. After all parties are in agreement, the change is made and an update is made to their SET Plan On-line.

## Year 9 and 10 Elective and Core Subject Changes Process

Students wanting to change an elective subject or their level in Maths, English or Science have **until Friday 19 February** to do so.

Students need to collect a change of subject form from Student Services and then must get the signatures from teachers and parents supporting the change; and write a reason for the change. When the form is returned to Student Services, a change can be considered.

Spaces in elective classes are limited; therefore some change requests may not be able to be met.

So, if your child is discussing a change of subject with you, I do encourage you to ask them to stay in the subject for two full weeks to really see whether their change is perceived or real – then we can all make the considered decision.

## Australian Curriculum Parent Subject Documents

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has published some good resources for parents around what students will be studying in the curriculum. These documents are attached below for you review. Alternatively you can access them from this link:

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources-and-support/parent-information/introduction>

**Candi Dempster**  
**Deputy Principal**

## APA Report

### A New School Year

The staff have been back at work planning and preparing for the arrival of students for the best part of two weeks now. The college is looking great and the staff are ready to go. Our new staff are excited about joining us and looking forward to engaging with students and parents. A new year offers the opportunity for a new beginning. I finish each year with the four Rs and last year was no exception.

I spoke to the students on the last Thursday about the holidays and the need for the four Rs – rest, relaxation, reflection and re-focus. Holidays are to recharge the batteries and down time (rest and relaxation) is essential for good health. Down time allows thinking time and that is where next year should enter our thought processes (reflection and refocus). Reviewing your performance this year and setting goals for next year is essential. **Deciding what you want to achieve and how you are going to achieve it is also an important step is setting up for success.**

Part of that is refocusing. Setting goals is an important part of being successful and happy. I regularly refer to the paragraph below when discussing goal setting because it sums up the importance of setting goals for the new school year.

*Happiness is in the pursuit of our goals, and not the achievement of them. If the achievement of the goal*

*led to happiness, presumably all gold medal wearing Olympic athletes would be incredibly happy. But they are not. In fact, many athletes suffer from “post achievement let-down” which is a feeling of emptiness, lack of purpose, and even depression, about no longer having anything to strive for. Because as much as we think we will be happy when we achieve our goals — the truth is we are happiest when we are in the thick of the pursuit — when everything we do has purpose, meaning, challenges us and is something worth fighting for.*

All of the students will spend some time over the coming weeks writing down their goals for Semester One. These should be in a prominent place near where they study. Why not ask them to have a look and then a discussion? Parents and students working together to achieve the goals could be really powerful.

## College Uniform Policy

### Formal Uniform:

The formal uniform for girls and boys is worn daily throughout the year. The blazer is only required for special occasions during Terms 1 and 4. Students and their parents will be advised in advance of these events. During Terms 2 and 3, the blazer is to be worn to and from school.

### Sports Uniform:

Unless communicated to parents and students, the sports uniform is not to be worn to school. Students are to change into their sports uniform for HPE lessons and sport, and will then be required to change back into their formal uniform before going home.

### Hair:

We take pride in our appearance and will ensure that hair is neat and tidy. Outlandish hair styles or unnatural hair (bleached or dyed) is not part of our College standards.

Girls - Hair which is longer than the collar line is to be tied back with bands and may be covered with ribbons in the College colours. Hair is to be off the face, and not hanging across, or in the eyes.

Boys - Hair is to be short, in a short, back and sides style. No undercuts, long hair or shaved head are allowed. Boys must be clean shaven.

### Jewellery:

Girls may only wear one pair of small plain studs or sleepers in the lower lobe of the ear. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. No other body piercings are permissible, including facial piercings and clear retainers.

### Make-Up:

No make-up is to be worn to school and coloured nail polish is not allowed.

### Shoes:

Plain black leather lace-up are to be worn to school and are available from the Uniform Shop if required.





For sport, white joggers, or predominately white joggers, are to be worn. Canvas skate/surf shoes are not part of our uniform.

## St Benedict's College Uniform Requirements:

### FORMAL Girls – Summer (Terms 1 and 4)

College Hat, College Shirt with College tie, College Skirt, College Socks, College Blazer (to be worn when requested for special events), College Badge, Black leather lace up shoes, College Bag.

Winter – compulsory changes -Terms 2 and 3

College Blazer, College Jumper (if required), Stockings (as sold in the uniform shop)

### FORMAL Boys – Summer (Terms 1 and 4)

College Akubra Hat, College Shirt, College Shorts, Black leather belt, College Long socks – cement with maroon stripes, College Blazer (when requested to be worn for special events), College Badge, Black leather lace up shoes, College Bag.

### Winter – Terms 2 and 3 – compulsory changes

College Tie, College Long Pants, College short cement socks, College Blazer, College Jumper (if required)

### SPORTS – to be changed into at the college when required

Girls and Boys

College Polo Shirt, College Sports shorts, College Sports socks, White joggers (predominantly white is acceptable), College Sports Cap, College tracksuit.

*N.B. the college blazer is not to be worn with the college sports uniform and the college tracksuit top is not to be worn with the college formal uniform.*

### Student drop off

The college provides general supervision in the multi-purpose area from 8.10am. The bell to move to Pastoral Care sounds at 8.35am. If students arrive at the College before 8.10am (and they are not going to the library) then they must wait with their bag in the multi-purpose area. At 8.35am they can move off to their locker and prepare for the day.

Again this year, the College Resource Centre will be open for students to read and complete work from 8.00am Tuesday to Friday mornings. Homework Club takes place each Wednesday afternoon in the Resource Centre until 4.00pm.

### Student pick-up

With another increase in the number of students in 2016 some changes in student movements are required. I ask parents to

assist with this process by ensuring they adjust their routine to fit in with these changes. At the end of the school day students will go to one of three places:

1. Students catching buses will go to the MPA first and then they will be directed to move around to the bus stop once the bus is visible on St Benedict's Close. This means no students are waiting at the bus stop any more and this will free up that area for primary parents picking up their children.
2. Students with siblings at St Benedict's Primary School are to wait with their siblings in the primary school Stop, Drop and Go area (in front of the primary school multi-purpose area).
3. All other students waiting to be picked up will go to the St Benedict's College MPA and wait on the grassed area or under cover for their parents. Parents will then stop in the designated stop, drop/pick-up zone of the carpark to pick up their child.

If your child is not there when you arrive, please do not park in these areas to wait for them. Do a circuit around the pick-up area and collect them on the next pass.

As with all new processes there may be some teething problems so we will monitor it and if necessary modify the process to make it work safely and smoothly for all parents and students.

## MBRC Immunisations

Once again this year Moreton Bay Regional Council is providing free vaccinations for all Year 7 and Year 8 students on *Monday 21 March* as part of the Queensland health's annual School Based Vaccination Program.

A consent form for each vaccination offered will be given to your child to bring home. Please read the information carefully, sign the consent form irrespective of whether you wish your child to be vaccinated or not and return the consent form to the college (PC teacher) as soon as possible.

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained Registered Nurses. Please encourage your child to have breakfast on the morning of the vaccination and that they bring adequate water to drink following. If there is concern regarding nervousness of your child prior to vaccination please ring the council on 3205 0555 and ask to speak to the immunisation team. It can be arranged that they are vaccinated before the immunisation clinic starts should this be suitable.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or the School Based Vaccination Program, visit: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/sbvp/default.asp> or call Moreton Bay Regional Council on 3205 0555. Consent forms are also available on this website.

## The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

This year is a very significant year in the life of the Church. Pope Francis announced in March 2015 that from December 8 2015 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) to November 20 2016 (Feast of Christ the King) be a Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy. This is announced by the papacy to designate a year for prayer and hope with a particular focus. This year, the focus is on mercy and forgiveness.



It is an Extraordinary Jubilee as usually ordinary jubilees take place every 25 years. The last Jubilee year was in 2000 announced by Pope John Paul II. It is the 27th holy year in history.

In a holy year, there are symbolic 'holy doors' (Porta Sancta) that are opened during this period of time. Pilgrims travel to places with the holy doors to cross the threshold to remind them of the promise to enter more fully into the year's purpose. The doors are normally sealed by mortar and cement from the inside so that they cannot be opened. These Holy Doors have only been located in the countries and places in the table below.

### Holy Doors of the World designated by the Holy See

Designated Location	Place	Nation
Saint Peter's Basilica	Vatican City	
Archbasilica of St. John Lateran	Rome	
Basilica of Saint Mary the Great	Rome	
Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls	Rome	
Santiago de Compostela Cathedral [6]	Galicia, Spain	
Pontifical University of Santo Tomas Chapel [7]	Manila , Philippines	
Sanctuary of the Curé of Ars[8]	Ars-sur-Formans , France	
Notre-Dame Basilica-Cathedral [9]	Quebec, Canada	

However, this year Pope Francis for the first time stated that holy doors are going to be opened in single dioceses, either in the main cathedral or in local historical churches. The first holy door was open by Pope Francis in Bangui on November 29, 2015 during a tour of East Africa.

<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/mondo/porte-della-misericordia.html>

In Queensland the Porta Sancta is in Townsville at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Students and staff will be exploring how they can show their own mercy and forgiveness in their everyday dealings with each other, inspired by Pope Francis' declaration of this extraordinary jubilee year.

In particular staff and students are focusing on the aspect of '**Gratitude – A Habit of the Heart**'. This is where even the smallest form of gratitude – a smile, a thank you or an unexpected compliment or gift has the power to make people feel valued and unique and can be the stepping stone to showing genuine forgiveness, and appreciation of another's point of view. This then allows us to be more merciful in our dealings with each other.

## Sports Report

*The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you're willing to pay the price.*

Vince Lombardi

### Inter-House Swimming

As all of the students should be aware, the Inter-House Swimming Carnival will be held this **Wednesday 3 February** at Lawnton Swimming Pool. I have attached a program of events for the day. You will note that the first event starts at approximately 10.00am and the students will be returning to the College before the normal end of the school day. While every effort will be made to keep to the advertised times for the events this may not be possible.

All students will be required to wear full sports uniform both to and from school on that day, as well as ensuring they have their togs. We would like to strongly encourage students to dress up in House colours and outfits which show off their house spirit – however, if students wish to do this they will need to get changed once they arrive at the pool and before they depart the pool.

**All students must wear a house coloured cap to compete in events – these caps can either be purchased from the uniform shop on Tuesday morning from 8.00am-9.30am or at the Swimming Carnival if your child does not have one.** These caps do not have to be purchased from the College if you already have your own or would prefer to make alternative arrangements. Goggles are also strongly recommended but are not compulsory.

I would like to strongly encourage all students to be involved in at least one event on the day. Our carnival split the events into the championship event – which is for those who are going for age championship points and have a background in the sport or event – and the participation events in which all students get 1 point for their houses simply by completing the 50m distance.

The canteen at the pool will be operating all day and students will be allowed to make purchases.

In summary, all students will be expected to bring/wear;

- Full sports uniform including sports hats

- Togs, towel and swimming cap in the colour of your child's House (goggles optional)
- Morning tea and Lunch or money to purchase it
- Drink bottle

## Representative Sport

All students at the College have the opportunity to pursue the Representative Sporting pathway in their chosen sports – through the Pine Rivers district and then on to Metropolitan North region, State and then finally National level.

Included below is the full up to date calendar for all Pine Rivers and Metropolitan North Trials. This information is also available on the Pine Rivers School Sports Website and the Metropolitan North School Sport Website. The Metropolitan North Website and Queensland School Sport Website also lists dates and details for State Championships and Trials for those students and families that are interested.

For all students who are interested in attending any trials for any sport, permission forms must be **returned to Mr Gilbert at least five days prior to the advertised trial date**. While I will make every effort to remind your child of upcoming dates via notices and newsletter, this may not always be possible. As such the full list that appears in this newsletter is also displayed in every Pastoral Care Homeroom around the College. For the District Swimming, Cross Country and Track and Field Carnivals, all students will be charged a fee of \$10 to attend the carnival, while for all other trials and events the fee is \$5 per student. **This fee will need to be paid at least 48 hours before the trial date via School Shop online**. A letter which outlines how this process works and how to set up an account is also included below.

The other main aspect I need to highlight is that **all students are responsible for organising their own transport both to and from all Representative Sporting trials and events**.

## Inter-School Sport

All students – except for Year 11 students – will be participating in the Pine Rivers District Inter-School Sporting Competition. The sports which students can sign up for in the Summer Season (Term 1 and 2) are;

**Year 7 Girls** - Netball, Touch Football, Futsal

**Year 7 Boys** – Touch Football, Futsal

**Year 8s** - Futsal, Touch, Volleyball, Basketball

**Year 9s** - Futsal, Touch, Volleyball, Basketball

**Year 10s** – Futsal, Touch, Volleyball, Basketball

Your child will be listing their preferences with their PC teacher. While every effort will be made to give your child his or her first preference of sports, this may not be possible depending on team numbers and limits of teams. The alternative option for any students who either do not wish to play any of the sports on offer, or who do not get selected in the teams should numbers be limited – is to join the Walking/Fitness Group. This group will be doing a wide range of different activities and sports here at the College during the weekly Inter-School Sport time.

## Get Started Vouchers

The Queensland Government is currently advertising their program of offering **Get Started Vouchers** to eligible children and young people. This program allows parents/guardians to apply for a \$150 voucher which will be used to help pay for Sporting Club Membership or ongoing participation fees.

<http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/kids/index.html>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the topics I have written about or any other matter regarding Sport at any level please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

**Michael Gilbert**

**Curriculum Leader – Sport and HPE**

**[mgilbert3@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mgilbert3@bne.catholic.edu.au)**

## Welcome Year 7 and 8

The first day of school saw crisp new uniforms, perfectly polished shoes and a spattering of nerves as students assembled in the MPA, but it was not long before the nerves were replaced with laughter and excitement, and the 2016 school year began for Year 7 and 8 students.

The theme for this year is Gratitude: a Habit of the Heart. At the Welcome Liturgy students were encouraged to be grateful for the gifts in their lives: family, friends, good health; the College, teachers, and the opportunity to engage in quality education; their Church, freedom to worship and the wonders around them. They were encouraged to take time and reflect on the gifts in their lives regularly, a task that will regularly occur in Pastoral Care (PC) classes.

Students spent the remainder of the orientation week completing activities including setting up laptops and lockers, timetable and College orientation and getting to know you games and House spirit activities with their PC classes; a busy time for both students and teachers.

For your information, Pastoral Care teachers for 2016 are:

7.1 Ms Deanne Frischkorn

7.2 Mr Damien Harvey

7.3 Mr Henning Kunkenrenken

7.4 Ms Brenda Brohman

8.1 Mrs Julie Bright

8.2 Mr Grady McNamara

8.3 Mrs Sarah Meder

These teachers will make contact with you in the coming days advising contact details and plans for the year. In addition, Year 7 parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's PC teacher at the Welcome BBQ in Week 3 of the term. My email address, should you need to contact me is: Tracey Mortimer [tlawson@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tlawson@bne.catholic.edu.au).

Important dates for your calendars over the next few weeks include:

Mon 1 Feb - Student photos, Camp forms returned

Wed 3 Feb - College Swimming Carnival

Fri 5 Feb - Year 7 Retreat Day (at College)

Tue 9 Feb - Shrove Tuesday Pancake activity (Year 7)

Welcome BBQ  
Wed 10 Feb - Ash Wednesday Liturgy  
Fri 12 Feb - Opening School Mass  
Wed 17–Fri 19 Feb - Year 7 Camp

An exciting first day and busy program of activities in the first week will no doubt have students set up for a great year, one in which I trust they will find much to be grateful for. As a Pastoral Care Team, we look forward to the opportunity to work with you in 2016.

**Tracey Mortimer**  
**Pastoral Leader Years 7 and 8**

## Science

Welcome back for 2016. It is going to be a great year. The Science Team has grown in number. We would like to welcome back to the St Benedict's Science team Ms Mortimer and Mr Kunkenrenken. New to the team are Ms Mikula, Mrs Meder and Mr Clarke. All the Science staff are very experienced, dedicated educators and have a great passion for Science. I am sure it will be a great year.

My name is Ms Debra Guthrie and I will be taking over the role of Head of Science. Ms Mortimer has been asked to take on a Pastoral Role and will work with the Year 7 and 8 students through 2016. We thank her for her organisation and leadership in Science. Ms Morimer will of course continue to teach in the Science area.

I have been Head of Science for many years and teach in the areas of Chemistry, Biology, Physics and all levels of Mathematics. I am looking forward to working with the Science team and the students to continue to develop the Science area.

Watch the newsletter for great optional extension activities in Science.

### Some Fun Science Facts for you:

There is enough DNA in an average person's body to stretch from the sun to Pluto and back 17 times

At over 2000 kilometers long, The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth

**Debra Guthrie**  
**Curriculum Leader - Science**

## 2016 YEAR OF THE MONKEY 猴(hóu)年(nián)

On February 8 this year, Chinese communities will usher in the Year of the Monkey, marking the start of a 15-day celebration worldwide. Very similar to our Christmas holidays, family members from all corners will make a great effort to go home to celebrate this auspicious festival with their families.

### Are you a 'monkey'?

Some of our younger Year 7 students are 'monkeys' (猴子 hóu zi), born in 2004. 猴子 is the ninth animal in the line of 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac. Students born in 猴年 are witty,

intelligent, curious and have a magnetic personality with telltale signs of mischievousness. As 猴子 can also come across as impatient and quick to temper, patience is definitely a virtue to learn! However they are also known for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

### 猴年Activities

#### Brisbane City

Around this time every year, the Brisbane City Council puts together a few activities to showcase and promote Asian/Chinese culture. The newly revitalised Fortitude Valley Markets will kick start the celebrations in the Chinatown Malls, featuring an exciting festive program with food and market stalls, a range of dance and music performances (folk songs, stilt walkers, drums), firecrackers and lion dances.

#### Moreton Bay Region

Closer to home, the Moreton Bay Council will be hosting its first Chinese New Year Celebrations in Caboolture Town Square on Saturday 6 February, packed with free entertainment, traditional music, dance and lots of Asian food. There will also be a grand display of fireworks to top the night off. This is definitely one regional celebration not to be missed!

All events are free and open to everyone keen for Asian-infused cultural experiences. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.aroundyou.com.au/brisbane/tags/chinese-new-year/whats-on>

We wish our college community a very prosperous and lucky Year of the Monkey!

猴(hóu)年(nián)吉(jí)祥(xiáng)  
猴(hóu)年(nián)大(dà)吉(jí)

**Hui Harvey**  
**Chinese teacher**

## From the Campus Minister

Welcome to 2016 at St Benedict's College. It was lovely to see all the students return last week – many new ones commencing their journey here as well as previous students eager to connect with classmates and friends again.

This year the College has a focus on 'Gratitude' within the 'Year of Mercy' – an exciting time to be part of a Catholic community. These themes have been introduced to the students across year levels and will be acknowledged at the Whole College Assembly tomorrow where we will also recognize St Scholastica – our red House saint. Scholastica's feast day falls on Wednesday 10 February which is also Ash Wednesday (the commencement of Lent) this year.

**Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday is February 9** and pancakes will be sold throughout the college in support of Caritas – the international aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia. More details about this will be conveyed to the students through the daily notices each morning.

**Susie O'Farrell**  
**Campus Minister**



## Brass, Woodwind and Concert Band Direction with Nicole Doe

**Cost: Group lessons (2-4 students) - \$150 flat rate per term**

Group Tuition is available for:

- Brass including trumpet, cornet, trombone and euphonium
- Woodwind including flute, clarinet and saxophone

St Benedict's College would like to welcome Nicole Doe to the position of Concert Band Director. Nicole Doe graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music with distinction in 1988. Since then she has had extensive teaching experience throughout Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. She has performed in choirs, concert bands, brass bands, orchestras and rock bands from an early age. Nicole has been director of many bands with highlights of her career including extensive Queensland tours.

**For further information please contact Nicole Doe**  
nicoledoe68@gmail.com

## The Benefits of Debating

The word "debate" derives from both Old French and Latin roots; *debatre* to discuss and *battuere*, to "beat down" respectively. In an educational context, "debating" refers to a formal discussion, in which opposing arguments are put forward in order to convince an impartial adjudicator to award the debate to the negative or affirmative team. Debating is more than simply "arguing". It is an art in its own right. Moreover, young people acquire skills through debating that have lifelong benefits.

The benefits of debating for students can be grouped into four main areas:

- **Reasoning and evidence:** turning facts and statistics into a strong argument.
- **Expression and delivery:** being able to speak with the right pace, tone, language and body language to engage an audience and convey your argument.
- **Listening and responding:** listening critically to the other side's argument, and using what you hear to develop a well-reasoned response.
- **Organisation and prioritisation:** knowing how to structure your speaking, and when to say the things you want to say

Recent research from the University of Bedfordshire and the English-Speaking Union revealed that **learning to debate improves children's results** by between six and 19 per cent in all subjects (How debating can benefit your child, 2016).

Thus, the myth that debating "goes hand in hand" with English must be debunked. Students can clearly apply the aforementioned skills across all subject areas and then take these even further into the realm of "real life". Research shows that employers are more likely to offer an interview to an applicant who has debating on their resume. Additionally, the

applicant feels more confident to succeed in an interview having done debating.

*Amit Roy, a senior in electrical engineering and computer science, interned last summer on Wall Street. "Having been on the debate team definitely came in handy during my job interview at Goldman Sachs. It helped me to think fast and come up with answers on the spur of the moment," said Mr. Roy, who already has been offered a full-time job at Goldman when he graduates this June (Karagianis, 2001)*

This year, St Benedict's College invites students from all year levels to join a team to represent the College in the Queensland Debating Union's 2016 season. Students who would like to take up this opportunity must attend a meeting on Monday 1st February in the Resource Centre at second break.

Karagianis, E. (2001). *Students on debate team learn to explain and persuade skillfully*. First published Spectrum, April 11, 2001. Retrieved 27 January 2016, from <http://news.mit.edu/2001/debate-0411>

*How debating can benefit your child*. (2016). Retrieved 27 January 2016, from <http://www.theschoolrun.com/how-debating-can-benefit-your-child>

**Amanda Spooner**  
**Curriculum Leader Humanities and Languages**

## Resource Centre News

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I met all of our Year 7 students on their first day when I went to their classes and spoke with them about digital citizenship and I was very impressed by their knowledge about being safe on the Internet.

We talked about their digital footprint, what information they should and should not share with people on the Internet, and how they would like people to see them. We also discussed five things that good digital citizens should not do. They should not:

1. Talk to strangers online
2. Use websites not approved by adults
3. Bully others online
4. Click on promises of free things online – you haven't really won a prize
5. Spend all day in front of digital devices – do play outside and build relationships with friends

At St Benedict's College we encourage all students to interact with each other during break times. The Resource Centre is a great place for making friends with places to sit, board games to play, puzzles, magazines for recreational reading and of course books for borrowing.

I look forward to seeing many of our students in the Resource Centre this year.

### Resource Centre Opening Hours

Before school from 8.00am – Tuesday-Friday  
Lunchtime – Monday-Friday

Happy reading

**Frances Zabarauskas**  
**Teacher Librarian**



## Canteen

Our College Canteen will be open each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 1pm. Please refer to the menu for detailed information.

Volunteers are always welcome in the Canteen. Please contact me for a list of Canteen duties and times.

***Renae Edgley***  
***Canteen Convenor***  
***Ph 0426 603 611***

## Finance News

Welcome back to the new school year and hopefully everyone is settling well.

If you would like to set up a direct debit arrangement please send the forms in quickly so I can get them set up for you. It is always a good feeling to get that organised then you can forget about fees for the year.

Please be advised that you are required to complete a new form for each school year. The previous form from 2015 does not carry over into 2016.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment, please do not hesitate to contact me. All information is confidential. Email [SMAGfinance@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:SMAGfinance@bne.catholic.edu.au) or telephone me directly on 3385 8807.

***Donna Roy***  
***Finance Secretary***

## Uniform Shop News

**Opening Hours: Tuesday 8.00am-9.30am (Term 1 Trial)**

**Friday 8.00am-11.00am (Terms 1-4)**

For all uniform enquiries please email [sbcuniforms@gmail.com](mailto:sbcuniforms@gmail.com).

### Phone orders

For the convenience of families uniform orders can be placed via email. Your student can then easily collect the order on Friday morning before school or during first break.

Please note that EFT facilities are available, and cash payments are also accepted. We do not accept cheque payments in the Uniform Shop.

### Second Hand Uniforms

Second hand uniform items are now being accepted. All clothing is to be freshly laundered and ironed. Please include an envelope with name, phone number, description of items and the price you would like. LJ Apparel does take a small commission for handling.

For those wishing to purchase second hand uniforms, this will be via a strictly cash only system.

## Layby Available

Detailed information about the Uniform Shop's layby facility can be obtained from Jenny Brown via the email address listed below, or in person at the Uniform Shop.

***Jenny Brown***  
***Convenor***

## Parish News

### Ash Wednesday Mass

Father Bryan will be celebrating Mass at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Hall on Wednesday 10 February at 10am. Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend.

### Mass Times

Weekend Masses	Weekday Masses
6pm Saturday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring	7.30am Monday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring
7.30am Sunday – Mary Queen of Peace, Woody Point	7.30am Tuesday – Mary Queen of Peace, Woody Point
9am Sunday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring	7.30am Wednesday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring
9.30am Sunday – St Benedict's, Mango Hill	9am Thursday – Mary Queen of Peace, Woody Point
5pm Sunday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring	9am Friday – Holy Cross, Kippa Ring



For more information please go to [www.redcliffecatholicparish.com](http://www.redcliffecatholicparish.com).