



## Newsletter / 5<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

These past two weeks has been a busy time at St Benedict's for students and teachers. Some intrepid urban explorers (a.k.a. students) have discovered caterpillars in the foliage of our trees and while they have contemplated a future pet-type relationship we have been encouraging them to return the caterpillars to the wild. Here they are returning some creatures to their original habitat.



Learning is at the heart of all that we do and Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday was a great way to enjoy some food together and reflect on the beginning of Lent that started the next day with Ash Wednesday, where we attended mass with the parish community and received ashes.

Our 3-way conversations continued the focus on student learning and how we work together to support that learning. Thank you to those who attended this important part of the relationship between student parents and teacher.

Our week finished with the inaugural *St Benedict's Snack Bar*, thanks to Linda B and Kristina M who were our shopkeepers. The students enjoyed the opportunity to have a small snack, and of course this adds to their financial literacy through the very process of deciding on and making a purchase. You can add to this at home by encouraging your child to do the same at opportune times.



This week has included our four-school sports carnival with great participation by all who attended. The students were able to meet new friends and compete in a positive, affirming environment. Thanks to all those who came to see their children participate. The other key event for the week has been the Year 5/6 camp.



We have also had the opportunity to welcome Adeline and Jonas to our community. I am always heartened by how welcoming students are to newcomers – it is great to see how generously they make new students feel at home at St Benedict's. We have welcomed 4 new students to our school this year and this a positive start to our year.

#### **OPEN MORNING**

Our Open Day is set for the morning of Thursday 12 March. So, encourage your neighbours and friends who might be interested to join us at 9:15 on Thursday next week. There will be a brief address from Fr Dan and myself followed by a tour and concluding with morning tea at 11:00am

#### **Year 5/6 camp**

The Year 5/6 students will be in the midst of their camp by the time you read this. The camp experience began last week when the Year 5/6 students visited St Scholastica's and had a small *get-to-know-you* session. We waved them off on their journey to PGL Campaspe Downs, Kyneton, on Wednesday morning. This outdoor experience will build teamwork skills as well as resilience and leadership skills. They will also have an opportunity to step outside of the norm and challenge themselves to do new things.



#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

The Year 3/4 students and teachers began experiencing the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* in The Atrium at St Scholastica's last week and will continue this in forthcoming weeks. Beginning 17 March, the Year 1/2 students and teacher will join them. A permission note will be sent home about this and we will be looking for volunteers to accompany the students for this great experience each Tuesday.

#### **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD)**

Each year staff collect data on the adjustments they make to support your child in their learning. This data is then collated, moderated and verified by CEM before it is approved and funding is allocated. Please see the attached NCCD information leaflet for more information. An important part of this is the process of PSG (Program Support Group), where parents and teachers discuss the goals and adjustments for children. These meetings have been scheduled with families as required and will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (10 and 11 March).

We hope you enjoy the long weekend and that it is wonderful family time.

Blessings



Ms Caroline Sheehan  
Acting Principal



## Diary Dates

Term One		
4 March-6 March	Year Five/Six Camp – Campaspe Downs, Kyneton	9:00
10 March	PSG conversations	TBA
11 March	Middle level class mass (in gathering space)	9:00am
16 March	Catholic Education Week	
16 March	School Dental visit	
17 March	St Patrick Day Mass/Concert – Year Five/Six	8:45am departure for St Patrick's Cathedral
25 March	Junior level class mass (in gathering space)	9:00am
26 March	Excursion to Melbourne Flower & Garden Show	
27 March	End Term One	3:15pm
Term Two		
14 April	Term Two commences	8:45am
20 April	Incursion – Meet the police officer	



**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH WEEK**  
(NO SERVICE on TUESDAYS or FRIDAYS!)

Classroom Cuisine offer freshly delivered lunch two or three course lunches. They deliver to St. Benedict's on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

If you would like to place a lunch order through Classroom Cuisine just log on to their website register your child and follow the prompts. Payment is made via visa or mastercard when orders placed.

Cancellations can be made up until 9.30am on day of delivery.

Visit [classroomcuisine.com.au](http://classroomcuisine.com.au)

### REMINDERS

We ask parents/carers to please leave any items to be passed on to their child at the office. Please do not go to your child's classroom as this disrupts the class and teaching time.

#### SCHOOL ABSENCES

A reminder to parents/carers to please advise the school office by 9am if your child is absent from school. This can be done via email [admin@sbburwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@sbburwood.catholic.edu.au) or by phone on 9808 8551.

#### SCHOOL HATS

All children must have a hat to wear when outside.  
**NO HAT means NO PLAY**

## Religious Education



### **Ash Wednesday and Lent**

#### **The mark of the cross**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The whole school attended Mass to receive the ashes.

*"If we walk in hope, we have joy in our hearts. Let us be lights of hope." – Pope Francis*

*The rich symbolism contained in the signing of the cross in ashes on our foreheads at Ash Wednesday Mass reminds us to turn back to God who is full of tenderness and compassion.*

The tradition of marking the forehead with ash on Ash Wednesday can be traced back to the ancient Jewish action of dusting oneself with ash as a sign of repentance and mourning for wrongful actions. It was a public declaration of the acknowledgement of the wrong and the commitment to turn one's life around and try not to make the same mistake again. It still remains a public declaration that during the period of Lent those who wear the cross of ash are going to attempt to turn around their lives and re-focus themselves more fully on God.

Almsgiving, prayer and fasting were the hallmarks of a faithful Jew at the time of Jesus. They could be regarded as 'pillars' of the Jewish faith. In fact, in the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for 'almsgiving' (charitable giving) was the same as the word for 'righteous' – to give alms was to be righteous and to be righteous was to give alms. These three pillars were essential elements of the practice of one's faith. However, as Jesus warns in this passage, these same practices also presented opportunities to draw attention to yourself and 'big note' yourself in the eyes of others. Jesus criticises the 'hypocrites' who parade themselves in front of others when supposedly doing good works or practising these three pillars of faith. 'Hypocrite' is a Greek word that effectively means 'actor'. So when someone is being a hypocrite they are only acting a part – pretending to be prayerful or pious for the purpose of impressing others.

Just as Jesus prepared for his ministry in the wilderness, so too is Lent an opportunity for us to be deliberate about our reflection on what we are called to do in this world.

People often talk about giving up something for Lent such as sweets, soft drink or more recently, social media, while some commit to doing something extra including praying more, reading spiritual works or helping others. There are many that do both.

It is suggested that during Lent we should be going beyond ourselves out of love to lend a helping hand, be an encouragement or assist others with the necessities of life. We should also be going out of our way to fast from something that we really like.

Our Junior school students went to Adoration last Friday and listened to the story of The Widow's Mite. The scripture story was told through the use of felt pictures and reflection time. The Middle and Senior students will be going to Adoration on Friday march 13th at 11:30am in the Gathering Space at the back of the church. All are welcome. The focus will be aspects of Lent.

**Mary Brooks**

**Religious Education Leader**

# Learning and Teaching

## Middle School News

We have been very busy in Middle School this term and cannot believe we are already over half way through the term - time flies when you're having fun!

In Reading at the moment, we are learning about 'point of view'. We are looking at an author's point of view as well as different characters in books. Our spelling focus at the moment is contractions as we learn how to contract two words and use the apostrophes correctly in these words.

In Writing, our focus is narrative writing. We are learning about the features of narrative texts and we are taking our time to slowly build up stories with detail and description, rather than rushing to finish our writing. We have all written a story about 'bushfires' and have now chosen a topic of our own choice.

In Maths, we have just finished learning about 2D Shapes. We have explored how to connect shapes to create different shapes and how to manipulate shapes in different ways. We are now moving onto Chance and Data where we will explore chance experiments and the collection and recording of data.

Our Inquiry focus is Geography. We are learning about Australia's states and territories and how Australia 'fits' together. Each student is exploring a different state within Australia and learning all about the natural and manmade features of that state. We will then share our knowledge with each other and teach one another about different states.

In Religion, we are learning about Lent. We have explored Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and are now learning about what Lent means to us as we lead towards Easter time. Next week we will attend Adoration on Friday, that will focus on Lenten practices.

On Tuesday we celebrated a sports carnival with other small schools nearby. At the carnival, the students were given the opportunity to participate in high jump, long jump, triple jump, discus, shot put, running races and hurdles. It was great seeing all of the students giving new activities their best go and participating as much as possible.

As always, please feel free to come and see us or email if you have any questions or concerns.

-Jane Michael and Jess White

**L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI** (Italian for everyone)

More greetings we have been learning/revising during the past few weeks –

*Buongiorno* (good day/good morning)

*Ciao* (hi/bye)

*Buonasera* (good evening)

*Arrivederci* (goodbye)

*Buonanotte* (good night)

*A presto* (see you soon)

Encourage your children to use them at home.

*Arrivederci*

Signora Smarrelli



## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



*.... a fun day had by all!*



## Community News



### NCCD Information Sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians

## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or 'help' at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word 'disability' comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student's learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does word 'disability' mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word 'disability' comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students who need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a



student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the child's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different in 2018?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each student. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the student and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports, along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans), helps the school to understand and meet the student's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Changes were made to the law ([Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#)). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

If you have questions, you can ask your child's school for help. You can find out more by looking at these links:

- [NCCD national website](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Education and Training–NCCD](#)
- [2019 Students with Disabilities \(SWD\) Information Sheet for Schools, Parents, Carers and Guardians.](#)



## Community News



**Open Evening and Twilight Fair**  
Tuesday, 3 March 2020  
4.00pm – 8.00pm

**Open Mornings**  
Monday, 4 May  
Friday, 12 June  
Monday, 10 August  
Friday, 11 September  
Monday, 19 October  
Tuesday, 1 December  
9.30am – 11.00am

Register online at [www.siena.vic.edu.au](http://www.siena.vic.edu.au)



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For Tour Bookings or more information, visit our College website:  
[www.emmaus.vic.edu.au](http://www.emmaus.vic.edu.au)

**OPEN DAY**  
Vermont South Campus  
Thursday, 26 March 2020 | 1.30-6.30 pm



In our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we are delighted to introduce Elizabeth Hanney as Principal of Siena College. Elizabeth has significant experience in educational leadership and a passion for providing a future focused, faith based education for young women. Most recently Principal of Ave Maria College, Elizabeth has worked in Catholic Education and Diocesan roles for the past twenty-six years.

*"I look forward to building on the work of those who have gone before me as I learn more about the Siena story. Together with a dedicated, expert and passionate staff, we seek to ensure the highest academic standards, a strong faith and wellbeing foundation, and a rich occurrucular program, such that each young woman recognises and lives the truth of who she is; Veritas."*



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[sbburwood.catholic.edu.au](http://sbburwood.catholic.edu.au)



### **CALLING ALL TOYS!**

Are you doing a big clean up? Do you have good quality pre-school/toddler toys that you no longer need or want?

The parish is starting a small playgroup soon and we are desperate for toys (big or small and in between).

If you can help, please kindly leave them in the tub in the Church or school foyer.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Nicole Hendriks

### **ART ROOM REQUEST**

Looking for newspapers for our art room. If you have any old newspapers, could you please donate them to our art room. Thank you.