



Dear Parents and Guardians,

At our opening school mass this morning our first reading was from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians and Fr Dan talked with us about the need for three types of strength. Strength of muscle and bone, strength in our minds and strength of the heart. We were challenged to work on all our strengths in different ways every day, and especially our strength of heart through prayer and doing good things. This prayer of St Paul is a prayer for our school community:

For this reason, I fall on my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. Yes, may you come to know his love - although it can never be fully known - and so be completely filled with the very nature of God. (Eph 3:12-14)

Student leadership

This week we have announced our Student Leadership team for 2020. We congratulate these students who will have a special role in leadership at St Benedict's this year:

- School Captains: Zoe Siu and Jordan Turner
- Sports Captains: Noah Hendricks and James Hough

Arriving on time each day

Beginning each day with a routine is a key element of learning. I want to emphasise how important the beginning of each day can be to set up the program for the day and begin the day in a positive frame of mind. In light of that can I emphasise that school begins at 8:45am. The school gates are opened at 8:15 and children are supervised in the yard from 8:30am. We look forward to seeing everyone at the morning briefing each day at 8:45am

Looking for volunteers at St Benedict's

We are looking for regular volunteers from the school and parish to support the learning of students. We already have one offer for Maths and that person will be working with the Seniors. It is beneficial for student learning if you are able to volunteer on a regular basis because this diminishes the disruption to their routine. We will be providing a training session for volunteers in the next few weeks before beginning with the students and all volunteers need a *Working With Children Check* (WWCC). The WWCC is free to those who are working in a voluntary capacity. If you are able to assist please email principal@sbburwood.catholic.edu.au and I will follow-up with the training time and we can negotiate regular times. We are looking for the following:

- Literacy support in Juniors with reading. Sitting in the classroom listening to students read using the books from the reading program that develop letter and word recognition and add to vocabulary acquisition as well as visualisation and observation techniques.
- Weekly mini-canteen. This is part of the financial literacy component of learning where students will be able to choose a small snack item or two and then pay for it. Items will be .50c or \$1 so as to streamline the process. It will need one person for about an hour from 1:10-2:10pm each Friday to do this but if there were several then we could sort out mini-roster.

- Phonics development with Juniors and Middles. This role is about supporting students with sounding out letters and groups of letters and so developing their ability to sound out words not previously seen or known.
- Library technician. This role is working in the library covering books and shelving returned books. While this role does not have direct interaction with students, it is extremely important support for student learning and for teachers.

Information Night – 18 February (please note change of date)

This will be an opportunity for you to hear from your child’s teacher about some of the aspects of their learning for 2020, and in particular the foci of term 1.

- 6:30 Juniors (Year 1 and 2 students)
- 7:00 Middles (Year 3 and 4 students)
- 7:30 Seniors (Year 5 and 6 students)

Parent/Teacher/Child conversations – 25 February

This important three-way conversation will be an opportunity for your child to outline some of their learning in the first few weeks of term and for teachers to outline areas for further depth or development. In addition, you will be able to provide feedback about home learning is progressing. You will receive more information about this via email and we will be using the online booking system. If this presents difficulty for you please let your teacher know as soon as possible.

Blessings



Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal

Diary Dates

Term One		
7 February	Beginning of School Year Mass	9:00am
12 February	Senior Class mass (in the Gathering space)	9:00am
18 February	**Information Night ** (NB date changed)	6:30 – 8:00pm
25 February	Pancake Tuesday	
25 February	Parent/Teacher/Child conversations	4:00 – 7:00pm
26 February	Ash Wednesday Mass – whole school	9:00am
3 March	Sports Carnival	
10 March	PSG conversations	TBA
11 March	Middles Class mass (in the Gathering space)	9:00am
16 March	Catholic Education Week	
17 March	St Patrick Day Mass and Concert– Yr Five/Six	8:45am departure for St Patrick’s Cathedral
25 March	Juniors Class mass (in the Gathering space)	9:00am
27 March	End Term One	3:15pm

C.S.E.F. (Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund)

Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must: on the first day of Term one, or; on the first day of Term two; Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR

- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Eligibility date

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term one or term two.

Term one validation

If the parent/legal guardian's concession card successfully validates on the first day of term one, the application will be processed and the full annual payment will be made to the school from March, 2020.

Applications for Parents or legal guardians

Parents or legal guardians are required to complete a CSEF application form and lodge it with their child's school for processing. Please include a copy of the current concession card.

Application forms need to be completed and lodged with schools by 28th February 2020, as payments are made from March.

REMINDERS!

SCHOOL ABSENCES

A reminder to parents/carers to please advise the school office by 9:00am if your child is absent from school. This can be done via email admin@sburwood.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



Thank you.

Learning and Teaching

JUNIOR CLASS

It has been an exciting time moving into our new room and getting to know all the students. We welcomed a new student, **Shasana** and her family to St Benedict's, and **Isadore** and his family who have returned to us for the term. The children are getting used to new routines and their new teacher. I look forward to meeting you all at the upcoming Information Night. I would like to thank Ms Caroline Sheehan for being such a wonderful support on my return. Home Reading Diaries will be sent home with Take Home Reader Folders (homework) with the children.

Deborah Torre

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome back everyone to school in 2020. Our students are calm, happy and arrive with smiling faces each morning. The children are enjoying their new space, getting to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere and working together collaboratively in learning centres.

This week the children wrote their class prayer. It is modelled on a prayer designed by Pope Francis' called: 'Praying with your five fingers.' The ideas and words are from the children themselves.

Dear Lord,

Please bless our loved ones, our families, our friends and our pets.

Please bless our teachers, those who are with us and those who are not. Please give Father Dan and our priests love, support, resilience and courage.

Please bless Australia's leaders, police, paramedics, and firefighters that they may have the strength and wisdom to lead us.

Please bless the sick, the homeless and people who are in need.

Please give them hope.

Please bless us throughout this year. Help us to be kind to each other.

Amen.

A few classroom details for the Middles are set out below:

- Monday: Library Day
Tuesday: Extra Sport Day (wear sports uniform)
Wednesday: P.E. (wear sports uniform)
Performing Arts
Thursday: Italian



Jane Michael jmichael@sburwood.catholic.edu.au

Jessica White jwhite@sburwood.catholic.edu.au

SENIOR NEWS

We have started life in the Senior school by looking at and talking about what leadership. Ms Sheehan came in to discuss with us about the characteristics leaders have.

We each decorated our own Gratitude box. We are using them to help us recognise the things we are grateful and thankful for.

We are a Bucket Filling Class! We each have a little bucket on our table to encourage each of us to be 'bucket fillers'. Being a bucket filler means caring, respecting, being helpful and encouraging others to be the best person they can be.

We are looking forward to learning many new things and having fun. We see our class as a smaller community within the bigger community of our school and the responsibilities that go with being part of a community.

We congratulate the new leaders of St Benedict's who were blessed at the Opening school mass this week
Senior B and Ms Brooks

L'ITALIANO PER TUTTI (Italian for everyone)

Benvenuti (welcome)

Bentornati (welcome back)

This year you will find some Italian words, phrases or sentences in each newsletter. This is connected to what the children are learning at school and they are being encouraged to teach someone at home. So ask your children what they have learnt and we can all learn together.

Arrivederci (goodbye)

Signora Smarrelli





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Hot Shots Tennis

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