Dear members of our school community,

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is the time when we begin to prepare for Jesus’ great self-sacrifice on Good Friday and then his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We look during this time of Lent for ways that we can show self-sacrifice. People used to like to give up sweets or cool drink for Lent. Personally I like to give up my time to help others that need it. For students it could be instead of going out riding with their friends that they decide to stay home and mow the lawn for Mum or Dad. What will your Lenten promises consist of?

This morning we celebrated Mass in the church for all students from years 1-6. The Pre-Primary’s had a smaller and simpler liturgy in their classrooms. Thank you to Mr Will and Mrs Christian for co-ordinating the liturgy and to the teachers and students for participating so well. Thank you to Father for celebrating the liturgy with us at this very important time on our liturgical calendar and of course to our choir and their excellent efforts.

Thank you also again to the people mentioned above for the way we celebrated our opening mass last Friday. It was a lovely way to begin the year.

Thank you to our P&F who yesterday cooked pancakes as part of our Shrove Tuesday celebration all funds raised are going to Project Compassion.

Our staff have their Commissioning Mass with staff from other surrounding Catholic Schools at the Bateman Parish tomorrow. This is always a nice time to meet with other staff and to make a commitment together to work with Christ for the benefit of our students as well as wish each other well for the year.

This Saturday night will see us come together with the Parish once again to commission our School Leaders, School Board and P&F Executive. It would be great if as a community we could all get behind these people as they all make the commitment to work and support the St Benedict’s School Community in 2016.

This Friday morning there will be an assembly to hand out our first Merit Certificate winners for the year. Following this our year’s 4/5 and 6 students will be doing their swimming time trials down at Bicton Pool to help Mrs Sampson to prepare for our upcoming Faction Carnival at Aquinas on Thursday March 3. Swimming training will commence next Wednesday and Friday before school and will be at Bicton Pool.

Cricket training will also continue next Tuesday and all year 5/6 students are welcome to attend. It is important to note that the cricket carnival is for year 6 students. However if we are short players some year 5 students may be chosen to attend. This will be based on training attendance and attitude and attitude at school.

On Monday each class from 1-6 will be holding Parent information evenings in the classrooms. Each class will run two sessions, one at 6.30pm and one at 7.00pm to help accommodate parents who have more than one student in the school.

Our First Board meeting is this Thursday night and our First P&F meeting is next Wednesday night. Thank you to the parents who volunteer their time for these very valuable and effective bodies of our school.

Don’t our grounds look magnificent? Thank you to Dixie Joy for laying our turf, to the magnificent Martin family, who after a two year forced lay off are looking after the lawn and to Mr Cusworth for putting so much time and effort into keeping our grounds presentable each day as well doing much needed maintenance where and when required.

Please follow the link to follow our theme of celebrating what is right with the world. This week the focus is what we are all about “Children”: http://celebratewhatssright.com/files/pdf/pdf/children_final.pdf

God Bless

Darren McDonald
Principal
**Assistant Principal’s Report**

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back for 2016, albeit a week overdue. As I am sure you can imagine the staff members at the school have all been incredibly busy setting up our new facilities, all the while maintaining a cool and calm disposition. The inconveniences of last year are all but a distant memory as you gaze out upon the fantastic green expanse of lawn, which we now have the pleasure of looking out onto each day.

The classrooms have been a buzz with so many smiling faces. It is truly a joy to have our students back for another great year at St Benedicts. However the calendar doesn’t seem to become any less jam packed, already this year we have had two wonderful whole school masses. The most recent of which was today’s Ash Wednesday celebrations.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a time in all Catholics year when we must reflect on the decisions we make on a daily basis and ask ourselves what ways we can improve. I would like to wish you and your family many blessings throughout this period. I am endeavouring to refrain for the many baked delights that enter our staffroom from time to time, but more importantly become more aware of how it is to walk in other peoples shoes, in line with a favourite quote as mentioned in past newsletters;

> “Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about, be kind always.”

*God Bless,*

*Ben Will*

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**Year 6 - Religious Education News**

The Religious Education unit this term will begin with wondering at the human experience of belonging to a family, in particular ways family members care for each other. As a class we have discussed the ways our family members care for one another.

The unit then explores ways in which Jesus belonged to a family. As this unit will be taught during the Church season of Advent, the children will learn about how Jesus reconciles his followers though the Sacrament of Penance. The Rites and elements of the Sacrament of Penance will also be studied as part of this unit.

Finally, the unit explores way in which Christians are called to contribute to family life by living out the Fourth Commandment ‘Honour your father and mother’.

Here are a few ways you could help your child during this unit:

- Discussing ways family members care for each other, contribute to family life and support each other.
- Taking advantage of opportunities for them to attend celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance.
- Praying for different family members each night.
- Participating in parish celebrations during Advent.

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**School Fees**

We anticipate that all fee statements will be posted out this Friday. We apologise for the delay in these being available but unfortunately there has been a program glitch across all Catholic schools which interrupted our normal distribution procedures. If your address details have changed recently then please contact Mrs Funga in Administration as soon as possible so that the relevant changes can be made ensuring your statement goes to the correct address.

Payment options will be outlined in a separate document which will accompany your fee statement.

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**Important Dates to Diarise**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>Yrs 4, 5 &amp; 6 Swimming trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>Family &amp; Commissioning Mass @6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>Board Meeting @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>Family &amp; Commissioning Mass @6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions from 6.30 or 7pm for years 1 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Training P &amp; F Meeting @ 7pm</td>
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Opening time: Thursdays from 8.30am to 9.30am.

We have moved into our new premises which are located downstairs in the Hall near where the Administration Office used to be. Just follow the signs from the undercover area.

A note from the Community Health Nurse
Welcome to the new school year. My name is Judy Sullivan and I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school.

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of my work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.

If you have a concern about your child’s health or development, please contact me via your school office or at my Community Health Base on 9314 0100.

Sports News

Notice to Year 4, 5 & 6 Parents Only:
Notes went home yesterday with regards to the dates for Faction Swimming Trials and Training. PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTE. Unfortunately the dates advertised were incorrect. A new yellow note will be coming home today. Please fill this out and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Swimming trials for the year will commence this Friday, 12 February with the Year 5’s at 9.45 - 10.15am, Year 6’s at 10.15 - 10.45am and the Year 4’s from 10.45 - 11.30am. Please note these are approximate times only.

ALTAR SERVERS’ TRAINING
Calling all current servers and those who would like to become an altar server to a training session here in the Church, Tuesday, 23rd February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Geldenhuys in the Parish office on 9364 1120 to register your interest.

Family Surname Visor Card - for drive-thru
All Pre–Primary families will receive a laminated Surname Visor Card early next week. If parents from any other year groups and new parents require additional cards then please contact Mrs Funga in Administration to organise.
To our Wonderful Pancake Chefs

All outstanding pancake monies to be sent to school by Friday please.

The Council and Staff of the Parents and Friends Federation of WA would like to welcome everyone back to the new school year. We trust that at this stage, into week 2, you are all back into the routine of lunches, uniforms and searching for those elusive permission slips at the bottom of school bags.

The staff here in the office have hit the ground running and are currently working hard to get information about our upcoming conference in May out to all schools. The dates for the conference this year are Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} and Saturday 21\textsuperscript{st} May. The Awards of Excellence in Building Positive School Communities will be presented at the conference dinner on Friday 21\textsuperscript{st} May. Nomination forms for the Awards of Excellence are already available on our website, so get your entry in early!

We are also receiving lots of calls in the office from parents who are working hard to ensure P&F’s and parent groups get off to a good start for the year. If you need any information about office bearer’s roles, governance or just some general advice please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Theresa McDonnell, the new Liaison Officer at the Federation, has settled beautifully into our small office and she, along with Siobhan Allen (our Executive Officer) is looking forward to getting out and about and meeting with parents and parent groups in Catholic schools throughout the state. If you would like to arrange a visit from PFFWA to your school, please contact the office or email there-sa@pff.wa.edu.au and we would be delighted to organise a time.

Best wishes,
PFFWA Council and Staff
https://www.facebook.com/pffwa www.pff.wa.edu.au 9271 5909 103 Wood St, Inglewood, WA 6932
Catholic Parish Of Applecross  
St Benedict’s Church  
Altar Server Registration Form

Please complete the form below and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Please note that a parent’s signature is also required for all school-aged children. A contact list of Servers, with your permission, will be produced to help with swapping rostered times if you are unable to attend your rostered mass.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: TUESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 2016 @ 3.30PM-4.30PM

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call Colleen Geldenhuyys at the Parish Office on 9364 1120.

All data contained in this form will remain confidential in the hands of the Parish Priest or his nominee and will be used only to arrange formation sessions and the preparation of rosters for Altar Servers.

Name: ___________________________ (Please print)

Address: ___________________________

Phone No: ______________

Email Address: __________________________ (Please print clearly)

Preferred Mass Time: ______________

I am happy for my phone number to be added to a contact list which will only be distributed to others on the Roster  Yes / No (Please circle one)

I will endeavour, to the best of my ability, to attend my rostered masses or to swap with another altar server as early as possible.

Signature: ___________________________ Altar Server

_______________________________ Parent/Guardian (if applicable)

Date: ___________________________

February 2016