Dear Parents and Members of our School Community

This week school’s have been able to access this year’s NAPLAN data. When used properly I believe NAPLAN is a good tool for school’s combined with all the other data that they collect to help them to continue to improve. It is important to realise that NAPLAN results certainly do not define a school but just supply schools with a piece of the puzzle in which all things, school wise, fit together. We, here at St Benedict’s, do not teach to the test as we believe that if we are doing what we are supposed to be doing then the NAPLAN takes care of itself. Some schools spend large amounts of time teaching to the test narrowing the scope of learning that can occur for the sake of a positive result on the NAPLAN.

I am proud to say that as with last year our students have performed strongly in year 3 matching last year’s results and most year 5 students who sat the test in year 3 have shown substantial growth over the past two years. To achieve these results proves that last year was not a fluke and that what we are doing is having a positive effect on our children’s learning. Things like 21st Century Learning, explicit teaching through Diana Rigg, the Progress Files and common language across our staff are what is helping us to continually enable children to achieve desirable outcomes with their learning.

The above coupled with the extra-curricular opportunities and the efforts by staff to make children feel comfortable and happy at school make for a positive environment for learning. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our staff who are so talented and dedicated. Without their time and effort, their care and knowledge of each student St Benedict’s would not be what it is today. NAPLAN results for individual students will be disseminated in the coming weeks. When you get a chance please thank the staff that help your child to learn.

Our choir sung up a storm yesterday afternoon in the Performing Arts Festival. I was so proud of their confidence and the way that they sung. Thank you to the choir and Mrs Searson for all your hard work.

On Friday the senior football/netball carnival will be held at Troy Park. Thank you to everyone who has been helping to prepare and support the students in the lead up to this carnival. Good Luck, Boomers!

Congratulations to the students who have been doing their First Eucharist and First Reconciliation progressively over recent weeks. Good luck to our First Communicants for this weekend.

Just when you think the Pies are hot they cool right down. Maybe they can rectify things this week against the Western Bulldogs. C’mon Pies!!

Until next week
God Bless

Darren McDonald
Principal

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.
To all our St Benny’s families,

Gala tickets are continuing to sell, so please follow the link below to secure your tickets. Also, please follow our page on Facebook to keep updated on developments for the event.


Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/StBenedicts.Gala2016/](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedicts.Gala2016/)

On Monday the P&F, in conjunction with the Year 5 class, took great pleasure in presenting our champion charity INKA Respite, with a donation of over $2000. This money was gratefully received by a wonderful organisation that look forward to putting it to very good use, so thank you to our whole school community for your generosity, and the Year 5’s for all their hard work.

Lastly, a reminder that the next P&F meeting has been postponed by a week, and will now be held on Wednesday, 24th August at 7pm in the library.

Have a wonderful week!

Tanya Dowse-Kerr
P&F President

Applecross Parish News

**BUSY BEE - 27 AUGUST** 8am - 12 pm
Many hands make light work, so even an hour or so would be most appreciated. Please bring your own gloves and gardening tools.

Morning Tea provided ....

Congratulations to this week’s First Communion Candidates.

3K White News

Our nursery rhymes are full of fun and we’ve met some very clever animals and a hard working spider called Incy Wincy! After making lovely handprint spiders, and a spider hat we made our own edible spider using biscuits & soletti sticks.

We learnt many spider facts.
Did you know..?
* a female spider is larger than a male spider
* spiders live all over the world, on every continent except Antarctica
* spider’s legs are covered with many hairs. These hairs pick up smells from the air!

We also met a mouse, Hickory Dickory Dock, and made a clock for him to climb. Hickory Dickory Dock loves numbers and we do too! We also noticed that some of the words in this nursery rhyme sound the same.

Together we will grow and learn.

Mrs Thomson and Mrs Fowler

P & F News

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P & F News
YEAR 2 CURRICULUM NEWS

This term our inquiry question is "What makes someone a HERO?" We brainstormed the qualities heroes might possess:

Stand up for what they believe in

- Peace makers
- Kind and caring
- Responsible
- Passionate
- Brave
- Respectful
- Courageous
- Determined
- Want to make a difference

We then thought about what 'hero qualities' we have and talked about things we are passionate about, things that we really, really, REALLY love! Here are some examples:

NIC:  
I am helpful, brave and kind and I am passionate about my Mum, Dad and my sister, Lucy.

ZAK:  
I am kind, brave and loving and I am passionate about playing soccer.

ERICA:  
I am kind, brave and caring and I am passionate about designing clothes.

Using this information we each completed a mind map, finishing the sentence “A hero is someone who………..” and we came up with these clever ideas:

A hero is someone who…..
- can overcome challenges. (Samantha)
- looks after people in need. (Ava)
- stands up for others. (Addison)

On Friday we went to mass to celebrate the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop is a hero because she never saw a need without doing something about it. She is a wonderful example of someone who was determined to make a difference to other people’s lives.

This week we are going to be researching Olympic Heroes and are excited about celebrating the heroes of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.
**Sports Corner**

**Faction Athletics**

Please place the following dates in your calendar:

- Track and Field carnival at Aquinas College on **Thursday September 8, PP-Year 6**

We are working on a new format for these days and look forward to sharing it when it has been finalised.

**Staff v Students Netball Game**

Our Year Six students took to the netball court on Wednesday to put on a fine display of skills against the staff. The students were hoping to walk in the footsteps of the Queensland Firebirds who took out the National Championships on the weekend in double overtime, but it was not to be. The students’ enthusiasm and experience shone through with some shooting and passing brilliance, but height won in the end, with the staff outscoring them.

Thanks to all the students for supporting this game, and to Stephanie our new year six umpire. It gave our Year Six students a chance to practise their skills before the ASCS Football and Netball carnival on Friday August 12.

**Enrol now for VacSwim October school holiday swimming lessons**

It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim October school holiday swimming lessons are run by instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water. To enrol or find out more visit [education.wa.edu.au/swimming](http://education.wa.edu.au/swimming).

Enrolments close on Monday 29 August.

**BOOK WEEK - ‘AUSTRALIA: STORY COUNTRY’**

Book week is fast approaching. The many events and dates are:

1. **STORYTELLING SESSIONS**
   - Years 5&6 **Monday 15th August**
   - Years 1&2 **Thursday 18th August**

2. **DRESS UP DAY** - **Tuesday 23rd August**

3. **BOOK FAIR**  **Tuesday 23rd August** until **Friday 26th August**
St Benedict’s School Board cordially invites
Our School Community, Family & Friends
to attend the Grand Opening of

OUR NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

Friday, 9 September 2016
From 1:30 - 3.00pm (1.15pm arrival)
70 Alness Street, Applecross, WA
Reception and Open Day following
Kindly RSVP to Mrs Funga on 6217 3500
or admin@stbenedicts.wa.edu.au by Friday, 2 September 2016

We look forward to you celebrating this fantastic event with us.
Enrol your children for swimming lessons during the October school holidays.

9 DAY PROGRAM
40 minute lessons every weekday from Tuesday 27 September to Friday 7 October.
Prices from $13 per child or $35 for a family of three or more (plus pool entry).

5 DAY PROGRAM
35 minute lessons every day from Monday 3 to Friday 7 October.
Prices from $7 per child to $18 for a family of three or more (plus pool entry).

Enrolments close Monday 29 August

Find out more and enrol online at education.wa.edu.au/swimming or telephone 9402 6412.
Experience the wonderful community that is

Iona Presentation College

Open Morning
30 August 2016  9.30am - 11.30am
Please book at www.iona.wa.edu.au/openmorning

Iona girls make a difference...