Dear Parents and Members of our School Community

Welcome back to Term 4 and all the fun that it will bring to St Benedict’s as we work through the next nine weeks. We officially welcome Mrs Katherine Kelly to the staff who is filling in for Mrs Christian until the end of next year. We also have another baby on the way with Mrs Giorgi and her husband announcing that they will be having their second child early in 2017. Four babies on staff in one year! Must be some sort of record.

I hope you all enjoyed the last two weeks as a family and got to appreciate each other’s gifts. I had a special moment on the weekend, just gone, where I was invited to be the Master of Ceremonies at the Winter Sports wind up in my home town of Coorow. To give you a bit of background Coorow is a wheat and sheep farming town that had about a population of 300 people in my time growing up there and had a primary school with about 100 children. The school now only has just over 30 children and the town is struggling to stay alive. Things like the roadhouse and the local hotel have been bought by the community so they don’t close down. Winter sporting teams are filled with players from as far east as the rabbit proof fence to as far west as the coast. They are hanging on by a thread but they have always been a strong community and they continue to adapt to survive.

My memories of my hometown are very fond so I accepted the offer to MC their event without a second thought. They were also having reunions for the 1986 and 2006 premiership football teams, so I thought it would be an opportunity to renew acquaintances with some friendly faces.

What I experienced upon arrival was not what I was expecting, to say the least. The old hall was absolutely full to overflowing with people of all ages that had made the effort to come from far and wide to be together once more. There were people who were now in retirement villages in Perth on low care who were present. People who were not living in the state anymore who were present, in fact 80% of the crowd did not reside in the district any more.

Over the course of the evening many memories were shared and my childhood became more vivid. The one thing that came through strongly from each speaker was how important their time in Coorow was in their life and how much they treasured it.

After the formalities had finished and people were catching up two things became paramount to me. One is that people who you knew growing up and that you hadn’t seen for some time (I have been out of Coorow for 21 years) were all interested in your story, what you are doing now and how your family is going etc. They were quick to let me know how much they appreciated me being the MC for the evening and how they genuinely missed me being around the place.

The second thing was that the young people (some of whom were only in nappies when I left Coorow) who are currently the occupants of the town and the active participants of the club were intrigued with the stories from the old days and did not realise how important the place was to people. It gave them renewed vigour and enthusiasm to continue to look at ways of keeping things alive so that they too can continue the great legacy of Coorow and one day have the treasured memories that we have.

Where is this all going you might ask?

It got me thinking that it is really important to know and recognise where you come from so you know where you’re going. It is also important to connect the past with present to help provide a positive future. The last thing of course is that some things are worth fighting for and focussed hard work, passion and dedication usually wins the day.

Looking at how we do things at St Benedict’s it is obvious to me that we do these things quite well, but it will certainly be more in the front of my brain as we continue to move forward.

Have a great term everyone. Until next term, God Bless

Darren McDonald, Principal
Assistant Principal News

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to Term 4! My name is Katherine Kelly and I feel very blessed to join St. Benedict’s school community as Acting Assistant Principal until the end of 2017. I am Irish born but Australia has become my home since arriving over ten years ago. I have a footy mad husband, two girls aged 10 and 7 along with a flat coat retriever dog named Lexie. We enjoy camping, footy and going to the beach.

I have taught all grades Kindy to Year 6 in a variety of contexts and locations metro, rural and remote and have previously held various leadership positions. The school community here at St. Benedict’s have warmly welcomed me and I am really looking forward to getting to know more names as the weeks go by.

On Monday we had a Staff Development day for the purpose of analysing and cross-referencing our school data from a variety of sources including NAPLAN, PAT and School Climate survey. The information and insights gleaned from this data will be used to inform our Annual School Action Plan for 2017. As a newcomer it was exciting to be part of the high standard of professional dialogue here at St. Benedict’s which will lead to improvement in learning for our students.

The very popular Edu-dance begins on Thursday 13th for all students Pre-Primary to Year 6. This will run for eight weeks and culminate in an end of year Concert on December 1st.

Wishing everyone a great first week back,

God Bless,

Katherine Kelly, Assistant Principal

P & F News

Welcome back for Term 4, it is hard to believe we are on the home stretch for 2016!

We have a busy term lined up, with lots of fun events for the kids. Firstly, the Lapathon will be held this Friday, 14th October. Forms were due in today and we hope students are looking forward to a fun day. Don’t forget to have money returned by Monday 24th October for the chance to win some great prizes.

We also have the School Disco coming up on Friday 4th November. It is shaping up to be a fantastic night, so please see the attached flyer for details. Permission slips will be coming home with your eldest child this week, and there are sign up sheets outside your classroom if you are able to assist on the night. These events are only possible with the help of volunteers, so please check the sheet to ensure we have enough helpers from each class.

And finally, this term we are re-running the School Fees Raffle. For $25 per Golden Ticket you can enter into the draw to win the tuition fee for your first child free for 2017. This year there is also a 2nd prize of a voucher to the value of $500 in the uniform shop. Please refer to the flyer attached.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing break,

Tanya Dowse-Kerr, P&F President

Book Club

Issue 7 of book club has been sent home today. All orders must be completed by Monday 24th October.

If you wish to order online you may use the LOOP system. Please note that if you do use LOOP DO NOT send the order form to school as this will result in a doubling up of orders.

If you do not wish to order on line please send your completed order form with correct money or cheque made out to ‘Scholastic Australia’ to the class teacher by the due date.

Thank you.

Mrs Noonan

TUESDAY MORNING RUNNING CLUB BY
PERTH RUNNING CLUB

Commences: Tue: 18 Oct - 22 Nov,
Time: 7.30 - 8.15am,
Venue: Shirley Strickland Reserve. Coaches walk kids back to school.
Price: $60 for 6 sessions.
Register now at: https://goo.gl/forms/Fq8gZuSUS9Op4Slt1 or email: info@perthrunningclub.com.au
The Religious Education unit being explored in Year six this term begins with us exploring the ability to make moral choices and how it is one of the most important human characteristics. We have begun discussing how people make good moral choices when they choose to do what is right and bad moral choices when they choose to do what is wrong.

We will then explore ways Jesus always chose to do what is right. One reason he taught his followers to pray was to help them choose to do what is right. Jesus taught his followers The Lord’s Prayer as well as to ask Mary to pray to God on their behalf to help them choose to do what is right. We will understand that as people pray; they can develop virtues, or habits of doing good. Followers of Jesus know they can be helped through prayer, therefore, to choose what is good.

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

- Discussing with them various kinds of family, community and global choices people make, including moral choices.
- Sharing with them stories in which Jesus gave his followers messages about prayer.
- By praying together known family prayers.
- Creating a prayer with them about making good moral choices.
Nude Food Day – Wednesday, 26 October

St Benedict’s is celebrating Healthy Eating Week during week three (October 25-28). Classes will be involved in many activities that reflect on the waste we produce when we eat and the impact it has on the environment.

We will be looking at ways to decrease waste, one of which is to bring our food to school in the ‘Nude’. Food prepared this way is healthier for us as it has less additives, more fibre and more vitamins. Nude Food is also waste free.

The great part of Healthy Eating Week is Nude Food Dress Up Day. Children come to school dressed up as their favourite fruit or vegetable, or in the colour of their favourite fruit or vegetable. This day is also the time for children to prepare a Nude lunch and morning tea and bring to school to eat. We will be checking out how much waste is created on this day.

Inter-School Athletics - Friday October 21st

Our squad are back in training for the big day. This morning we held long jump training and tomorrow morning we have shot put training at school, with running and relay training at Shirley Strickland oval. On Friday we have turbojav training at school. All training sessions commence at 8am and children need to wear their sports uniform.

Choir is programmed for Thursday morning. We understand that some children are committed to choir and will need to attend this. For the rest of the athletics team, there are only seven more training days before the carnival so attending training is very important.

Summer will soon be here – enrol now for swimming lessons

Enrolments for December/January lessons are now open. It is important for every child to learn vital swimming and water safety skills. VacSwim offers affordable school holiday swimming lessons run by qualified instructors at a range of locations throughout the state.

Introduction to VacSwim enrolments

Online enrolments for December/January VacSwim programs are open.

Enrolment dates for all 2016/2017 VacSwim programs are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enrolments open</th>
<th>Enrolments close</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October Program</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 29 August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>October Short Program</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 29 August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Early Start</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 14 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>January Program 1</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 28 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>January Short Program</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 28 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>January Program 2</td>
<td>Friday 29 July 2016</td>
<td>Monday 5 December 2016</td>
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Please enrol before the closing date as we cannot guarantee there will be late enrolment places available. Once you are registered online we can also:

- contact you by email or text to let you know seven days before online enrolments close so you don’t miss out;
- keep you informed with news about the programs; and
- notify you during the program if any centres are forced to shut due to emergencies (last year there were bushfires and floods and we were able to communicate with all families registered online).

Program dates, lesson times and locations for the October, Early Start and January VacSwim programs are on the Programs and Locations page. Please browse this webpage to learn more about VacSwim. For further information and online enrolments visit education.wa.edu.au/swimming
Welcome back, we hope you enjoyed your holidays!
We have thought up some great new activities during the break and can’t wait to share them with you in After School Care. We have some amazing new healthy recipes to cook with the kids — and of course eat afterwards! As well as science, art/craft, outdoor games and lots more so come along and join in the fun.

First Time = Fun Time!
Every day we welcome kids who are a mix of familiar faces, occasional visitors, and first timers. It is part of what makes every day unique. We make sure that we design a program that addresses the needs and interests of everyone who attends each day. Part of this is making sure our first timers are given a warm welcome so that they soon feel at home in the program just like the kids that come along every day.

Stop by and say ‘hi’
If you are wondering how we make kids smile in After School Care, feel free to drop by, say hi, and see what is going on first hand, just don’t be surprised if your child wants to stay!

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon.

The Camp Australia Team.
WIN your school fees free for a year!

Tuition fee for the first child to the value of $2500

Golden Ticket

TICKET PRICE $25

Permit Number: LS20915016
Ticket Sales & Permit holder contact Anna Fitzgerald 0407 799 019
Lottery is conducted on behalf of St Benedict’s Catholic Primary School P&F Association
Drawn on 1st December 2016 at the St Benedict’s End of Year Concert
Results to be published in The West Australian Newspaper on Saturday 10th December 2016

1st Prize
School fees for the first child (to the value of $2500)

2nd Prize
$500 Uniform Voucher