From the Principal

Yr 12 Formal: Last Friday evening (21st November) the Yr 12 students, parents and College staff celebrated the end of thirteen years of education with the Annual Senior Formal. It was a wonderful affair with all our students looking impressive as the young women and men they have become. All enjoyed the low-key atmosphere, dancing and community spirit. I thank Mr Hunt and our Office Staff for the organisation of the evening. It was an enjoyable and fitting way to finally farewell Yr 12 for the last time.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: A reminder that each year the students/families of the College are asked to support the outstanding community work of our local St Vincent de Paul Society. There are many families in our local area who are struggling to make the basic ends meet. Often they are not very apparent but they are there. The Christmas Hamper Appeal supported by the College each year goes a long way to meeting immediate needs of families at this time of the year. So, I hope all get behind the appeal.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Recipients: Congratulations to Sarah Jones (Yr 12 2013) and Chris Weekes (Yr 12 2014) for achieving the status of Gold Award of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is an outstanding achievement that required great passion and dedication. Congratulations to Margaret Scott (Duke of Ed Coordinator) and staff who helped the students gain this status. Sarah and Chris were presented with their Award by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor of New South Wales. The Governor also presented Margaret Scott with a gift. Sarah’s and Chris’ parents were very chuffed with the achievement and recognition that these two gained. Well done to all for a fantastic effort.

Reminder to Parents: I again remind some families who have not settled their school fee accounts for 2014. I ask that if you have not done this you please attend to it well before the end of this term. Any issues or queries surrounding fees should be directed to the College Business Manager, Mr Vince McDonall.

Rest in Peace: It is with great sadness that we pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Hunt, brother of Mr Mathew Hunt (Yr 12 Coordinator) and brother-in-law of Ms Harding (Curriculum Coordinator), who passed away early this week. We pray for Mark, his wife and children and the extended Hunt family. May he rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Mr Damien Carlton
Principal
**Calendar**

Mon 1st to Friday 5th December
Year 10 Experience Week

Monday 8th December
Awards Night

Wednesday 10th December
Yr 10 & 11 Mass 11.00am
Year 10 Social

Thursday 11th December
Yr 10 & 11 Picnic Day

Friday 12th December
Shire CCC last week
Year 10/11 finish
Year 7 Drama Day

Monday 15th December
Yrs 7-9 Picnic Day

Tuesday 16th December
Term 4 concludes

Wednesday 17th December
Parent/Teacher Interviews

**January 2015**

Thursday 29th January
Yrs 7, 11 and 12 return to school

Friday 30th January
All students return to school

Monday 2nd February
Student Photo ID Day
UOW Discovery Day (Yr 12)
RSA course

Thursday 5th February
College Opening Mass 11am

Tuesday 10th February
College Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 17th February
HSC Parent Information Evening 7pm

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**From the Assistant Principal ... Mr Michael Donnelly**

Last week I outlined some changes with the range of hats available to students. I would also like to remind families with regards to girl’s footwear. So that there are no misunderstandings I ask families to follow these guidelines when it comes to shoes.

Shoes need to be black, leather and lace up. They are **not** to have platform style heels that are too high. Jazz or ballet style shoes are not acceptable.

These are the sort of styles that are expected:

![Shoes](image1)

These styles are **not** acceptable:

![Shoes](image2)

It is important that the leather is firm to ensure that students have some protection from furniture, chemicals, tools or big beefy Year 12 boys!!! If you need further clarification when you are buying your next pair of shoes, please contact Mrs Babic or myself. I also ask that the length of girl’s hemlines of their summer uniforms be checked over the holidays. Thank you for your support in these matters.

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**FINALISING SCHOOL FEES**

A REMINDER that 2014 school fees were due at the end of Term 3 (unless you have a formal arrangement with the College). So if you haven’t already done so, it is important to finalise school fees now. If you need to discuss this, please make an appointment to meet with the Principal, Mr Carlton, or Mr McDonall, Business Manager, on 9548 4000 as soon as possible. All discussions are, of course, confidential.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop will be open every Wednesday of Week 1 from 3.00 - 3.45pm and then every Friday morning of Week 2 from 8.45am - 9.30am. The next open dates are Wednesday 3rd December and Friday 12th December.
St John Bosco College 2014 Christmas Hamper Appeal

Once again, the College will be supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their annual Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Students are asked to bring in at least one gift or item of food for their hamper. Gifts can include things such as gift vouchers from Lowes, Coles or Woolworths, sporting gear, jewellery, toys and stationery. Please bring only non-perishable food items such as tinned food, biscuits, tea and coffee, pasta, rice and condiments. Other items such as toilet paper and washing detergent are also welcomed.

The theme for our Christmas Hampers this year is *Christmas around the World*. Each Pastoral class needs to decorate their hamper according to the traditions and customs of their chosen country. Two prizes will be awarded this year: one to the most creative hamper and one to the hamper with the most items.

The final judgment will take place on Tuesday of Week 10. House points will be awarded to the winning hamper.

Good luck!!!

You don’t have to travel too far to find people in need. By participating in the Christmas Hamper Appeal, we can help those in our local community who live with distress, disadvantage and hardship every day of the year.

Hampers will be collected on Tuesday 9th December (Week 10).
From Year 11 …  
by Sophie Paynter

On 21st November, eleven Year 11 students attended the National Young Leaders’ Day (organised by the Halogen Foundation Australia) at Homebush alongside 2300 other high school students. The day was filled with many inspiring guest speakers including Jeremy Rolleston, Olympic bobsledder, and Alex Malley, from The Naked CEO and The Bottom Line, who got Neil Armstrong to agree to a TV interview for the first time in 30 years. The focus of the day was how to turn nothing into something and the importance of actually taking the step of getting started when setting goals. Big thanks to Father Pete who took us on the day.

“Regret is different to disappointment”  
– Jeremy Rolleston explaining that it is better to try something and fail (disappointment) than not try it at all (regret).

From the Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator … Mrs Peta Batty

LITERACY SURVEYS

Over the past few weeks, a number of parents/carers and students have completed literacy surveys. In summary, the responses indicate that members of the College community agree that it is extremely important for students to have well developed literacy skills. While the strategies currently implemented are recognised and appreciated, there is an indication that further developments in the area of literacy would enhance students’ learning.

BLAST (Bosco Literacy Action Steering Team) has used the data from these surveys to formulate a Literacy Statement for the College community. This statement will be reviewed by the College Leadership team and, subsequently, published in the College newsletter for the information of the wider community. The Literacy Statement is part of A Whole School Literacy Plan that is being developed to ensure a comprehensive approach to literacy across all Key Learning Areas.

For your information, the results of the surveys can be found in the following links:

http://tinyurl.com/ParentLitSurveyResults
http://tinyurl.com/StudentLitSurveyResults

Responses from parents/carers in the ‘Other Comments’ section will be included in the next newsletter.
Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Qualifying Expedition ... 
by Alexandra Adam (Silver DoE)

On 23rd November, eager Bronze and Silver Duke of Ed participants departed from Engadine Station for an adventure awaiting them in the Lane Cove National Park.

On arriving we were faced with the news that the walking tracks were closed due to the scorching temperatures. Instead, we went kayaking along the river. As the afternoon fell upon us with the rumbles of thunder threatening to strike, we were blessed with a rewarding swim in the cool pool. As night time came, some were surprised by the sight of possums raiding their tents and learnt a valuable lesson about zipping the door shut. We were also amused by the sight of free roaming turkeys!!

Day Two saw a slightly cooler day dawn with great conditions for hiking. On our return the Bronze group headed for the pool to cool down on their last day. But not for Silver. We had to continue on our journey.

From this point onwards the Silver adventure of twists and turns had just begun and no one could predict what was to be thrown at us. We caught the train to Berowra Station to start our hike to our campsite only to be greeted at the start of the track by a sign saying we couldn’t do the walk due to construction on a bridge. Mr Kitchingman and Fr Pete decided we could walk from a different spot to our campsite. In order to get there, they drove us to the start of the track. It was 3pm and we had to hike 7km. As we looked to the sky, dark threatening storm clouds were building up and were approaching us. As well as this, visibility was dropping. As we started hiking we listened to some music that would take our minds off the fact that the storm was coming … 45 minutes into the hike, the storm was at its peak. Thunder was cracking and lightening was visible and prevalent in the valley. We also started to question if we were going the right way! We came across a rock formation that provided us with shelter and we sat deciding on what to do. We rang Mr Kitchingman to ask him what to do and to describe the situation. Mr Kitchingman then rang us and said ‘head back and we will pick you up and drive you to the campsite.’ So we waited for the torrential rain, powerful winds and the storm to calm down before we headed back. Just as we approached the bottom Mr Kitchingman informed us that the camp site closed at 5pm. We had 30min! So we pretty much ran the rest of the track, jumped in the cars and headed for the camp site.

So we settled at the campsite for the night, where we enjoyed more never-ending rain and the endless presence of mosquitos!!

Day Three came with no troubles! We went for a relaxing kayak at Berowra Waters and then we went for a 5.5km hike back to Berowra station, where we were dismissed.

On behalf of all the Bronze and Silver Duke of Ed participants we would like to thank Mr Kitchingman, Mrs Scott and Mrs Ledgerwood for planning this rewarding adventure and to Mrs Watson, Mrs Trimboli, Fr Pete and Mr Kitchingman for giving up their time to enjoy a once in a lifetime adventure.
Year 9 Evangelisation Day …
by Christina Adam

On Tuesday 25th November, 15 Year 9 students, accompanied by Miss Bautista and Miss Mirabito, attended the annual Year 9 Evangelisation Day at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) – Strathfield Campus. We sleepy heads were up early ready at school to depart at 7:15 am. Along the way, Aquinas College and St Pats also jumped on board for ACU.

We began our day with some warm-up games that included extreme Scissors/Paper/Rock with the other Catholic schools. Soon after we moved into a lecture theatre to begin. The speaker was Sam Clear, inspirational for each and every one us Year 9 students. The theme for this year was “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Mt 5:8). Three main areas were discussed – Charity, Chastity and a Love of Truth. We soon discovered the importance of seeing God in ourselves, others and eternity. We also learned and deepened our knowledge of Catechesis. To put this all into perspective Sam told us many stories about his “walk around the world for unity in love and truth”. All of Sam’s stories displayed relevance to these teachings. After our first session, a lovely morning tea provided by ACU was awaiting us – fruit salad and large delicious muffins!

During our second session, we were enthused about Sam’s survival and extraordinary stories that were part of his journey around the world, which enabled him to become closer to God. In our lives, he emphasised that we can strengthen our love for one another and our relationships by remembering the little things of “please”, “thank you” and making sure that everyone is included and happy.

After our second session, it was lunch time. All of us got to eat a scrumptious sausage sizzle. Miss Mirabito even admitted her love for One Direction! We all got to take a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity photo with “The Pope”! Our final talk of the day was information regarding a great experience: World Youth Day 2016. Finally to complete the day, each school concluded with what they learnt from today. From our GREAT school we came up with - “Being a Catholic is about how you treat one another as we are all made in the image of God. One way to show the youth that we can still be religious and spiritual at the same time is by having a mini World Youth Day at Bosco and during this day we will give the students opportunities to express their faith.”

Our day soon concluded and we departed ACU for school. Today was a day where each and every one of us deepened and explored our Catholic faith. Sam Clear provided us with many interesting stories which gave us a great understanding of how we can see God and strengthen our faith in God in our lives.

Remember…

“Taking the bus is the easy option, but to make a difference in the world, to carry Christ’s love into it, we must trust God and walk on …”
From the Drama Department ...
by Mrs Rachel Kennedy

There have been some very exciting times in the Drama Department of late.

**Wicked Excursion**
On Wednesday the Elective Drama students had the opportunity to attend *Wicked* at the Capitol Theatre. The excursion was an amazing experience for the students. They were simply buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm after the show. Having the opportunity to attend live theatre is a wonderful experience. For some it was their first experience of theatre, but for all it was one they will remember. The students all looked lovely and I was so proud of their behaviour and appreciation of the experience. When talking to the students about their favourite parts of the show, many seemed quite infatuated with Fiyero, some were keen to learn to sing “Defying Gravity”, others were inspired to attend the show again with their families. My more modest goal was to somehow fit the phrase “Let the green girl go” into a sentence. All in all it was a wonderful excursion. It was a privilege to see such talented performers onstage, and I know the students gained a great deal from attending.

**Stage in a Box**
The Drama Department has recently purchased a fantastic new interactive scaled stage space. The students are able to experiment quickly with a variety of stage set possibilities in 3D, use the stage to assist rehearsals and to promote flexible thinking (including actor/audience viewpoint). It’s highly interactive, promotes critical thinking and gives the students a different perspective on how drama can be staged.
**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**
**PARISH OF ST JOHN BOSCO**

**CHRISTMAS EVE** Wednesday 24TH DECEMBER

**Engadine**
5.30pm FAMILY MASS on the HANLEY FIELD, Waratah Road
Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels, shepherds etc.

**Other Masses**
- 7.30pm
- 9.00pm CAROLS
- 9.30pm YOUTH MASS
- 11.30pm CAROLS
- 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS

**Heathcote Christmas Eve**
Mass at 6pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**
Engadine 8am & 9.30am
No 6pm Mass

Heathcote 7.30am, 9.30am
10.30am in The Hub at John Paul Village
No 11.00am Mass

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**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**
Every Saturday at Heathcote 10.00 – 10.55am
Engadine 4.30pm – 5.30pm

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
Communal preparation -
Individual Reconciliation - 16th December 7.30pm-8.30pm

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Gaudium et Spes - Joy and Hope
We Need Your Support

Do you own your own business? Or do you work for a local business that needs to become better known? Then you will probably be able to do something that helps the College, as well as SJB Primary School. How? By advertising in the St John Bosco Business, Trade & Professional Services Directory, published each year by Bosco Educational Enterprises (BEE). The BEE Directory is circulated throughout the local communities, so you get great exposure. BEE distributes the advertising funds raised to directly benefit the students of SJB College & SJB Primary School. If you want to advertise and help our schools at the same time, please contact Bridget Cartwright on 0429 469 466 or at beesplace@bigpond.com.

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Carol Harding
0408 705 848
Jannelle Carille
0431 598 004

or email us: counselling1969@gmail.com

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Gaudium et Spes - Joy and Hope