

St Bede's Principal's Newsletter 3: 17.3.17

A reminder that two Information Sessions have been scheduled for parents interested in enrolling their children for next year on **Tuesday 21 March** in the Function Room at East Maitland Bowling Club, Banks Street, East Maitland. The morning session will be from **9.30 – 11.00am** and the evening session from **6.30 – 8.00pm**. Please note that these meetings are not for the students themselves as separate meetings for students from the feeder schools have already commenced and will be broadened to include students from non-feeder schools later in the year. If you have not yet RSVP'D, please send an email to Rachel Quirk, rachel.quirk@mn.catholic.edu.au, ASAP.

As outlined in the previous newsletter, included in the meeting agenda will be the following:

- Building Up-date: Including details on the overall architectural and building design of the campus and an up-date on the first stage of the building works which will provide staff and students a modern designed and refurbished learning spaces.
- Visual Identity: Including details on the College colours and motto.
- Enrolments: Clarification on enrolment boundaries for those who do not attend one of the two feeder schools (Our lady of Lourdes at Tarro and St Aloysius at Chisholm).
- Foundation Plan: Launch of the 2017-18 Foundation Plan that will outline the Mission and Vision of the College, key objectives and strategies.
- Student Lap-tops: Including an outline of a process being established to decide on a provider for a specified device for all students.
- Uniforms: Update on the continuing process of appointing the right uniform provider that will best service the needs of our community.
- Proposed Year 7 Camp: Including date, costings and intended purpose.
- Whole and optional group question/answer session.

The enrolment process is underway, with students from the two feeder schools, St Aloysius Chisholm and Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro, being guaranteed enrolment subject to the submission of a fully completed application. Interviews for those families are optional at this point of time, with the hope that I will be able to have a one-on-one meeting with these families before the end of the year. I have already had some interactions with these children and was impressed by their courtesy, positive approach to their learning and their deep understanding of their faith.

With the requirement for all non-feeder school enrolment applications to be interviewed, I have begun this process and am also impressed by the boys and girls that I have met. We expect a substantial number of students commencing next year to come from outside the feeder schools. They will obviously be welcomed and valued as much as our feeder school students. The first of many of these students, were enrolled for next year. Being the first student enrolled at St Bede's and with the permission of the family, it was fitting to share this moment with the wider community. Not that it was a race for which application was processed first, particularly given the priority for interviewing non-feeder school students, but Taylen Edwards can be proudly acknowledged as the first student to be enrolled at St Bede's Catholic College. As can be seen below, Taylen is a happy athletic young man who is excited about coming to our school. Taylen currently attends Thornton Public School and despite nursing a leg injury is a very successful House Sport Captain. He is looking forward to the opportunities that will come with this new school, including the new facilities and leadership pathways. Taylen's mother, Katrina, is equally excited and stated, *"I feel privileged to have Taylen be the first student enrolled at Saint Bede's"*. Taylen's younger sister, Amiyah, no doubt will follow in her big brother's footsteps by one day coming to St Bede's. Congratulations to Taylen and Katrina and we look forward to many other students being welcomed into the St Bede's community.



To ensure we continue to see best practice and contemporary learning spaces successfully modelled, I was one of a team of people who visited a school in the Gold Coast, that have aligned their building design and diversity of teaching approaches to recent educational research on how students best learn. Assisi Catholic College is an established P-12 Catholic College in the Franciscan tradition with a student population of around 1,400 students. With expectations that our student numbers will be around the 1,100 mark in 2023 when our foundation students graduate, valuable insights on their successes and learnings will assist us in our on-going planning. The approach of networking, research and sharing of best practice will be on-going as St Bede's embarks on an exciting journey where students will be at the heart of what we do.



I look forward to seeing you at one of the Information Sessions on Tuesday 21 March.

John Murphy
Foundation Principal

