The OPtimist
Highlights & news at Blackfriars
Edition 2 Autumn 2013
Welcome to another edition of the OPtimist. The introduction or reintroduction of the old scholars news and formal editorials has gained popular support across the board. This year is obviously exciting for the school as we all celebrate the school’s Diamond Jubilee Year.

We have already had one very successful event on the official birthday of the school in February when there was a representative from every year at a Mass held in front of the school. The students were in awe of the representation of the old scholars and the history attached to the event. Through this year there are a number of events that will be held to celebrate our history. In November we have a Mass, Diamond Jubilee Ball and Community Day planned. The variety of events will allow all members of the community to have the opportunity to participate.

Thank you to the various committees and sub-committees who are organising editorials and events to celebrate this special occasion. We hope to see as many old scholars, past Staff and Blackfriars Community people as possible in November.

Recently the Blackfriars Priory School Foundation was formally established and instituted. If you read through the article by Mr. Vince Fleming you will see some familiar faces on the Foundation Board. The School Board thanks Mr. Vince Fleming, Executive Director Strategic Development, for his efforts in establishing the Foundation and congratulates the various members of the Board for their service.

During Term 1 the school commenced the development of the first phase of the Master Plan. The Drama Hall next to St. Albert’s Chapel is being developed into an Early Learning Centre opening in Term 3. The Drama Hall is being moved to a new Drama Centre in what we all know as Hound Hall. Mr. David Romaldi has been the architect and has assisted the school tirelessly in gaining approvals, processing tenders and project management. The Drama Centre will be opened later this year once the planning has been approved and construction has been completed. The next step in the Master Plan is the refurbishment of the Maher, Kingston and Masters Buildings. Over the summer break earlier this year the upstairs of the Maher building was refurbished and the three senior primary rooms were refurbished. These rooms are now far more contemporary and suitable for learning with design, ICT access and yes, reverse cycle air-conditioning.

There has been a lot of comment regarding the front fence. The fence was designed with the support of David Romaldi, built by Marshall and Brougham and Hindmarsh fencing (owned by old scholar Vince Renna, ’93).

You may also have noticed that new signage at the front of the school has been established and this too has been very well received by our families and the general public.

During this year the school has commenced its partnership with Flinders University where the school has been able to offer a host of workshops, curriculum delivery and early entry for Year 12 students.

Please take the time to read the successful 2012 results and the various developments and achievements of the school and of present and past students.

Thank you to Mrs Rachel Elgar and Mr Jon Harmer for their work in developing and editing this edition of the OPtimist.

Diamond Jubilee Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray to you through the intercession of St Dominic and our patron St Albert the Great.

In your loving care, inspire us today, as you did the pioneers of Blackfriars, to a life of faithful discipleship so we may become men and women for others who are guided by truth and have a passion for education.

In this our Jubilee year, help us to be mindful of the ways in which your justice and mercy may be brought to this world, especially to those who are poor or sick, marginalised or displaced.

Help us to seek you in all things and to discover your grace in sacred scripture and Eucharist.

May we be your faithful disciples and rejoice in your presence among us in this Jubilee year. May St Dominic’s vision renew our hearts and minds and the lives of all we meet.

We ask this in your name, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

St Dominic, pray for us.
St Albert the Great, pray for us.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal
We congratulate the 2012 graduates on their outstanding results

The 2012 results are testament to the close partnerships between the school and home developed over many years and the culmination of wonderful relationships and much hard work.

The school is very proud of the continued improvement in results, clearly vindicating the academic program on offer at Blackfriars and the success that students can achieve when they apply themselves.

Outstanding results are gained through continued perseverance, rigour, organisation and application. All of our high achievers appreciated the importance of a positive, mature relationship with the teacher in the classroom and being actively involved in the pastoral, co-curricular and Dominican aspects of the school that makes Blackfriars so successful.

Thank you to the parents for their support in this partnership and to all of the staff for the contribution they make in the journey of each graduate.

We congratulate the 2012 graduates and wish them every success for the future.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal

Blackfriars students have been accepted into a wide range of tertiary courses, ranging from Medicine to Science, Law, Commerce, Teaching and Design.

Thank you to staff for their commitment and professionalism and to the families for their support and guidance which has enabled Year 12 students to achieve such excellent results.

Mrs Anna Mirasgentis
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
Blackfriars Priory School has a broad curriculum that supports the student's academic aspirations, their spiritual, social, emotional and cultural development. As a School we support and provide diverse learning pathways to enable all students to achieve their personal best and have a successful transition to further education, training or employment. The School recognises that all young people should have the best possible start in life because this is vital to the well-being of families, communities and the nation as a whole. As a Curriculum leader and in partnership with the Heads of Department our work has been focussed on transforming curriculum into learning experiences that prepare young people for life beyond their local community; to become citizens of the world, with the skills, confidence, knowledge and capabilities for an increasingly globalised and electronic society.

Australian Curriculum

In 2013 Blackfriars Priory School has continued to plan for the full implementation of the Year 8-10 Australian Curriculum in English, History, Mathematics and Science. In 2013, work is already underway to review our teaching and learning programs, pedagogy, assessments and reporting processes as part of the whole school improvement agenda and the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

Laureate Assembly

Our Annual Laureate Assembly was held on Friday 8 February 2013 to recognise and celebrate the academic achievements of the graduating class of 2012. The students presented obtained Merits in one or more of their Year 12 Subjects or were placed in the top 10% of Students nationally by gaining an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) of 90 or higher.

While we celebrate these highest achievements, we also acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the whole Year 12 cohort from 2012. We also recognise the commitment of all their teachers who have guided and supported the students along their learning journey from Reception to Year 12. The most significant contribution is the families who have established the solid foundations of learning by which the school builds upon.

UMAT

In 2013 Blackfriars Priory School hosted UMAT MedEntry Preparation Course on the Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April 2013, 9.00am – 5.00pm in the Hallinan Senior Library. 52 Students from Catholic, DECD and AISSA Schools in South Australia registered for the event, 13 of those students were from Blackfriars Priory School.

Congratulations to the following students from Blackfriars Priory School who were successful in gaining School sponsorship and participated in the UMAT MedEntry preparation course:

Year 12
- Alexander Huynh
- Bobby Cheung
- Brian Le
- George Tran
- Brendon Luu
- Harley Young
- An Cao
- Rainsey Ros
- Nicholas Rudd
- Ryan Nguyen

Year 11
- Jamie Hua
- Nikil Kathiravan
- Ibsa Mohamed

Mrs Anna Mirasgentis
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
Vietnam Pilgrimage

Our Diamond Jubilee year will see the introduction of an international pilgrimage. During November we will be taking a group of Year 11 boys to Vietnam. This will not be a holiday, but a pilgrim journey of faith, self-discovery and outreach. Students will work with people living at the margins of society. They will spend time in an orphanage, with the local Dominican community and at a school for disadvantage students. Pilgrimages run the risk of becoming another form of Western consumerism, as people ‘purchase’ the ‘poor experience’. Therefore, the preparation before the immersion is paramount to its success. Students will be involved in numerous pre-immersion activities to prepare them to be a pilgrim and not a tourist. They need to go deeper than the superficial layer of glossy photos and see the human being in need. Whilst they are on the pilgrimage, students will be lead through daily reflections as they see how God is coming to them disguised at their life and how they are responding personally. Following the pilgrimage, students will have an opportunity for a group debrief and they will bring their experiences alive within the Blackfriars community.

Your help needed!

The pilgrims will be ambassadors for Blackfriars and our community will be supporting the projects they undertake in Vietnam. Over the course of this year we will be providing opportunities for fund-raising. All money raised will be used to directly help the poor in Vietnam through the projects our boys will be coordinating. If you would like to make a donation to the pilgrimage, please contact me directly at the school through email druggiero@bps.sa.edu.au.

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing Blackfriars on the Inaugural Blackfriars Vietnam Pilgrimage. They were outstanding in their interviews and we look forward to working with them over the course of the year as we prepare for the pilgrimage.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission

Front Row
• Adam McNeil
• Mark McPeake
• Thomas Lawler
• Alex Harriss
• Tony Kamara

Back Row
• Nicky Nguyen
• Cameron Richards
• Jack Sausse
• Henry Huynh
• Matthew Astachnowicz

Mitchell Spencer (absent)
Blackfriars’ investment in providing the OPtimist magazine has proven to be a great success with the school receiving excellent feedback relating to the first edition (Spring 2012) from across the community. The enhanced connections and communication flow within our community as a result of the magazine initiative has been a very important outcome that can only strengthen as more editions are distributed. Over the last 12 months there have been a number of exciting and significant developments implemented that will ultimately enhance our schools’ provision of quality boys’ education.

**Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015**

Thank you to the 800+ community members (School Board, staff, students, families and old scholars) who directly contributed to the consultation process and development of the school’s new Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015. This important document provides a unified and clear direction that is now well articulated and supported by the entire community. The Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 has been distributed to all current families and staff. If you would like a copy either connect to our website www.bps.sa.edu.au or contact Mrs Rachel Elgar relgar@bps.sa.edu.au and a hard copy will be posted to you.

**Master Plan 2013 - 2015**

The Master Planning Committee and School Board have discerned, prioritised and recommended future facility improvements across the campus for the next three years. The Master Plan for 2013 – 2015 has been endorsed by the School Board and can be viewed on the school’s website. The Master Plan appropriately reflects the goals as identified and articulated in the new Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015. Please see the Master Plan article in this edition of the OPtimist for further details.

**Foundation Establishment**

The Blackfriars Priory School Foundation Incorporated has been formally established under the auspices of the Dominican Province. The primary foci of the Foundation are securing gifts, fund management and community capacity building.

The Blackfriars Foundation Board inaugural membership is highlighted below and I congratulate and thank these generous community members for their commitment to this important milestone in Blackfriars’ history.

Please contact me for further information on any of these initiatives and I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future. Happy 60th Birthday Blackfriars!

**Mr Vince Fleming**
Executive Director: Strategic Development

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**Foundation Board Members**

- Patrick Kelly (‘90) President
- David O’Loughlin (‘82) Vice-President
- Dharmesh Raman (‘92) Treasurer
- David Ruggiero (‘92) Secretary
- Bruno Giovanniello (‘93) BOSASC
- Ralph Armiento (‘88) BOSASC
- Stan Astachnowicz (‘80)
- David Romaldi (‘82)
- Tom Zed (‘95) BOSAFC
- Peter Doukas Past Parent
- David Horsell Past Parent, BOSAFC

**School Representatives**

- Br Brendan O’Hearn
- Mr Brian Turner
- Mr Vince Fleming
- Mr Jon Harmer
It is with great pride that I write this article as the inaugural President of the newly constituted Blackfriars Priory School Foundation. As referred to in the previous issue of The OPtimist, the Blackfriars Foundation has been formed in this, our Diamond Jubilee year, under the auspices of the Dominican Province, to work for our school to secure and manage funds not otherwise available from annual operating budgets. In so doing we aim to develop the best possible learning and teaching environment and facilities for our students and the wider community we serve.

As a proud Blackfriars old scholar, I consider it an honour to lead this group in its first year.

You may be aware that under the model which schools such as Blackfriars are funded, school fees and general recurrent funding from Government sources are simply what keep our school operating on a year to year basis. The capacity for our school to grow and offer students access to new resources, facilities and programs, is governed by the extra funds the school is able to borrow, save or generate itself.

And in light of the current changes in school funding arrangements brought about by the Gonski review, never before has the ability to generate these extra funds in order to enhance the educational environment at schools such as ours been in such focus.

The Blackfriars Foundation Board operates independently of the School Board to raise funds for projects identified in the Blackfriars Priory School Strategic Plan. This fundraising will be undertaken through a number of initiatives and programs:

- Annual Appeals, seeking gifts for a specific project or projects to be completed in a short time frame;
- Scholarship Fund, seeking gifts that assist young people to enjoy the benefits of a Blackfriars education;
- Major Capital Campaigns, seeking gifts to the Br Brendan O’Hearn Building Fund that assist in major building projects undertaken by the school from time to time;
- Endowment Fund, through which a significant gift may be made such that interest can be drawn down in perpetuity to support a scholarship, or similar ongoing school cost;
- Bequest Program, through which Blackfriars can be remembered in one’s Will.

My Foundation Board colleagues and I are conscious of working with the School Board to support a range of projects and programs that will resonate with the broadest cross-section of our community. From bricks and mortar to scholarships, it is our aim to assist all supporters of Blackfriars to contribute to the growth of our school in areas that best match their own motivations and memories.

My time at Blackfriars during the 1980s was a time of forging great bonds of friendship, of instilling in me a code of ethics that guides me in my professional and personal life to this day and of enjoying an education that set me on a pathway to success.

The Blackfriars Foundation is the means by which I can give back to Blackfriars after it gave me so much.

In this, our Diamond Jubilee year, I invite you to join with me in adding to your support of our great school through the Blackfriars Foundation.

Patrick Kelly (1990)
President, Blackfriars Foundation
The Blackfriars Priory School Master Plan outlines the priority development projects to be undertaken between 2013 - 2015. Please visit the Blackfriars website for further details relating to the following projects. There are also architectural plans available for you to view www.bps.sa.edu.au/masterplan.

St Albert Science Centre
Conversion of the four current classrooms on the ground floor of the Masters Building into 3 state-of-the-art laboratories/flexible learning spaces.
- New science preparation and storage areas
- Relocation of lockers from corridors to southern aspect of Masters Building
- Facade upgrade including improved access points and shelters

Early Learning Centre
The Early Learning Centre will cater for up to 63 boys and girls from 3 – 5 years of age for early learning and long-day care. The current Drama Hall will be fully renovated and refurbished and the outdoor learning area and storage will utilise a south western section of the oval. The amenities, lighting and air-conditioning will be upgraded as will the general needs of a contemporary facility of this type.

Drama Centre
The Drama Centre will be relocated to Hound Hall. A stage will be established and the acoustics will be modified. Specialised retractable seating, lighting, flooring, wiring and storage will be included in the redevelopment.

Student Services Hub and Year 9 Centre (Maher Upgrade)
The Maher renovation will incorporate two projects:
- Year 9 Centre incorporating six modern refurbished classrooms (Four first floor Maher and two ground floor Maher) - upstairs completed January 2013
- Student Services Hub including relocated Student Reception, Heads of House Centre and meeting facilities

Carpark Extension
The existing carpark at the front of the School will be extended to the eastern end creating 15 additional spaces.
Primary School Learning Spaces

The Primary School will be further transformed from gifts received through the Foundation with three classrooms being fully refurbished. The learning spaces will have improved wet areas, new flooring and furnishings, new windows and decking on the north side. The Primary outdoor spaces will also undergo additional improvements including soft fall surfacing, modern seating, outdoor learning facilities and a sand-pit area.

Development work has commenced on the Early Learning Centre
The development of the Blackfriars Priory School Early Learning Centre (ELC) is currently underway. The existing building located next door to the Chapel of St Albert the Great on Highbury Street will be completely transformed into a bright, modern Early Learning Centre.

We expect that the development will be completed in time for the beginning of Term 3, with opening day on Tuesday 23 July 2013.

At Blackfriars Early Learning Centre we build on your child’s individual strengths, skills, abilities and interests in a safe and caring environment. All children are supported to develop persistence, resilience, curiosity and a love of learning. We build happy, confident and capable life-long learners.

Blackfriars ELC encompasses the Reggio Emilia approach to young children’s learning, whereby children are encouraged to explore, investigate and discover through play. Teachers are co-learners, guides and partners in the child’s learning. Parents are a vital component to the Reggio Emilia philosophy. Parents are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. Our teachers respect parents as their child’s first teacher and involve them heavily in their learning. This approach to teaching young children puts the natural development of children as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment at the centre of its philosophy.

Blackfriars ELC offers an integrated play-based curriculum for all children aged 3-5 years. Being a part of the Blackfriars school community offers the opportunity to access specialist staff and facilities in the areas of music, art, drama, PE, ICT, languages and the sciences.

Our co-educational integrated programs are tailored to the individual needs of our youngest learners. An inquiry based approach, including learning through play; investigation and exploration, allows 3 and 4 year old children to have the ability to pursue their individual interests and our staff to cater to their specific needs.

The Early Learning Centre will be open from 7.30am - 6pm each day. It is closed on weekends and public holidays. Extended Hours Care and Holidays programs will be available.

For further information regarding the ELC and the programs offered please contact the ELC Director, Mrs Karen McEntee 0408 708 916 or email kmcentee@bps.sa.edu.au.
In April 2013, the Australian Government awarded myself along with seven other winners (one from each state and territory) the opportunity to travel to Turkey for almost two weeks. Whilst there we would partake in the dawn and lone pine memorial services, as well as getting the opportunity to explore the beautiful country’s history and its effect on Australia.

That trip ended more than a week ago, but its effect on the other winners and me will, I am certain, last forever. To say that it changed the way we looked at the ANZAC legend would be an understatement so great I couldn’t describe it without understating it.

Our first night in Canberra, the Australian War Memorial Guide, Stuart, told us that the experiences this trip would give us were impossible to duplicate. He could not have been more right; we have walked in the paths of the ANZACs, trudging up the same ridge that they did after landing on the beach ninety-eight years ago. We saw the Nek, where 7 August 1915 saw 234 Australians walk confidently towards their deaths at the hands of Turkish machine gun fire. We saw the trenches dug in a rush by our soldiers, and we got to find some of our own authentic artefacts in the form of British rum-jug. We even got the chance to feature at the memorial services. These ventures without doubt changed the way we saw the ANZAC legend and Australia’s military history.

When we weren’t exploring the historical sites of the Gallipoli peninsula, we filled in our time growing closer as a group and forming bonds that will last us for the rest of our lives. We were planning our reunion by day three and parting at the end of the trip was very emotional. I can’t imagine a better way to form relationships, with all of us taken out of our comfort zone and overloaded with new things. Everyone on this trip was amazing and unique, and I miss them all like my family.

I will never forget the things we did on this trip. The visits to the Grand Bazaar and the beautiful buildings of Istanbul, the grave sites at Gallipoli, our early morning walks and the Dawn Service were all awe-inspiring. Once again, I cannot begin to explain the depths of this trip’s effect on me. I look forward to seeing my new friends again and hope to return to Turkey one day if I can, but nothing can compare with the new understanding I have gained of our history, the bravery of our soldiers and the futility of war.

William Thomas
Year 10

The Simpson Prize

William Thomas receiving his award in Canberra from The Hon Peter Garrett MP
We invite you to take part in a community initiative, Blacks Business Links, an online directory listing businesses of parents and old scholars. We aim to enable the community to network with and support businesses owned by the Blackfriars school community. All families, past and present, are invited to a free listing in the directory which will be featured on the Blackfriars website in 2013. A listing in the directory is complimentary; however, we invite you to support the school, by adding your business logo and an online link to your listing for the small fee of $100. We hope you will participate in the directory and consider offering community members a special offer or discount. Please register for Blacks Business Links by following the prompts on the Blackfriars website - www.bps.sa.edu.au. Alternatively you can email Rachel Elgar relgar@bps.sa.edu.au.

Old Scholar Database

We have made significant ground in updating the Blackfriars old scholar database over the past year. Not only has this increased the breadth of our old scholars network, but is of great assistance in the organisation of reunions. If you know of any old scholars not receiving The Optimist, it is likely that the school does not have their current contact details. Details can be updated via the school’s website www.bps.sa.edu.au or by contacting Jon Harmer in the Development Office jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

Reunions

Blackfriars is committed to assisting with reunions each year for 1, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 40 year graduates. Upcoming reunions are listed on the back page of this edition. Assistance from volunteers willing to help with organising reunions and locating former classmates is greatly appreciated. Contact can be made with the Development Office up to a year in advance.

Parents and Friends Welcome Drinks

The Parents and Friends held Welcome Drinks for the whole school community on Friday 8 February on a nice summer evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new members of the Blackfriars school community, a chance to learn about the role the Parents and Friends plays in the school and the many ways for parents to become involved. Thank you to all who attended on the evening and the parents who assisted in the running of the night.

Old Scholar Sporting Clubs

Blackfriars is proud to acknowledge the excellent efforts made by the now well established BOSA Soccer and Football Clubs (see pages 22 and 23). Water Polo is also represented with two Blackfriars old scholars teams playing as a part of the Vikings Water Polo Club in the SA Water Polo Association B Grade Division. Contact has also been made from old scholars interested in forming a BOSA cricket team. Any old scholars interested in participating in an old scholars sporting team please contact Jon Harmer jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.
Congratulations and thank you to the many old scholars, staff and students, who participated in the Diamond Jubilee 60th Anniversary Commemoration Day celebrations on the school’s front lawn on Monday 11 February.

When the concept of gathering 60 old scholars representing 60 years was first considered, our organising committee had no idea as to how profoundly powerful the image of six decades of students, of various ages, in a procession up the school’s driveway would be! As Brother Brendan rang the school bell for our procession to commence, two Year 1 students, Ethan Hines and Liam Luther, rode up the school’s driveway on bicycles, following in the “tracks” of 1953 students John Robbins and John Haimes on day 1, 10 February 1953.

The many students, staff, parents and friends of Blackfriars who were in attendance were inspired by the presence of our old scholars cohort, with great feedback from many quarters as to how wonderful it was to have all 60 years represented. Brother Brendan and Principal Mr Turner cut a huge birthday cake (generously donated by Muratti’s cakes, Prospect) and Mr Dean Hodby, who was in the first group of Prefects in 1957, spoke to those gathered of his memories of Blackfriars as it was 60 years ago.

The day was a wonderful vehicle to link the school’s past and present, with the absolute silence during parts of the ceremony reflective of the impact it had on our current students.

“...I was indeed proud to be recognised as an old scholar, and excited to observe the quality and demeanour of the present crop of students who will proudly carry with them into adulthood, that ‘special something’ that flows from the Dominican based educational system.” Mostyn Button (1953)

Once again, thank you very much to those who assisted in making this historic event the success it was. Hopefully we will see those present and others from the 60 years represented, at our Diamond Jubilee Ball on 9 November to be followed by Diamond Jubilee Community Birthday party, on the school’s front lawn the following day.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer
Representatives of Blackfriars' first five years reunite Michael Boyle (1953) Mostyn Button (1954), Barry Mouton (1955) Pat Edwards (1956) and Dean Hodby (1957)

MC Jon Harmer interviews Dean Hodby member of the inaugural group of Prefects

Three generations of the Hodby family, Shane Hodby (1986) and his father Dean Hodby (1957) with Dean’s grandsons Harry, Luke, Jack and Jake

Three Delaney brothers John, Michael and Tim Delaney representing 1967, 1972 and 1970

Three Beltons, Paul (’75) his son Matthew (’97) and brother John Belton (’85)

Brothers, Michael and Tom Wilson representing 1960 and 1964

Head Prefects (R-L) - Simon Calleja (’02) Tim Hann (’03) and Andrew Shepherd (’04) receive thank you gifts from a Year 6 student

MC Jon Harmer interviews Dean Hodby member of the inaugural group of Prefects

Tom Wilson in his original Prefects cap

Decade #2 (1963 - 1973) Prefects process up the “Mall” (L-R) John Delaney, Bill Ruth, Tim Delaney, Barry Jennings, Michael Delaney, John Balkwill, Michael Leibelt and Tom Wilson
Br Brendan (front centre) flanked by Head Prefect Jed McIntosh and Brian Turner, Principal, and joined by distinguished group of Blackfriars old scholars representing years from 1953 - 2013

Principal, Brian Turner looks on as Br Brendan symbolically starts the procession with the old school bell

Michael Leibelt ('73) Receiving communion from Br Brendan

Damian Byrne ('86) with his nephew Riley Krenske, Year 7

Darcy Dominic, Year 6 presenting gifts to Tom Oosterholt ('12) and Jed MacIntosh, Head Prefect 2013

Left: Michael Boyle representing 1953 is greeted by Br Brendan as the ten students representing the first decade make their way up the driveway

Br Brendan (front centre) flanked by Head Prefect Jed McIntosh and Brian Turner, Principal, and joined by distinguished group of Blackfriars old scholars representing years from 1953 - 2013
Welcome to the 2013 School Year!

We have welcomed many new students to the Blackfriars School community across all classes. In 2013 the Primary School has added an additional class, taking the number of classes to ten, and a current enrolment of 226 students. This will increase further with a mid year intake of Reception students.

In addition to our new families this year, we have welcomed the following staff members.

Miss Jessica Sullivan is working with the Year 1 students. Miss Vanessa Biedrzycki is working in a Year 4 class during Term 1 and Mrs Johanna West is working alongside Stephanie Oliver in the other Year 4 class. We have also welcomed back Cara Oosterbaan from leave. Cara is working alongside Tanya Hoendervanger in the Year 2 class and also working as part of the Learning Enrichment team.

Curriculum

In 2013 the Primary School will strengthen its Science program with classroom teachers planning and working alongside two of the Senior specialist Science teachers. A group of 20 Year 5 and Year 6 students are the first participants in the Soccer Excellence program developed in conjunction with Ernie Luongo from Dream Start Soccer Academies. The boys participate in a weekly one hour session, during the school day. The initiative is certainly very exciting for the boys and is proving fruitful to their skill development.

Learning Spaces

The Year 5 and 6 students were greeted with refurbished classrooms, including an indoor/outdoor learning space, new furnishings and wet areas. The classrooms are great spaces for learning and teaching with teachers, parents and students very excited and positive about the new spaces.

Mathematics Enrichment with the Mathematics Association of SA

A number of students from Years 4-5 were involved in a Mathematics Enrichment Program hosted by Blackfriars. The boys worked on a number of mathematical tasks to broaden and enhance their understanding of various mathematical concepts and skills.

Family Time Fun

On Wednesday evening, 20 February, a number of parents and staff enjoyed some time reflecting and actively learning about the value of play and its importance in enriching the wellbeing of families. Andrew Mickan from Family Time Fun facilitated the session and ensured a fun night was had by all and that each family returned home with many valuable games they can incorporate into the every day.

Open Evening

Open Evening was again a significant event for the Blackfriars community and showcased the varied curriculum offerings across the school, the many dimensions of school life and the wonderful facilities Blackfriars offers its families. It was great to meet so many new families and a pleasure to ‘tour’ the school alongside them. High interest in the Early Learning Centre was noted.

Parent Class Representatives

The Primary School has reprises the role of the ‘Parent Class Rep.’ The role of the ‘Parent Class Rep’ is to develop class, school and community spirit through initiatives such as coffee mornings, class dinners and the support of the Parents and Friends events. This initiative has the backing of the Parents and Friends Committee.

Primary Swimming Carnival

The Blackfriars Primary Swimming Carnival was held at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre on Friday 8 March. The students represented their House Team with excitement and determination and a very healthy dose of good sportsmanship. Cussen [White Team] was the winning team on the day. The event ran smoothly and was very well supported by the parent community.

Sports Day

The annual Sports Day was held on Friday 5 April. The students, staff and families enjoyed participating and supporting in glorious autumn sunshine.

We must congratulate Dowling (Blue Team) on their victory and Spence (Gold Team) for winning the Spirit Shield. All teams were ably lead by their House Captains and Vice Captains. Sports Day is a great example of the school community working together for the benefit of the student body. Thanks is warmly extended to the parents who volunteered their time to work on stalls, to those who baked sweets for the cake stall and to Mr Nick Cheary for his organisation, who along with the staff ensured the program ran smoothly throughout the day.

Young Leaders

The SAC [Student Action Council] members have been elected for 2013 and are meeting every fortnight to discuss a range of issues across the Primary School.

The Year 6 leaders attended a Young Leaders Day at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on Monday 18 March. The boys participated in interactive activities and listened to guest speakers about what it means to lead yourself and others in today’s world.

Project Compassion

The season of Lent challenges us to think about our relationship with God, ourselves and other people. The school, as it does annually, has been supporting Caritas Australia’s Lenten appeal, Project Compassion. All classes have supported the initiative, some with very creative ideas!! I would also like to thank the community for their continued support of those in need.

Harmony Day

On 20 –21 March, students from across the school celebrated Harmony Day, a Commonwealth Government initiative which aims to celebrate the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. These aims are reflected in our own diversity as a school, where students have been identified as originating from over 50 different cultural groups. The Primary School celebrated Harmony Day with various classroom activities and a shared lunch.

Mr Todd LaForgia

Deputy Principal – Head of Primary School
I have been asked a number of times about the role of the Wellbeing Team. Our aim is to provide a rich learning environment that is open, respectful, caring and safe, providing pastoral care for the students. Wellbeing is an outcome of learning and necessary for learning to be effective.

This ideal learning environment optimises wellbeing, making our school an exciting, stimulating and welcoming place.

To support the wellbeing of the students, we aim to build a mutually respectful community, one built on strong partnerships between, students, teachers, parents and caregivers. We are a community where we acknowledge the individual differences and provide opportunities for all students to learn and succeed.

As a team, we are determined to build these partnerships to providing the necessary opportunities for all students to be successful. We rely on your input, so we have a complete picture of our students and can continue to create the learning environment necessary for their success.

The Wellbeing Team consists of the Heads of House, the Counselling Team, the Student Activities Coordinator, the Student Wellbeing Coordinator and me.

Some of the events thus far have been:

The Swimming Carnival was a successful day on Friday of Term 1, Week 3. It was great to see the boys so enthusiastic and competitive. Well done to Aquinas House again on winning the event.

Congratulations to Quang Tran and Kyle Jacobsen for their efforts in setting new records in the Under 14 freestyle and Open Backstroke respectively.

We looked forward to the same enthusiasm across all Houses when they competed at Santos Stadium.

On Monday night of Term 1, Week 4 we held the R-9 Parent Information Evening. The night was a real success and I am sure parents left with a clearer picture of our structure, an understanding of what is to come for them and their son and most importantly the lines of communication were opened to help support the pastoral and teaching and learning process. We thank all parents who attended, especially on an evening where the heat was taking its toll!

Year 8 parents were informed of the Year 8 camp and preparation sessions at school conducted by the Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventure Company. All the boys were very excited about the Kangaroo Island Camp and it will be an experience they will not forget for some time.

The Secondary Athletics Carnival was held on 21 March, which also was Harmony Day.

Burke was the successful House (1263 points) in a close finish with Denifle (1117 points).

It was a great day full of fun, close competition and outstanding achievements. A few of the more notable efforts on the day came from Oleg Markov who set an Open Long Jump record of 6.80m. Oleg has been selected to represent Australia in High Jump in the Youth Games, we wish him all the best.

The Year 8 classes are back from their successful camps to Kangaroo Island. The staff and the students returned after a very rewarding time, weary but happy with their adventures.

The camps are a great opportunity to spend time away from the classroom and experience the great outdoors with friends and staff. Many of the activities were challenging, but the smiles on the faces of the boys and the obvious fun had completing these challenges, makes this camp one of the most memorable events of the boys’ schooling.

Mr John Lambert
Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Administration

Mr Turner and Captain of Burke House, Riley Trenerry with the Cup

Oleg Markov, Year 12
Athletics Carnival, Swimming Carnival and Year 8 Camp
Blackfriars played CBC in a three day test match at the end of last year. Blackfriars won this match outright to retain the Cricket Intercol Trophy.

The summer Intercol continued this term with Blackfriars playing CBC in Volleyball, Badminton and for the first time Water Polo.

Blackfriars travelled to CBC to play them in Open A Volleyball. Blackfriars won the first set but lost the second. The Blacks boys rallied and comfortably won the third to retain the Volleyball trophy with a 2-1 win. Blackfriars remains undefeated in this trophy contest.

For the first time the two schools competed for a trophy in the pool. Blackfriars Year 8 Water Polo team competed against CBC defeating them 10-4.

On the Saturday the Summer Intercol series concluded with the Open A Badminton team playing CBC. The Open A Team won the contest in a convincing manner with a 11-1 win. Blackfriars remains undefeated in this trophy contest.

Mr Leo Panzarino
Co-curricular Coordinator
Congratulations to the two groups of boys pictured on their selection to represent at the Australian National titles in their respective age groups.

Firstly congratulations to (L-R) Riley Kruger, Peter Burgess, Brayden Addison, Vincent Muneretto, Caelan Grooby, Jesse Taylor, Liam Rowland, Kurt Sostarko, Conor Rowland who represented the Adelaide Vikings Water Polo club at the 14 & Under National Club Championships at the State Aquatic Centre, Marion, in March.

Congratulations also to (L-R) Cameron Den Dekker (Year 11) Tristan Sangster (Year 12), Kyle Jacobson (Year 12) and Liam Kuchel (Year 12), and on their selection in the South Australia 18 & Under team that competed in the Australian Titles in Canberra in April. Well done to all of the above students. Selection to compete at the National level only comes with significant hard work and personal commitment. Well done boys!

Mr Jon Harmer
Water Polo Manager

The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Award

Congratulations to Carlo Armiento (Year 8) and Neven Blazeka (Year 7), pictured left, who were the recent recipients of The Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Award for their outstanding contribution to the Blackfriars Priory School Community. Well done boys!
Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Club was pleased to welcome back former player and assistant coach, Lee Swiderski (‘90), to take on the Head Coaching role for 2013 following two years under Dean Anderson who has shifted to Townsville. Lee’s influence has provided a fresh approach through preseason training with good numbers that have grown since commencing last November. We have been pleased to boost our playing stocks with the return of a number of old scholars who have contributed to our club with experiences away from BOSFC. Notably, Mark Demasi (‘96) joins his brother Andrew (‘00) who has returned following a knee reconstruction. Mark brings a wealth of experience having played many league SANFL games [with South Adelaide] and SAAFL games [with Goodwood Saints] including a Division 1 medal. Simon Dellamalva (’04) and Alex Rogers (’04) have also returned.

The A Grade leadership team is comprised of all past BPS scholars in Matt Brincat (‘06), Trav Hillman (’00) Luke Bortolotti (’07), Sam Horsell (’06), Jake Blunt (’07), Michael Iuliano (’06) and Alex Dellamalva (’06) who, along with Phouc Vo (’09), Matt Rivett, Dan McKenna, Nathan Vo (’05), Adrian Porcaro (’01) and Shaun Curtis (’04), have performed strongly. Added to this have been encouraging performances from A Grade newcomers Jaryd Thomas and Damien Kitschke. Unfortunately player quality and team effort to date has not been reflected in match results (1 win and 3 losses) but there is a steely resolve in the playing group to ‘lift their game’ and achieve the results that match their capability in this very competitive division.

A positive for the club has been the improved performance of the B Grade side, coached by Matt Rogerson (BPS Past Parent) and co-captained by Jon Martino (‘06) and Michael Clarke, that has gained from a number of players making a successful transition from school (BPS) to senior (BOSFC) footy. Great team wins have been achieved through the efforts of established BOSFC players including Michael Rogerson (’05), Simon Grgic (’11), Justin Majda, Andrew Constantinou (’08), Adam Bootes, Troy Hibbard (’95), Paul Nguyen, Warren Haines, Matt Sandford (’11) and Ben Hutton (’11), and newcomers Andrew Daziani (’02), Travis Hankel and Daniel Mattiazzo.

Andrew Demasi (’00) and Sam Horsell (’06) proudly wear their new BOSFC guernseys following their 100th games. Andrew Demasi (’00) soars to take a grab with Brad Hillman (’04) in support. BOSFC boasts probably the highest proportion, in the SAAFL, of past students on an old scholars active player list. The Blackfriars Foundation has supported the provision of new guernseys that more closely align us with the BPS First XVIII guernsey and supports the strengthening link between Blackfriars School and Old Scholars Football. We are committed to adding to the 2006 and 2007 premierships wearing this new guernsey and thank the school and community for their ongoing support.

David Horsell
Vice President BOSA Football Club
BOSA Soccer Club

Blackfriars Old Scholars Association Soccer Club (BOSA SC), founded in 1998 by a small group of old scholars, is a proud sporting and social club competing in the South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL) Saturday competitions. Among the founding members of the club were inaugural President Ralph Armiento (’88) and Dr Rob Sergi (’87); both of whom are proud Blackfriars old scholars and both inducted as Life Members of the club.

A number of significant old scholars have shaped the history of the club over the last 15 years, including the late Tony Moss who joined in 2005 and was inducted as the first Life Member in 2009.

Entering its 16th year in 2013, BOSA SC has grown from a two team club in 1998 to now having an average of 70+ registered players each year across three highly competitive teams - Saturday Premier As, Bs and Saturday Division 6. Having won the Saturday Division One Championship and SAASL Cup double in 2005, and crowned 2012 Saturday Division 6 Champions, BOSA SC prides itself on fielding highly competitive and respected sporting sides each season.

With our fantastic association with Blackfriars Priory School, we also have a strong focus on community integration and providing an avenue for old scholars to join the club. In recent years the club has had an influx of school leavers, with over 60% of all registered playing members of the club in 2013 being old scholars. Amongst those, are newly appointed Club Captain, Joe Tasovac (’00), Vice Captain Brodie Newberry, and fellow As squad members Paul Grasso (’00), Matthew Nowosielskyj (’07), Ross Hrisafinas (’08), Jason Abela (’07), James Charnstrom (’00), Ben Watt (’07) and Liam Moller (’07), all proud old scholars and long term members of the club. In addition, the club has also been able to register 2012 graduating students Marcus Nardone, Michele Rinaldi, Alex Barone, Joseph Calleja and Harry Fragoulis who are an integral part of the Saturday Division 6 side. Blackfriars employee Adam Manning was inducted as a club Life Member in 2012 and continues his role as Reserves Coach and maintains his strong relationship with Blackfriars by coaching players through the First XI school team.

On behalf of BOSASC I would like to pass on our appreciation of the impact that the old scholars have had on the overall functioning of BOSA SC on and off the field.

In addition to the quality old scholar players that have fortunately played for BOSA SC over the years, the club committee comprised mainly of Blackfriars old scholars have helped grow and promote the club off-field with the development of the Club’s website, (www.bosasc.com.au), an open Facebook page, email database and weekly newsletter, all of which help engage with the school community and promote BOSA SC to a wider audience. Each of these forums provides club members, families, friends and old scholars great information on the club, upcoming fixtures and results, and BOSA SC’s social calendar.

Located in Prospect and being fortunate to play home games on the Blackfriars back oval, the success of BOSA SC has been its ability to attract old scholars to play, which has increased in numbers each year thanks to the close connection with the school community and a strong focus on community integration. We are very proud to be associated with Blackfriars Priory School, and hope to continue this association for many more years to come.

The BOSA SC Committee has also been working hard in the off season to strengthen our sponsorship partnerships by securing a range of significant long-term major sponsors who will support the club this year and beyond. We welcome Get Wines Direct, RP Quality Floors, and local hotel The Archer, North Adelaide to the Blackfriars community. In addition, the club has been fortunate to continue its association with long term existing sponsors Star Safety, SJ Electric and Essential Dental. Also in 2013, BOSA SC have organised a number of fundraising functions and social activities for all our members and their families to enjoy, as a means to create club culture and we welcome any old scholars to come along. Please visit our website and sign up to our mailing list for further information: www.bosasc.com.au.

Bruno Giovannelli (’92)
President BOSA Soccer Club
On Monday 18 March the inaugural one year reunion took place at school in the Frassati Hall. With drinks and nibbles mixed with increasingly competitive games of table tennis and lawn bowls, last year’s graduates assembled together as old scholars for the first time. The night was very successful both socially and as a means of welcoming the class of 2012 to their life long link with the Blackfriars community as old scholars.

On Saturday 1 December 2012, the class of 2002 gathered at Blackfriars for drinks and nibbles and a tour of the school with Br Brendan to kick off the 10th anniversary reunion. The “boys” were surprised as to just how much the school has changed over the past decade. The group moved to the Wellington Hotel for a meal and a night of much reminiscing. Thank you to Messers Coad, Goldney, Tassone and Calleja, for their assistance with the event.
On Saturday 24 November 2012, the class of 1982 gathered at the home of Head Prefect (1982) David O’Loughlin for a celebration including dinner, drinks and a few tracks from the 80s by resident DJ, old scholar Anton Niemoller. A tour of the school early in the night proved a real hit, especially when Br Brendan surprised the group when he appeared from St Catharine’s as a guest tour guide! A great night was had by all. Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to David O’Loughlin and his wife Alison for hosting the gathering and their assistance in organising the event (along with their band of helpers!).

Chris Campbell (2003), Young Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Chris Campbell who was presented with the 2013 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award by the City of Prospect. Chris was recognised “for his work as co-founder, Director and journalist with Our World Today, a free and independent news service that empowers, educates and promotes inspiring and challenging stories that are often not portrayed in mainstream media. Chris has also started Homework Club with the Australian Refugee Association and volunteered with communities in Africa.”

Chris is pictured receiving his award from City of Prospect Lord Mayor David O’Loughlin (’82). Image courtesy of the City of Prospect.
Andrew Shepherd (’04)

Since graduating in 2004, Andrew has completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at the University of Adelaide. Throughout his time at university, he was particularly active in student politics – sitting on the Council of the University of Adelaide, the national Board of the Australian Medical Students Association and the State Council of the Australian Medical Association. He volunteered during his medical school holidays, undertaking elective work in hospitals in Tanzania and India. He completed his medical internship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 2012 and will continue his work there in 2013 as a surgical resident.

Andrew has also been actively involved in founding a charitable organisation ‘Dare 2 Dream Foundation’ which aims to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged children and adults in India and beyond.

Class of 1987 - 25 Year Reunion

On Sunday, 28 October 2012, Blackfriars old scholars from the class of 1987 took the opportunity to reunite on the school’s back oval and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their graduation.

Blessed with perfect weather the old scholars gathered with their families to catch up whilst also taking the opportunity to take a tour of the school. With Blackfriars own archivist Br Brendan joining the tour the day proved to be a great success with the “Old Boys” literally taking a trip down memory lane.

Particular thanks must go to Rolf Scharfbillig who was the driving force behind the day.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholar Liaison Officer

Image above courtesy of The Advertiser 20 October 2012.
Michael Furmanik (2001) and Amelia Lewis were married on 15 December 2012 at St Laurence’s Church, North Adelaide, followed by a reception at the The National Wine Centre, Adelaide. The couple honeymooned in Bali. Amelia is the daughter of old scholar Terry Lewis (1973).

Steve Parrish (’00) married his long term girlfriend Sarah McCallum at St Laurence’s Church in North Adelaide on 2 March 2013. After the wedding Steve and Sarah spent 10 days relaxing on Langkawi Island off the coast of Malaysia, and plan to head to Europe and the USA later in the year for an extended trip. Steve and Sarah met through mutual friends in 2003 and have been together for the last nine years. Since leaving Blackfriars Steve has completed a diploma in International Business at Adelaide TAFE and has been working in recruitment for the last nine years, currently he is the National Account Manager for Australia Personnel Global.

Weddings at Blackfriars

The Chapel of St Albert the Great at Blackfriars Priory School is available for weddings. For further information please contact Jon Harmer 8269 6333 or email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.
Reunions

Class of 1993 - 20 Year Reunion
Saturday 29 June 2013
Organiser: Andrew Klecko
Tour and drinks at Blackfriars, 5.30-6.30pm. Followed by dinner at The Wine Underground, 121 Pirie St, Adelaide at 7.15 pm. Partners are welcome. Please RSVP by Friday 31 May to Andrew via email: ahklecko@gmail.com.

Class of 1983 - 30 Year Reunion
Saturday 24 August 2013
Contact: Mark Valente (mvalente@stpatstech.sa.edu.au) or Michael Patrick (michael.patrick@transpac.com.au). More details to come.

Class of 1973 - 40 Year Reunion
Saturday 21 September 2013
Contact: Michael Liebelt (michael.liebelt@adelaide.edu.au) or Terry Lewis (terry.lewis@williambucks.com.au). More details to come.

Community Events

Annual Music Concert
Marryatville High School
Tuesday 27 August

Mass of Remembrance
St Albert the Great Chapel, 7.30pm
Thursday 7 November

60 Year Diamond Jubilee Ball
Adelaide Convention Centre
Saturday 9 November 2013

Blackfriars 60 Year Mass and Community Birthday
Blackfriars Front Oval, 11-5pm
Sunday 10 November 2013

End of Year Mass and Carols
Blackfriars Priory School, 6.30pm
Tuesday 26 November 2013

Please visit the School website for the latest information regarding upcoming events.
www.bps.sa.edu.au

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we have recently recorded the passing of the following Blackfriars old scholars.

Glenn Baker (‘58-’63)
Jonathon Wald (‘77)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.