WELCOME BACK
Welcome to the 2014 school year and especially our new students and their families. We are pleased to have you as part of our community. We believe that one thing that sets us apart is our friendliness. As I stressed on Orientation Day, when in doubt, please ask someone if you are not sure. I would like to welcome back Mr and Mrs King from their leave and travels to France. Mrs LP is still on leave for this term and Mrs Sarah O’Neill will be taking her place. We welcome Mrs Kristine Christian as Head of the English Department as well as Mrs Casey (nee Lawless) back in a different role as Science teacher. We were able to obtain 3 GAP students from the UK for this semester – Charlotte Short, George Neville and Paddy Watts.

COMMENCEMENT DAY SERVICE
The Commencement Day Service will be held Wednesday, 5 February 2014, here at school. Parents are most welcome. The Service will start at 9:00am near the Chapel.

HEAD OF COLLEGE FUNCTION
Dr Miller will be holding a function in the Kemmis Building on Friday, 7 February 2014 for new parents to the school to meet staff. Hopefully you have already received your invitation and we would appreciate a prompt RSVP.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
The P&F will be holding their first meeting for the year on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 at 5:45pm in the Science Block. New Parents are more than welcome (don’t be scared to attend as all executive positions have been filled). The Boarding P&F sub-committee will be holding their meeting on Saturday, 8 February 2014 at 11am.

FAST FACT
To study effectively at home it is vital to have a special place to do so. It must be:-

- Well lit
- Warm and ventilated
- Quiet, no loud music or TV
- Comfortable
- Away from distraction.

Thought: Little things make the difference. SJR

THE INDEPENDENT LEARNING CENTRE IS OPEN!
Call in and see Mrs O’Neill every MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY in the ILC (Room E10, opposite the Japanese Centre). Lunchtime appointments available.

3.20pm MONDAY HOMEWORK CENTRE:
Drop in session with Mrs O’Neill and Mr Jones (Maths).

Help available:
- PREP
- ASSIGNMENTS
- ASSESSMENTS
- ESSAY WRITING
- STUDY SKILLS
- EXAM PREPARATION

Other times by appointment, in consultation with class teachers.
Welcome to 2014! It only seems like yesterday that we were saying farewell for 2013 and here we are again…ready for another jam packed year at Saints’.

I trust that you and your family enjoyed a safe and holy Christmas as you celebrated the birth of our Saviour. It was wonderful for me to see so many of you in the Cathedral over Christmas. You will recall that we supported two Christmas programs in the second half of last year; Operation Christmas Child and the 2BS Bathurst Lions Club Christmas Miracle Appeal. Our efforts with Operation Christmas Child contributed to 314,000 gift-filled shoe boxes across Australia. That’s 314,000 children across Asia and the South Pacific who will learn about God’s love shown by you and many others.

Those who were at the Carols service would have seen the 4 shopping trolleys of food that we contributed to the Christmas Miracle Appeal. The contributions of our school community went well beyond food and cash with several school families pitching in with the packing and delivery of the hamper. Thank you to those families who were able to spare some time to help our local community. Thank you too to those who purchased gifts from the Tear Australia Useful Gifts shop run by our prefects at the end of Term 4. You help to raise $455 which will be used to help eradicate poverty in developing nations.

These projects and fund raising efforts are very important learning experiences for all as ASC seeks to live out part of its mission statement to nurture the principles of the Christian faith in our students, staff and families. I will be talking with the prefects and the Junior School SRC about what we can do this year to make a difference in others’ lives. Please feel free to offer suggestions that I can discuss with our student representatives.

Our summer had again been marked by bushfires around the country. You may recall that last year we supported the relief effort in Coonabarabran financially and by working with Blazeaid. Blazeaid are in the process of setting up work camps in NSW and I hope that we can arrange a trip or two in the holidays. I will let you know more about this as things develop.

We will be holding our annual Commencement Service next Wednesday at 9.00am in the grounds of the Chapel. This year is a special celebration as we celebrate 140 years of our College. Everyone is welcome to attend.

With all the blessings of Christ,

Rev. Tony Card.

Thought for the week: “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”  (Matthew 6:33, NRSV)