From The College Leadership Team

The A to Z of Christmas

A is for Angels, appearing so bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas night.
B is for Bethlehem, crowded and old, birthplace of Jesus by prophet foretold.
C is for Cattle, their manger His bed, there in the trough where He laid His head.
D is for David and His ancient throne promised forever to Jesus alone.
E is for East, where shone the bright star which Magi on camels followed afar.
F is for Frankincense, with myrrh and gold, brought by the Wise Men as Matthew has told.
G is for God, who from heaven above sent down to mankind the Son of His love.
H is for Herod, whose murderous scheme was told to Joseph in a nocturnal dream.
I is for Immanuel, "God with us," for Christ brought man back to the Father's house.
J is for Joseph so noble and just, obeying God's word with absolute trust.
K is for King, A true king He would be, coming in power and authority.
L is for Love that He brought down to earth God enfleshed in lowly birth.
M is for Mary, His mother so brave, counting God faithful and mighty to save.
N is for Night, when the Savior was born for nations of earth and people farborn.
O is for Omega, meaning 'the last'; He's eternal present, future and past.
P is for Prophets, when living on earth foretold His redemption and blessed birth.
Q is for Quickly, as shepherds who heard hastened to act on that heavenly word.
R is for Rejoice. The sorrow of sin is banished forever when Jesus comes in.
S is for Savior. To be this He came; the angel of God assigned Him His name.
T is for Tidings of joy, not of danger, telling of Him who was laid in a manger.
U is for Us, to whom Jesus was given to show us the way and take us to heaven.
V is for Virgin, foretold by the sage, God's revelation on prophecy's page.
W is for Wonderful. His works and His words, the King of all Kings, the Lord of all Lords.
X is for Christ. It's X in the Greek, Anointed, Messiah, mighty, yet meek.
Y is for Yes, called God's Yes in His Word; God's answer to all is Jesus the Lord.
Z is for Zeal as it burned in Christ's heart. Lord, by thy Spirit to us zeal impart.

This is our final newsletter for 2005 - where has the time gone! It has been a year full of blessings and we are indebted to so many members of the SBC community for these. Regrettably, we must say farewell to families and friends who are leaving us, and in particular I wish to acknowledge the staff who are finishing their time with us: Ms Kylie Di Santo, Ms Rachel McIlwaine, Ms Brooke O’Hara, Ms Anna McLoughlan and Mr Steven Catanzariti.

Each of these people have made a wonderful contribution to our College and we will miss them as they move to other schools to continue their ministry. We also offer our best wishes to Ms Belinda Pike who is to be married December 9 and to Ms Anne-Marie Healy who is expecting her first baby in the coming weeks.

We have also been preparing for 2006 in many ways. Firstly, the Student Council for the coming year have been selected after a very careful process of discernment. We are introducing a new model for the senior leadership, which sees Tom Caven as College Captain with three Vice Captains leading major areas of school life: Justin Nott [The Arts]; Luke Sheehan [Ministry] and Alex Jolley [Sport]. We congratulate these boys and the other wonderful young men who put themselves up for leadership and who will be serving in key roles next year.

The Ladies Auxiliary have also had their AGM where we saw two of the committee members retiring – Angela Caserta and Helen Marian. Both these ladies have made a huge contribution to SBC during their time here and we offer our heartiest thanks to them. We also welcome the new committee headed by President Vicki Yeoman.

In the coming days, we will be recognising the Academic achievement of the students with the Awards nights. The Clairvaux Night will include the VCE Dux and other prize winners.

In the sporting sphere, our students are still hard at it with John Rayner and David Ireland winning Gold medals at the State Championships; our 1st XI cricket team well placed in the State Final for school teams; and we have six volleyball teams contesting the national titles.

We pray you all have a restful Christmas and look forward to seeing all our students return safe and keen to go at 8.45am on Monday, January 30, 2006. Please check our website for updates, it will be operating right through the break.

On behalf of the Board, Leadership and Staff, we offer Christmas Blessings to all the families and friends of St Bernards!
Frank FitzGerald, John McKenna, Nick Sculby, Caroline Sheehan, Bruce Wallace, Brendan Douglas.

Please remember in your prayers:
Br. Keith Duckworth, who taught at St Bernard's in 1981.
Margaret Tobin, wife of the late Kevin Tobin, mother of past students Daniel '86 and Hugh '87 and stepmother of Geoff '59, Terry '60, John '66, and Mark '70.
Don Hudson, cricket umpire at SBC.
May they rest in peace.

Edmund Rice Network News

Recent articles on the Australian Catholic Bishops' Website: (www.aucb.catholic.org.au) includes
• A letter from the Bishops Conference to Singapore’s Prime Minister
• A statement on terrorism
• The Bishop's statement on RU486 and the recent public abortion debate
• The Bishops calls for changes to the Workplace legislation
• Their position paper on Climate change

And on the Edmund Rice Centre Website (www.erc.org.au) an article titled ‘Consumerism and the Silly Season’ is well worth reading. It opens….
‘It seems Australians now want and expect more. A recent survey by the Australia Institute found that nearly half of the richest 20% of households claimed they did not have enough money to buy everything they really needed (Hamilton 2003), despite enjoying the highest material living standards in history. This is less surprising when you consider just how much money is spent convincing us to consume.’

During a silent night in Bethlehem
A child was born
And only the poor noticed;
A little babe in swaddling clothes
Who held within himself the energy
That would forever alter perception
And make all things new

Lord, may this Christmas bring us all the time to
• sit and reflect and rest in your love for us
• help us to see beyond our personal and national defences
to the gentleness in all people and created things
• enable us to ease the burdens of one another and to
reflect on the love of a caring God.

Parent & Board News

Parents & Friends Auxiliary
The November Annual General Meeting elected the following parents for 2006:
Cathy Horne – President
Carmen Watson - Vice President
Clare O’Loughlin – Secretary
Angela Grasso – Treasurer
Frances Pellone - Advisory Board Representative

Congratulations to these ladies and thank you to Nick Scully for his diligent attendance at our 2005 meetings. May you all have a safe & happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in 2006.

Ladies & Friends Auxiliary
At the recent Ladies & Friends Auxiliary’s Annual General Meeting, the following ladies were elected for 2006:
Vicki Yeoman – President
Rosemary Fleming - Vice President
Lori Fusella – Treasurer
Josie Davoli – Assistant Treasurer
Anna Farfalla – Secretary
Luise Carbone – Minute Secretary

To all SBC families, on behalf of the 2005 & 2006 Ladies Auxiliary we wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and new year and thank you for your support over the past 12 months.

Ladies Auxiliary first meeting for 2006 will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 at 9.30am (note new time slot) in the Board Room.

New faces ALWAYS very welcomed. Please consider joining us and meeting our team of wonderful helpers, I can assure you – you won’t be disappointed. Any questions please call Vicki – President – 0403 502 662 or Anna – Secretary 9379 5059.

General News

Happy Christmas to All
Wishing you a memorable family gathering with lots of love and delicious food and the safest holiday.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your help, kindness and friendship, it is truly appreciated.

Sharon & Mandy
The Canteen Ladies

Athletics News
Congratulations to Johnny Rayner who represented Victoria at the recent Pacific School Games. Johnny competed in five events picking up one gold and two silver medals with his stand out performances in the 800 metres, where he ran a huge personal best, and the Triple Jump that earned him a silver medal and a new school record.

Congratulations also to all the boys who represented the College when they competed in the Victorian All Schools Athletic Championships at Olympic Park last month.

Good luck to David Ireland, Lachlan Rayner and Johnny Rayner as they head off to the National Athletic Championships in Sydney as this newsletter goes to print.

Finally, a reminder to all athletic squad members that training for ACC Athletics will start on Tuesday morning January 31, 2006 at Aberfeldie Athletic track at 6:50 am. This is the first Tuesday back at school.

College Dash - Thank you to all the students both past and present that took part in the last College Dash for the year which was held on the Year 6 Orientation Day on November 25. A field of thirty five contested the race and the huge crowd witnessed what many have claimed to be “The Dash of the Decade”. Congratulations to Hayden Kennedy and Alex Singleton who became new members of the Hall of Fame and to Mitchel Brown who again broke the Year 11 record and became the first competitor to go under 2 mins. 40 secs. for the course. (Results and a full report can be found on the college website.)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Dec</td>
<td>07:00p</td>
<td>Clairvaux Presentation Night</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Fri 16 Dec</td>
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<td>Term 4 Office Closes</td>
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<td>Wed 18 Jan</td>
<td>08:30a</td>
<td>College Office Opens</td>
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<td>Mon 23 Jan</td>
<td>08:30a</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Opens for 2006</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Tue 24 Jan</td>
<td>08:30a</td>
<td>Staff Inservice Day 1/3</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>10:00a</td>
<td>Academic &amp; General Prep</td>
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<td>Book Collection</td>
<td>Gym/Crt 1</td>
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<td>Wed 25 Jan</td>
<td>08:30a</td>
<td>Staff Inservice Day 2/3</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Fri 27 Jan</td>
<td>08:30a</td>
<td>Staff Inservice Day 3/3</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Mon 30 Jan</td>
<td>08:45a</td>
<td>All Students Start Classes</td>
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<td>Thu 02 Feb</td>
<td>07:00p</td>
<td>Year 7 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Thu 07 Feb</td>
<td>07:00p</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent Information Evening</td>
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<td>07:00p</td>
<td>Year 12 Retreat Information Night</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>07:30p</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>O'Brien Hall</td>
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<td>Wed 08 Feb</td>
<td>07:00p</td>
<td>Year 9 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Thu 09 Feb</td>
<td>07:30p</td>
<td>Years 10 &amp; 11 Parent Information Even.</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Mon 13 Feb</td>
<td>09:00a</td>
<td>Food Handling Training Session</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<td>Tue 14 Feb</td>
<td>06:00p</td>
<td>Board Building Committee</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<td>Wed 15 Feb</td>
<td>09:30a</td>
<td>Opening of School Year Mass: Student Council Investiture</td>
<td>Gym/Crt 1</td>
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