From The College Leadership Team

- Last term, we finished our newsletter with a request to contact MPs regarding funding of Catholic Schools. Since that time, we have received notice from the Brumby State Government that they will, in fact, be providing supplementary funding for this year to cover the pay increases. This funding is welcome and we thank the Government for responding to our requests for assistance. Looking to the future however, we will still be having difficulties meeting the cost of salaries. The current difference is $830 per student we had to find. It is expected that State Government’s contribution will be approximately $160 per student and the announcement by Minister Gillard will see Commonwealth funding increase by around $180 per student in 2009. This still leaves around $600 per student we will need to find in our budget, to meet the cost of salaries. If we do not cut programs or resources, we will have to seek an increase of this order via our fees.

- Term 4 begins with a welcome to some new members of staff – Mr David McLeod replaces Mr Greg Jorgensen [Long Service Leave] and Ms Sonya Brooke replaces Mr Mark Smith [Long Service Leave].

- There have been a number of incidents in the past week, where inappropriate matter has been posted on the Internet, without the knowledge or approval of the members of our school community, who have been portrayed. This is a serious breach of trust and we take these matters very seriously. Parents are requested to impress on students that everyone has a right to privacy and to their good name, so the taking of photographs, videos without approval and/or the posting of these or detailing other information about an individual, on the internet etc, is a very serious matter.

- We thank families for their support by ensuring that students wear their full uniform [including blazer] until Cup Week after which the summer uniform may be worn. Students coming to school in their sports uniform will need to be in their full tracksuit until Cup Week.

- Important coming events include:
  - October 17 at 9:30am in the Gym
    Final Assembly for Year 12’s and
    the Presentation of the Sports and Art Awards. Parents are welcome to join us.
  - October 29 at 12:30pm
    Annual Volunteers Lunch – where we say thank you to the many helpers who assist in the canteen, library, reading, uniform shop etc. We hope you can join us. The Volunteers lunch will be held on Wednesday, October 29 at 12:30pm in the Pavilion. RSVP October 22, 2008 to Sharon or Mandy on 9289 1136.

Edmund Rice News/Justice Issues

We welcomed Brothers Francis Otieno and Vincent Mallya from East Africa to St. Bernard’s last Wednesday. Br. Francis has been appointed Principal of Br. Beausang Catholic Centre for 2009 onwards and was very keen to come to St Bernard’s and thank both students and staff for our support of Br. Beausang school over the past 3 years. Br. Vincent works at Simon School in Arusha, Tanzania which is another school St Bernard’s has supported in the past. Both were very impressed with the facilities we have here and expressed their heartfelt thanks for all our efforts at a Strand Campus assembly. Of particular mention were those St Bernard’s families who have joined our Project Africa student sponsorship scheme as it is a fact that over 80% of the secondary school population at Br. Beausang is being sponsored in one form or another to be at school. If any new families are interested in being part of this scheme, just download and complete the appropriate form from our web site or contact the school.

We are pleased to be hosting the annual Edmund Rice Network Gathering this year at St Bernard’s on Saturday, October 18th. All members of the Network have been invited and as hosts we are keen to display our credentials as an authentic Edmund Rice school. Our next Newsletter will contain more detail about the event, which we hope will be a great success.

It is a year since Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) came into being and the following is part of a letter from the President of EREA, Br. Paul Oakley reflecting on the first 12 months of its existence......

"After a year of operation much has been put into place and of course there is still much to be done. Our thanks go to Dr Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director and the National and Regional Teams who have worked with schools to provide the support and planning needed to continue the development of the nationwide network. Mr Des Powell, Board Chair, and the Board members have not been daunted by the task of ensuring that we have all that is necessary in place for the proper operation of our schools and educational facilities and for that our thanks. During the year some difficult but necessary decisions have been made that affect the lives of some in our schools. While I regret the upset that these decisions, by their nature, have caused I believe that they have been handled in a considered and compassionate way by Wayne and the members of the executive, supported by members of the Board and Council. Because of the dedication and contribution of all in Edmund Rice Education Australia, I and the other members of Council believe that Edmund Rice Education Australia is fulfilling its purpose well in providing Catholic education in our schools and ensuring the continuation of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in school ministry as part of the Mission of the Church.”
Parent & Board News

Upgrade of Oval 2
You may have noticed that we have closed Oval 2 for renovations. As part of this process, we have sunk a bore and have found plenty of water. This will be stored in the new tank by the cricket nets and will enable us water both ovals and the rest of the grounds on a daily basis, if required. The new oval once levelled and reseeded with couch grass, is due for use early in Term 1, 2009.

Parents & Friends Association
The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 13, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Please note the Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Board Room. ALL WELCOME!!

Ladies & Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 9:30am in the Pavilion.

General News

Collection of VCE Certificates
All Year 12 students need to hand in, as soon as possible, their form indicating which option they are choosing to collect their VCE Certificates and Clairvaux Annuals in 2009.

Art Exhibition and Film Premier Night
Tuesday, October 14
The Visual Arts department and students of St Bernard’s extend an invitation to the parents, students and staff to the celebration the creative talents of the graduating Studio art, Visual Communication and Media students. Works of excellence from all levels will be represented. Awards will be presented for outstanding art works on the opening night.

The opening starts at 6:30pm finishing at 8:30pm in the Gallery (O’Brien Hall). Films will be screened from 7:30pm in the Auditorium. Refreshments provided. The Gallery will be open to the public from 3:00pm to 4:00pm Wednesday and Thursday.

Eddie Stojkovich, Visual Arts KLA Leader

2008 Italy Study Experience
16 students from Years 9, 10 & 11 spent the 3rd Term vacation in Italy, as part of our biennial arrangement with two sister schools in the Province of Bologna – Vergato & Porretta Terme. Highlights of the tour included:
  o Spending 6 nights with an Italian family and making new friendships.
  o Lunch at the Christian Brothers’ Residence in Rome.
  o Guided visit of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel Visit to Pompeii; Ferrari Museum, Maranello; Classical Music Concert in Venice; Guided tour of Verona, Milano & Bassano. Soccer match at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome between Roma & Reggina.

The 2008 Tour was definitely an unforgettable experience for our students and we thank the families for their support of this valuable Italian exchange program. We now look forward to the visit by our Italian friends in 2009. A special thanks must also go to the two accompanying teachers, Mr. Bruno Spiller & Mr. Michael Kellerman, who ensured that the boys were kept safe and happy.

Year 10 Excellence Award
Congratulations to Blake Damlitatis and James Fitzgerald who were awarded the Year 10 Excellence Award in the area of Academic and Extra Curricular.

Both Blake and James’ attention to detail are second to none. They are both high performing students in tests and exams. They are always willing to work ahead and contribute in class. Blake was also able to reach the finals in debating whilst James took part in a camp at Camp Tango in working with Burn Survivors.

Alison Roberts & Vittoria Alcorace, Year 10 Co-ordinators

B Grade Semi-finals in DAV Competition
Last Wednesday, our B Grade DAV debating team competed in the semi-finals against Wesley College at Ruyton Girls' School. Our team lost by two points in what was one of their best debates for the year. Congratulations to the team, comprising Anthony Lucente, Ricardo Cannizzaro, Aaron Bagnato and David Baldi, and to their coach Mrs Sullivan. Thanks too, to the staff who attended the debate to support the team.

Over twenty thousand students take part in DAV debating in Victoria each year and to have reached the semi-finals is a tremendous achievement. The team was terrific all year; we now look to success in 2009.

Thank you to all staff and parents who have been involved in debating in 2008.

Notice To Parents Of Current Years 10 & 11 Students
From Monday, November 24 to Wednesday, December 3, students who will be undertaking year 12 subjects (Units 3 & 4) in 2009 will be required to attend classes in all of their selected subjects. Attendance is compulsory.

Formal work in the Unit 3 curriculum will be introduced and developed and some subjects may introduce assessment tasks.

We hope this information will assist you in your planning for end of year family activities and/or for your sons’ holiday employment options.

Carol Iannazzo & Chris Knauf, Year 11 Co-ordinators

Careers Newsletter
Look out for this new supplement that will be attached to the fortnightly newsletter. See back of calendar dates.

Note that this will still appear on the SBC career’s web page. David Rosel, Careers Advisor on 9289 1159 or drosel@sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au

Please visit our website on a daily basis for important announcements on:

- Student Resources;
- Ministry;
- Coming Events;
- Sporting Results and Reports;
- Class Activities and;
- Performing Arts

which occur at St. Bernard's College
www.sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au