From The College Leadership Team

We have finally received details of the new salary arrangements for staff, following the EBA that will be implemented this year. As you can see from the graph above, the cost of salaries has suddenly outstripped Government funding by almost $830 per student. Unless additional funding is obtained (in particular from the State Government), we will have little choice but to increase fees – with this amount increasing as the gap between grants and salaries increases. We believe you as voters can influence Government to change their thinking on this matter. Recent results in WA and NSW shows that key issues do affect the outcome of elections. So we invite you to contact your local MP by phoning the electoral office, this is probably more effective than either a letter or email and impress upon them how they are lagging behind with their funding of Catholic Schools. Who knows - perhaps a 5 minute phone call could see you paying up to $830 less in school fees in 2009.

We have finished the Term with two “Super Wednesdays” that have included:
- A highly successful “CAGE” experience to heighten awareness of the plight of the homeless.
- Our Senior Soccer team missing out on being State Champions, as they lost the final in a penalty shoot out at Darebin Park
- Finally congratulations to Mr Steward, Ms Crawford and our wonderful singing groups SHOUT and SQUEAK for their exceptional performance at the ACC Concert on Wednesday night. Their rendition of Somebody to Love was a highlight of the concert, which featured the best of musical talent from all the ACC schools. Our singers were supported by an excellent instrumental backing group from our equally talented musicians.

Work continues on the new reception area and refurbishment of the Administration Block. We have been advised that if the current schedule is maintained, the project will be completed by the start of December this year.

All families are reminded that the College recommences on Monday, October 6, 2008. Students will still be required to 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.

Finally, may we wish you all a most relaxing and safe holiday period.

Frank Fitzgerald, John McKenna, Nick Scully, Caroline Sheehan, Bruce Wallace, Brendan Douglas

Please remember in your prayers
Patricia Sabato, grandmother of Michael 12B, Stephen 9G, Nathan 8C and Mark 7B Sabato
Mr Byrne, father of Tony Byrne, staff member
May They Rest In Peace

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”- Article One of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights…The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 60 this year.

The 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference is organized by the Department of Public Information in cooperation with the NGO community, this year with the assistance of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of France.

The capital city of France is also the place where the Declaration was adopted some 60 years ago. It is therefore fitting, that it was the host city for the premier NGO event of the year, at UNESCO’s Headquarters, attracting more than 2,000 NGO representatives from some 90 countries, including members of Edmund Rice International. The Conference took place 3-5 September. The aim of the Conference was to highlight effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to the advancement of human rights at the international, regional, national and local levels. How is this event connected to us?

Asylum seekers will now be permitted live in our community while their claims for asylum are assessed under sweeping new reforms of Australia’s immigration policy announced recently.

Top: The Cross Country team celebrate their 4th successive title at Bundoora Park
Below: Staff and students share the experience of the Homeless with a night in “The Cage”.
The announcement effectively ends the policy of mandatory detention (except for exceptional cases) that has been a long-running source of considerable controversy and which was seen to be a violation Australia’s international human rights obligations.

Whilst welcoming the move, the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre Phil Glendenning, pointed out that "This is unfinished business. Australia still has a responsibility to those people it has damaged through this policy, whether they are still on these shores or still running for their lives in other countries”.

The decision provides hope and encouragement to all those engaged in advocacy for a better and more just world and demonstrates that with patience and persistence it is possible to bring about change.

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

Ladies & Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 9:30am in the Pavilion.

General News

Re-enrolments for 2009 are now closed. A late fee of $20 now applies. Would you please return your re-enrolment form ASAP, otherwise we are unable to guarantee a position for your son in 2009.

More Computers at SBC
Through the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund administered by the Federal Government, St Bernard’s is able to access a significant number of new computers for use by students in Years 9-12 commencing in 2009. At present, we are working on a strategic plan that will facilitate the deployment and implementation of those computers. We are inviting all parents and members of the St Bernard’s community to have input into the development of that strategic plan. We are looking for some input about a vision for ICT use over the next 5 years in the area of “Learning and Teaching”, “Infrastructure”, “Leadership”, “Learning Spaces”. What would you like to see happening in any of these areas?

We would ask that you utilise the Queries? Problems? Suggestions? Contact the Webmaster section of the school website (at the bottom of the opening page). Please indicate that it is a comment about the ICT@SBC Strategic Plan. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

Chris Mullins – Gold Winner at the Paralympics
Chris Mullins ’05 was part of a world record performance by the Australian team for gold in the 4x100m T35-38 relay.

To view the video clip, click on the link below and then click on the heading "Relay win delivers Sullivan record 10th gold”.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/?search=paralympics

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 3:00 to 4:00 pm Wednesday and Thursday.

Eddie Stojkovich, Visual Arts KLA Leader

Athletics News
In preparation for next year’s ACC Athletics, training will begin in early Term 4. For those keen athletes who want to make an early start, Essendon Athletic Club are running a “Come and Try” morning on the last Sunday of the holidays. Athletes will be able to try all events and there will be a BBQ for all who attend, and their parents, at the end of the session.

Details: Sunday, October 5 from 10:00am at Aberfeldie athletic track.

G. Brown

Can You Help?
Do you have some time to spare during normal school hours?

The Student Services department on The Strand is looking for parents to assist with the Making A Difference (M.A.D.) reading Program. Parents assisting in the Program normally work one on one with a Year 7 or 8 student for one period a week. Parents from any year level are welcome and will be trained regarding delivery of the program. The time you spend here will count towards your parent participation hours.

We already have in place the most wonderful team of M.A.D. mums, so if you would like to be a part of this team and you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Dianne Winbanks on 9289 1080.

Annual Volunteers Luncheon on October 29, 2008 – See next newsletter for details

Jesus Christ Superstar Cast and Crew Reunion Night
All students involved in the Jesus Christ Superstar experience are invited to our cast and crew reunion being held in the St Bernard’s College Board Room on Friday, October 10 from 4.30pm until 7:00pm.

We will be screening the DVD of the production after awarding the highly anticipated prize to the cast member who sold the highest volume of tickets to the show! Please bring $5 to contribute to a pizza dinner. See you there!!

RSVP and further enquiries to Ms Bradmore on 9289 1000

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

www.sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au