From The College Leadership Team
The College community was greatly saddened to hear of the death of staff member Colin Chapman over the recent break. Colin had been at SBC for many years where he had provided great support in the AV Department. Over the past 12 months, Colin was diagnosed with cancer. Please remember his wife Jan and the Chapman family at this sad time for them.

Accompanying this edition of SBC NEWS is a letter outlining the future leadership at the College.

The past few weeks have seen various groups in the College involved in a range of ministry activities – John McKenna, Brett Huxtable, Caroline Sheehan, Peter Hogan and Frank FitzGerald in Kenya; Lauren Bignall, Amy Crawford and Bren Douglas along with 12 of our senior students at WYD 2008. In all cases, our SBC representatives were able to both serve others but also receive great blessings from those they were working with.

We welcome to the College staff: Tom O’Connor, Helen Roberts and [welcome back] Ken Smith. We trust their time with us is a happy one.

On Monday of this week, staff were involved in a PD activity that reflected on the challenge of operating as an Edmund Rice school. The day began with an address from the Executive Director of EREA, Dr Wayne Tinsey. It is timely to make mention of an important opportunity for all in our community to reflect on the work of Edmund Rice in places such as Kenya. Daire Keogh, a renowned Irish historian will speak on this issue, at a forum to be held in the College Auditorium at 3:30pm on Tuesday, August 19. All welcome.

We are only days away from the opening of “JC Superstar”. The cast have been working hard to ensure that this production will easily match the high standards we have come to know with St Bernard’s/St Columba’s productions. Do yourself a favour and book your tickets early to avoid the disappointment of missing out on a seat. (Order form included with SBC News)

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

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues
Africa Immersion Group:
Over the school holiday period, the first organised St. Bernard’s Immersion Group, eleven people in all, travelled to Br Beausang Catholic Centre in Nairobi to work with the local students and families in support of the Christian Brothers there. The group comprised present staff, old boys, fathers of old boys, a nurse and relatives of Br. Collins. Daily work at the school and clinic combined with home visits of those being sponsored by Project Africa were the tasks that made sure the time there was used well. The group managed to interview every student being sponsored, 232 in all. New reports to each sponsor will be mailed once these reports have been collated and printed.

The following letter from one of the members of the group explains the experience......

“ I together with my son Andrew Brown (2006) have recently returned from 14 days at Embul bul (Kenya). During our time there we spent many hours working with the children and also improving the grounds around the bungalow. We were also fortunate to participate in a number of home visitations to many of our sponsored children. The parents, guardians and the children we were in contact with, are extremely grateful to the sponsorship that our school community has provided them. St. Bernard’s College community sponsors 235 children from the 390 currently enrolled at Br. Beausang College and without this sponsorship the school would cease to exist. Most importantly many of the students without the sponsorship enabling them to attend the school would be living on the streets with little hope for the future. The work at the school by Br. Laurie Collins; teachers and staff is an inspiration and has left an indelible mark on the whole group that made the trip.

Our group of eleven people from different walks of life enjoyed the immersion experience immensely. We were all able to participate in various activities involving the primary and secondary schools.

I could not speak more highly of this wonderful experience and would certainly encourage any person who has an interest in this project to take the challenge and visit Kenya.

Regards, Stephen Brown.”

Please remember in your prayers
Don Smith paternal great grandfather of Zaron Smith 9C, Layten Smith 8B and grandfather of Ashley Smith 8B. Aunt of Thomas 9G and Joseph Kelly 7D.
Joan Schultze grandmother of Nicholas 10D and Christopher Schultz 05

May They Rest in Peace

Parent & Board News
Parents & Friends Association
The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Ladies & Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 9:30am in the Pavilion.

General News
Well World Youth Day has come and gone and I’m sure no-one really realised what an enormous event it was for the youth of the church and in particular the ten boys and two staff from St. Bernard’s who made the trip.

Patrick Litewka, Elliot Skidmore, James Cavallo, Riccardo Cannizzaro, Daminh Bui, Alastair Kefford, Mark Kelly, Jacob Deniese, Ryan Sinnott and Matthew Lew (all Year 11 students), accompanied and mentored by Miss Amy Crawford and Miss Lauren Bicknell, were the lucky crew who ventured to Sydney as a part of a group of other Edmund Rice schools from Victoria.

In all, approximately 100 students and staff from all our schools stayed at St. Patrick’s Strathfield, which lies about fifteen minutes out of Sydney by train.

From day one the trip was full of drama. After 13 exhausting hours on the bus, the group arrived at St. Pat’s tired and ready for bed only, to find that their luggage had not arrived and so they had to sleep on the floor of a classroom without their sleeping, bags, a change of clothes or anything. Not a great start by any measure as the weather in Sydney was particularly cold at night.
World Youth Day News (continued)... Spirits remained high though and the group arose the next day a little stiff but happy to see that their luggage finally did arrive, for most boys. A couple of poor souls had to wait even longer.

So began a daily routine of catechism, lunch, afternoon activity, dinner and some kind of youth festival in the evening that would never see a dull moment for the week.

The opening mass, Eddie Rice get together at Christian Brothers High School Lewisham, the arrival of the Pope at Barangaroo, the Stations of the Cross, the walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Randwick where 405,000 people slept outside overnight, before mass with the Pope on Sunday morning, were the major events the group took part in.

Every day meant at least ten kilometres walking through the streets of Sydney, with large crowds of people from all over the world. The atmosphere was electric with singing, chanting, smiling and generally good will wherever we went. It was quite fascinating to witness the spirit of God alive in the young people from all parts of the world.

As you can imagine, the trip was exhausting for all. The behaviour of the boys was outstanding, a true credit to our school, and was commented on by all who came across them.

As for Miss Crawford and Miss Bicknell, well they were magnificent. They gave those boys a great gift through their willingness to organise and attend such an event. Their preparation of the boys was thorough and in the most trying of circumstances they kept a smile on their face and were always there for our boys.

It was fantastic to go as a cohort from Eddie Rice schools. The students and staff mixed well, worked harmoniously and showed that while we may have passionate battles on the sporting field, we have a lot in common off it.

A big thank you also needs to go to the Amberley Retreat team, who accompanied the group as well as helped in the organisation. Mr Anthony Chapman from St. Joseph’s Geelong, Miss Bernadette Hogan from St. Patrick’s Ballarat and Mr. Bill Jennings from Parade College, did a marvellous job taking the lead in the facilitation for the group as a whole.

Subject Selection at St Bernard’s involves some input about the structure of a course of study and students are encouraged to gather as much information as possible before making their decision. This could include looking at future career options with Mr Rosel and discussing progress in a subject with their teacher and discussing choices with parents and investigating the possibility of doing VCAL or VET or accelerating. Finally, subject selection is completed on line via the school website. Students will receive confirmation of course of study for 2009 in November.

Subject selection for Year 10 students going into Year 11, 2009 will commence with a student information session on the morning of Monday, July 28. The parent information session is at 7:30pm on Tuesday, July 29 in the Auditorium. Information will be available on the school website from Friday, July 25.

Subject selection for Year 9 students going into Year 10, 2009 will commence with a student information session on the morning of Monday, August 11. The parent information session is at 7:30pm on Tuesday, August 12 in the Auditorium. Information will be available on the school website from Friday, August 1.

Subject selection for Year 11 students going into Year 12, 2009 must attend a student information session on the morning of Wednesday, August 6. Information will be available on the school website from Friday, August 1.

Ms Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

Foundation - The first Foundation function for 2008 was be "Dinner with the Danimers" in the College Sports Pavilion on Tuesday, August 5 from 6:30pm. Guest speakers will be Terry, Neale and Anthony, along with 2007 student Darcy, who played his first game with Essendon this year. SEN's Tony Schibeci will compare the evening. If you like to support this function please contact Michael Perrett, at the College email mpperrett@sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au or by telephone on 9289 1106.

Work Experience Report - The great bulk of Year 10s have just completed work experience for the year. Again, it has been a wonderful performance by this year level. They have worked across a wide range of industries and represented the College very well.


Careers - Open Days - Another reminder about the upcoming university and TAFE open days. See www.vtac.edu.au for a list of dates.

Students have again been notified of the importance of attendance and are reminded to access ‘Open Day’ questions from student resources or alternatively, pick up a hard-copy from the careers room – before they attend!

It is vital to plan the day. Either download session details from the relevant tertiary website, or pick up Open Day booklets from the careers room.

David Rosel, Careers Advisor on 9289 1159 or drosel@sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au

Music News - This week we celebrate the start of our new Junior Band at SBC. 35 keen musicians from the Semester 1 class and honours band program have elected to continue adding to their 6 months of musical experience. We congratulate these boys and look forward to the realisation of their efforts through performance in the months to come. It is important to mention that our Bands Program is not restricted merely to students who learn woodwind, brass or percussion instruments at school. Any student with the appropriate expertise and interest is welcome to participate in a band. All ensembles are gearing-up for a big Spring Concert scheduled for October 21 in the College Auditorium.

Our vocalist in ‘Shout’ and ‘Squeak’ are working towards their contribution to the ACC Music Spectacular – Hamer Hall, Wednesday, September 17. This event aims to showcase the best musical talents of ACC Colleges. It is fantastic that we aim for a largely vocal-based performance to represent our College at this event. Details on this event will be published as they come to hand.

Reminder on music lessons: Parents are reminded that to cease private music lessons at the College, written notification needs to be addressed directly to the Director of Music with one term's notice. Late cancellation may be accepted up to 4 weeks prior to the end of any given term.

Mr C Puglisi, Director of Music

ACC Athletics Presentation Night - Just a reminder to all squad members and their parents that the ACC Athletics Presentation Night will be held in the College Pavilion this Wednesday night, July 30. The night commences at 7:30pm and will be followed by drinks and supper. For catering purposes please email your reply to me at the College. It would be great to have the entire squad and their parents present and I hope to see you on the night.

Gerard Brown

For Sale - 2 pairs of Columbia Gortex hiking boots sizes 10½ and 12. Only ever worn at Santa Monica. Paid $220 will sell for $70 each pair, please contact the Uniform Shop on 9289 1176.

Please visit our website on a daily basis for important announcements; student resources; event calendar and reports/photos on the many interesting activities, which occur at St. Bernard’s College www.sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au