From The College Leadership Team

The final weeks of term are always a busy time, with senior students preparing for assessment and other activities winding up, including debating and ACC term 3 sport. In the former, we congratulate those teams who have made it to the finals and in particular to David Baldi who was awarded the Swannie Award for best speaker in the competition. We also commend the many teams in Term 3 finals of basketball, badminton and hockey. Congratulations to those who have won premierships in the past week including Senior Hockey, Year 10 Hockey [4th year in a row for this group], Year 10 Table Tennis, Year 7 Division 2 Basketball, Year 8 Division 2 Hockey, Year 7 Division A & B Hockey.

During the week, we hosted the 60th Jubilee of the Ladies and Friends Auxiliary at our annual Mothers of Old Boys Luncheon. At the luncheon were representatives of many of the committees, who have done such a wonderful job supporting the College over so many years. A very enjoyable time was had by all the mothers of our old boys.

The ACC is presenting ‘ACCent on Music’, a musical showcase involving the music programs of 13 ACC Schools. The Concert will be held at Hamer Hall, The Victorian Arts Centre on Wednesday, September 17 starting 7:00pm. St Bernard’s College will be represented by our two Vocal Groups, Shout! and Squeak! They will join forces to form a 50 piece vocal group with backing musicians. Our Guitar Ensemble will also provide entertainment in the foyer before the concert. We would love a large audience in support of our students. Tickets may be ordered via the order form on the College website under the downloads link.

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

Please remember in your prayers

- Angela Prinzi, great grandmother of Matthew 11B and
- Daniel BF Mostavac

May She Rest in Peace

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues

Nowhere to run from Nature:

Last week our media outlets were reporting the advent of another cyclone hitting New Orleans and devastating floods in Bangladesh. Norman Myers, a world renowned British environmentalist and authority on biodiversity, forecast more than a decade ago that as the impact of climate change intensified, the number of people fleeing natural disasters could climb to at least 50 million by 2010. Now, as the world grapples with food shortages brought on in part by climate change, he is revising his figures upwards. IRIN News, May 23, 2008

UN states conflicts and hardships are creating more and more refugees

‘The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, warns extreme poverty, climate change and civil strife are generating more refugees around the world. He says the growing number of refugees and migrants is leading to more intolerance and xenophobia.’ Voice of America, May 21, 2008

Many members of the Edmund Rice Network are working with refugees, here in Australia, including our own city of Melbourne and of course in other countries around the world such as the Sudan or in Kenya. Our own students are supporting this work by helping out at the St. Albans centre or supporting the work of the Brothers in Africa. But what is our own personal view about refugees, particularly if they were to impact on our own lifestyle and job opportunities? Perhaps the following prayer helps us determine what it should be....

An African Prayer for Refugees:

O Brother Jesus, who as a child was carried into exile, remember all those who are deprived of their home or country, who groan under the burden of anguish and sorrow, enduring the burning heat of the sun, the freezing cold of the sea, or the humid heat of the forest, searching for a place of refuge. Cause these storms to cease, O Christ. Move the hearts of those in power that they may respect the men and women whom you have created in your image; that the grief of refugees may be turned to joy, as when you led Moses and your people out of captivity.

Parent & Board News

‘Selection of a new Principal for SBC’ Process

At the last Board meeting a representative of EREA explained the process that would be used to select the new principal. This would include looking at all submissions forwarded to Kevin.buckely@erea.edu.au, as well as having 2 current Board members on the selection panel. The position is currently being advertised and we are hopeful of an announcement being made early in Term 4.

Closure of St Joseph’s Melbourne

After a number of years of declining enrolment, the decision has been made for St Joseph’s College Melbourne to cease operation, in present form, at the end of the 2010 school year. EREA have indicated that it will look at an alternative Edmund Rice ministry operating in the inner city area after that time. Our College certainly understands the difficulty experienced by families who were involved with St Josephs and we will spend time at our next Board meeting exploring how we can increase places at SBC to provide options for these families.

Top Left: The 150 team completing the last lap of the 12 hour relay. Top Right: Our Senior Hockey team celebrate their ACC premiership after a great season. Bottom: The Cake and Past Presidents enjoying the Mothers of Old Boys Luncheon celebrating the Ladies & Friends Auxiliary 60th Anniversary.
General News
The Strand parents are reminded that classes for Term 3 finish on Thursday, September 18 at 12:40pm (Thursday week) and then Parent Teacher interviews begin. Students will be receiving booking sheets for these interviews in this coming week.

There are no classes for The Strand students on Friday, September 19, as these Parent Teacher interviews continue on that day.

School resumes for all students on Monday, October 6

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.

Music News
Several fantastic events are pending, keeping the staff and students of the Music Department busy.

Thursday, September 11 - Semester 2 Soiree in the Auditorium 7:30pm. The Soiree is a short, informal performance of solo and small group items presented in an intimate setting. It is a great performance practice opportunity for students to engage an audience on this level. This is a free concert and all are welcome.

Wednesday September 17 – ACCent on Music concert at Hamer Hall 7:00pm. The members of our vocal ensembles Shout! And Squeak! will join forces with a backing band to represent SBC at this performance showcasing musical items from 13 ACC schools. Tickets for this event ($10 each) can be ordered via the SBC Music Department. Order forms available from the college website. Orders must be placed by Monday, September 15, 2008.

Friday September 19 – Heart Extreme Gala Dinner
We congratulate vocalist Matthew Barrasso (Year 10) for being chosen by this charity organisation to perform a duet with Silvie Paladino. Matthew is in the running to win $10,000 towards our Project Africa campaign. We wish him well in this fantastic opportunity. Other celebrities on the bill include Debra Byrne and Wendy Stapleton. Further information on this event can be found at www.theheartextreme.com

Vin Tuck Trophy - The annual St Bernard's College Public Speaking Award, the Vin Tuck Trophy, is on September 9 in the Auditorium at 7:30pm.

The competition is open to all students. Entry Forms are available from Mrs Sullivan (The Strand students), and Mrs McGee (Clairvaux students).

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.

T.A.R.A (Teenage Aggression: Responding Assertively) Programme - A six week support group for parents whose child is aggressive/violent at home. It starts on Tuesday, October 14, from 10:00am – 12:30pm. This is a free programme run by Berry Street. For enquiries please contact: 9458 5788 or email: matters@berrystreet.org.au

2009 January Tour of Northern Italy - Mr. Bruno Spiller is organising a winter tour of northern Italy (Trentino / Veneto / Lombardia Regions) during January 2009 – departs January 1, 2009 and returns January 26, 2009. Includes some skiing and sightseeing. 8 people required. For further information, please contact Mr. Spiller at the College on 9289 1000.

2008 Victorian Interschools Snowsports’ Championships - Five students competed recently in the Victorian Interschools Snow Sports’ Championships at Mt. Buller. This is the largest Snow Sports’ Championships in the southern hemisphere, with over 5,000 competitors competing in Primary and Secondary divisions. All results are published on the website.

Congratulations to the boys on their efforts and enthusiasm and a special thank-you to Mr. Paul Lamb, who acted as Team Manager, as well as the other families, who supported the Race Program.

Bruno Spiller, Snow Sports’ Team Manager

2008 Performing Arts Competition For Students Of Italian - A group of Year 12 students from the Italian Class represented the College recently, in the annual Italian Performing Arts Competition. Having won the Competition in 2007, it was always going to be difficult to repeat the success. The boys presented a wonderful performance entitled La Famiglia Menzognera (The Family of Liars). They had to incorporate the catch phrase: Non ci credo!! (I don't believe it!!)

Congratulations to Stefan Fabbian; David Di Spiro; Daniel Sgro; Andrew Gurrisi; Anthony Lo Castro; Adrian Crispo; Michael Bagnato; for their efforts. A big thanks also to the supporters who came along to cheer on the boys.

Maribyrong 150 2008 - In a year when a great deal has been written about the youth of the world descending on Australia for World Youth Day, it was the youth of Essendon that was on show two weeks ago and they passed with flying colours.

Congratulations and thank you to all those students who participated in this year’s charity run. It was the twenty seventh running of the 150 charity event and the sixth in the new format along the Maribyrong River Trail. This year, I could not fault the attitude and commitment of the team. Their behaviour, from the time they arrived at 3:15am on Friday morning, until the time they left, tired and leg weary, at close to 5:00pm, was exemplary.

Thank you to all our sponsors, especially Mario Muscara and his parent company Jota, who was our major sponsor this year. Thank you also to the coaching staff of St Columba’s, Terry Reade, Melissa Cook and Vesna Grant, for all your help and of course to Michael McIntyre for your tireless work with the cross country squad.

Finally, thank you to the parents for your support of both the College and your children. We could not do it without you. To the Year 12 representatives, in particular Mitchell MacKenzie and Amy Brown, who this year were inducted into the Hall of Fame, thank you for your contribution and your leadership. We look forward to you dropping into the Essendon Rowing Club in years to come, to continue your association with this great event. Note: Sponsorship money for the event is due by the last week of term.

2008 Under 15 Dick Reynolds Squad for the Calder Cannons - Five St Bernard’s College boys were recently selected to participate in initial try outs for the 2008 Under 15 Dick Reynolds Squad for the Calder Cannons Football Club. They are from Year 9 - Liam Spurr, Jordan Judica and Riley Giacomini and from Year 10 Harry Overman and Thomas Swallow.

They were selected after talent scouts viewed their school and weekend matches. They will undertake professional training sessions and play games against Western Jets and Northern Knights.

Glazier Apprentice Required - Local employer looking for a glazier apprentice. If interested, call Nicole Arrowsmith on 9338 1281.