From The Principal

St Bernard’s was established in 1940 and governed by the Christian Brothers until the formation of Edmund Rice Education Australia in late 2007. Since the transition to EREA St Bernard’s, along with the other forty EREA schools in Australia, has been working to finalise the model of governance and determine the working relationship between EREA and the College Board. We are now in a position to call for expressions of interest from interested parents or friends of the College who feel they could contribute to the operation of the College Board or subcommittees of the Board.

The St Bernard’s College Board meets monthly throughout the year and is the governing body of the College at school level. It is charged with overseeing the strategic direction of the College. There are two subcommittees of the Board that assist in this task: the Finance Committee which oversees and provides input to the financial position of the College and the Building Committee which provides direction in the master planning of the College campuses. We have two vacant positions on the Board and each of the subcommittees.

I encourage you to consider whether you have expertise that could assist the operation of these important bodies. An application form is available on the College website and should be submitted by Friday November 27. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information.

Involvement at Board level is only one way of contributing to the success of the College. Last week we recognised the great contribution of our volunteers at the annual Volunteers Dinner, a small way of saying thank you to the many parents who make such a contribution to St Bernard’s. Volunteers recognised included Board members, sports, music and canteen assistants and members of the Ladies Auxiliary and Parents and Friends committees. Thanks to Sharon Grass and Mandy Curtain for coordinating this dinner.

The annual mass for the repose of the souls of deceased Old Collegians was held last weekend. Thanks to Dennis Hobson for preparing the Mass and to Pauline Zammitt, Judd Vella, Maureen Kavanagh, Michael Perrett and Cameron Evans for assisting. This Mass is a quite remarkable institution having been conducted by Father Gerard Dowling each year since its inception in 1961. It was wonderful to have Father Gerard back again at his “alma mater” to celebrate Mass with over 150 attendees.

The College Production 2010

The performing arts is an area of the College that has grown incredibly in the last decade with the major achievement each year being the annual musical produced in conjunction with St Columbas. It is acknowledged that the arts unlock our imagination and stir us to pause, think, and take stock of the world in which we live. They encourage us to sense truths and meanings that can perhaps be grasped in no other way. The musical is not only an opportunity to celebrate Mass with over 150 attendees.

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:

Some quotable quotes........

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”
- Dom Helder Camara

“(The Church) cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice...The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation “in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good.”
- Benedict XVI, “Deus Caritas Est”

The challenge presented by the Pope to young people during World Youth Day: “What will you leave to the next generation? What difference will you make? ” However, it is also noted that this challenge is directed not just to young people but to all people of faith and to all Australians.

Here at St. Bernards, letters have just gone out to supporters of ‘Project Kenya’ asking for a re –commitment for 2010 to sponsor a child from the slums to attend school. There are just over 100 people from the St. Bernards community involved in this vital work. Many thanks again to all involved in the program at the moment. If any other families or individuals are interested in joining the scheme, please contact either Bruce Wallace (bwallace@sbc.vic.edu.au) or John McKenna (jmcenna@sbc.vic.edu.au). Our sponsored school in Nairobi owes its ongoing existence to our continued support.

General News

Important Note

Advance notice for parents of Strand students, that Friday November 27 is the Year 7, 2010 Orientation Day so no classes for present Strand students on that day. All Strand students finish classes for the year on Friday, December 4 at 12pm and buses will depart soon after.

John McKenna, Strand Campus Director
Activities that were vast outside. As leaders, providing leadership is a part of our job. The core reason behind the conduct the program is to develop students into leaders. One of the activities we participated in was a ‘Backyard Blitz’. A family caring for 7 children had neither the money nor time to look after their beloved garden, their grass mistaken for small trees when we arrived. We did our best in the one-hour we had and managed to finish the lawn and recover half of the backyard. Before we left, the “grassed in” family was now outside and their children were playing soccer on their front lawn, laughing and smiling. The family were so grateful for our work; we wished that we had more time.

Recognising VCE Academic Excellence

Our Top Performers night will be on the December 14 at 7:30pm in the Pavillon. At that time we will recognise all 2009 VCE students who received a eNTER score of 90+. This places them in the top 10% of the state and we recognise this as a significant achievement. We will also present plaques to the ‘Top Ten’ academic performers of the 2009 graduating class. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter the presentation of academic awards to VCE students including subject awards and Dux will be made at a whole school Academic Assembly on the morning of Wednesday February 10, 2010.

SBC RECIPE BOOK for sale

(ALL PROCEEDS go to Br. Beausang Catholic Education Centre in Nairobi, Kenya

The book contains over 220 traditional family recipes and would make a great Christmas gift for any loved one. The cost is $20 per book and they are available from our school offices. Please support those children who only receive one meal a day (provided by the school).

St Patrick’s, Ballarat Leadership Visit

‘Can we change a world that is resistant to change?’ - Yes we can, but it isn’t going to be a ‘quick fix’...

In August this year St. Patrick’s Students visited St.Bernard’s and experienced our school and ministry activities. On October 26 and 27 six Year 10 St Bernard’s students reciprocated and visited a leadership program at St. Patrick’s College, Ballarat. Two wonderful program leaders from Amberley (Marysia and Adam) came out to conduct the program. The core reason behind the program is to develop students into leaders, providing opportunities and experiences in the world we live in. As students sometimes we are oblivious to what really happens outside our front door. During the two-day excursion we had activities that were vast and challenging, consisting of participating in some of our buddies’ classes and digging a little into St.Pat’s history. We had separate activities designed for us to open up and discuss issues and to understand a little more about the core of a true leader.

Calculators

Please be aware that in 2010 all year 10 students will be required to have the TI-Nspire (CAS) calculator for their mathematics subjects.

St Vincent de Paul Primary School

Christmas Fair

St Vincent De Paul Primary School will be holding their Christmas Fair on Friday 27 November from 3.30pm to 8.30pm on the school grounds at Woodland Street, Strathmore. As you would expect, the fair will feature stalls, carnival rides, a great selection of food and non-stop live entertainment. Vasilii from Vasilii’s Garden will also be on hand from 4.30pm to 5pm giving free advice on all things plants.

We stayed the night with our buddies’ family then the next morning had another small discussion on present day issues, in particular refugees. This was followed by a closing reflection as we said goodbye to our new friends, bringing to an end an inspirational excursion.

Anthony Gagliano 10F.

Congratulations!

Jake Loveroso of 11D was selected to participate in the in the Victorian Mens Gymnastic team. During term 3 holidays, Jake travelled to Brisbane to compete in the Nationals and won a gold medal in Vault, fourth place in Rings and fourth place in Pommel, in level 7 in Australia. Congratulations Jake!!

ACC Swimming Training

Training for the 2010 ACC Carnival has commenced at St Bernard’s Pool. Sundays 6:15 – 7:45pm Tuesdays 6:30 – 8am Thursdays 6:30 – 8am Breakfast is supplied at school after training on school days. Training will continue on Sundays until 20th December and in the mornings until Thursday 17th December. All squad members should attend on Sundays and notify Mrs Iannazzo if their personal training prevents any morning sessions’ attendance. Grade 6 students enrolled at St Bernard’s for 2010 are welcome to attend Sunday training. (Please note this is not a Learn-to Swim squad. It is for interschool competition training) whilst students already at St Bernard’s are more than welcome to join the squad. For further information, contact Carol Iannazzo 92891124 or Bernadette Kirkwood 92891043.

Carol Iannazzo, ACC Swim Team Manager

Book Drive

A huge thankyou to all those students, staff and parents who brought in and purchased books in the recent book drive. This exercise allowed us to buy over 70 new books for the schools in the Philippines and Student Council are now working on ways in which we can send these new books to them.

Student Council