From The Principal

Dear members of the St Bernard’s community,

This week our community has been challenged to respond to the bushfire tragedy that has unfolded in so much of Victoria. We have conveyed our condolences and prayed for individuals and communities affected by this most cruel and indiscriminate of natural disasters. The student leaders of the College are working with staff to develop a co-ordinated response to assist communities and contribute to the bushfire appeal. Students will bring home information in coming days about the ways in which the St. Bernard’s community plan to respond.

We have a major and ongoing commitment to communities in need in Africa where your generosity has made a difference to the lives of so many people. The current crisis provides an opportunity closer to home to demonstrate our generosity and our responsibility to “do unto others”.

Part of the challenge of the Gospels is to support those in need. For us, this challenge is reinforced by our tradition as an Edmund Rice school. With the season of Lent commencing with Ash Wednesday on February 25, we are all challenged to find ways of spiritual renewal. Service to others is one such way, and in the current circumstances seems an appropriate and much needed response.

We might reflect on Matthew’s Gospel:

Matthew 25, 34:40
"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"

Last Wednesday, we celebrated the commencement of the school year with our opening mass. We were pleased to welcome Fr Tony Kerrin, to the College, to lead this liturgy. The liturgy was also an opportunity to formally invest the College Leaders who were congratulated and presented with their blazers embroidered with the insignias indicating their leadership status. I would like to recognize the efforts and expertise of all involved in the liturgy including Brendan Douglas and Dennis Hobson and the choral support of Amy Crawford, Siobhan Loukmitis and Anna Walker as well as Jeff Mifsud, DavidSelva, Adrian Muscara and Bronwyn Glenly and the grounds staff Judd, George and Paul for their help in setting up the Gymnasium.

This week, the Year 11 Retreat program commenced at Amberley. Reports are that it was a worthwhile day of reflection and activity. Thank you to Brendan Douglas, Emma Robertson, Vittoria Alcorace, Shaun Lancashire and all the Year 11 Home Room teachers for their work in running this program.

Congratulations to the staff involved in conducting parent information nights during the last two weeks. These evenings provided an opportunity to be informed and to open the lines of communication between school and home. I thank all parents who were able to attend and encourage those who were not, to access pertinent information via the website and/or by contacting your son’s teachers.

In the coming week, all year seven students will be involved in their annual camp at Mount Eliza. I wish them well for this camp and hope that it is an opportunity to form great relationships with classmates and teachers that will support them throughout the next six years.

We ask your prayerful support for the St Bernard’s families affected by the bush fires. In particular, the Webb Family with the loss of Lesleigh Webb ’75, brother of William ’76 and uncle of Liam 12D and Seamus 8E and the Quinn family, Nick’s 9C whose aunt is still missing at Marysville.

We also ask that you remember Catholic Educational communities of St Monica’s Epping, Genazzano College Kew, Mt Lilydale College, Catholic Ladies College Eltham, Catholic College Bendigo and Assumption College Kilmore, where we are aware that students, staff and families have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Please remember in your prayers
Vincent Torpy, father of staff member Kate Torpy who passed away after a long illness... May He Rest In Peace

EDMUND RICE NETWORK NEWS / JUSTICE ISSUES:

The Edmund Rice Justice Bulletin is a regular bulletin of news, information and invitation to action on current issues of social justice for members of the Edmund Rice Network. The latest bulletin is available for viewing at www.erjbullentin.blogspot.com and it contains items on the following:-

Extreme weather a reminder of climate change concerns:

Whilst it is not possible to link single extreme weather events such as those that led to the current bushfires in Australia, it can be argued that such events fit a pattern and can be seen as a further reminder of the urgent need to address climate change.

President Obama and the addressing of Human Rights Abuses: The so-called "war on terror" has led to an erosion of a whole host of human rights. States are resorting to practices, which have long been prohibited by international law, and have sought to justify them in the name of national security.
Support for ban on Cluster Munitions grows: Cluster bombs have killed and injured thousands of civilians during the last 40 years and continue to do so today. They cause widespread harm on impact and yet remain dangerous, killing and injuring civilians long after a conflict has ended.

Economic Crisis a chance ‘to build another world’: As the 2009 World Social Forum opened in Belém, Brazil, co-founder and Catholic activist, Chico Whitaker, told a forum on liberation and theology that the global economic crisis was also an opportunity “to build another world”.

Project Africa:
Many thanks to those parents who have joined the scheme recently to sponsor a child in Christian Brother schools in Africa. For about $1 a day, you are making a huge difference to a very needy child there. For any others who are interested in finding out more, please visit our website and open the link to Project Africa or contact John McKenna via the school email for a form. As the old saying goes... “To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world.”

Parent & Board News
Parents and Friends Association
The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Ladies and Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

Men’s Association Activities
Come along dads of students from Years 7–9 and enjoy the fun of the annual Father and Son Games night on Tuesday, February 24 beginning at 6.30pm at the Pavilion.

Essendon Train Station
Year 7 parents are asked to note and all other parents are reminded that Essendon station in the afternoon is out of bounds to all students between 3:00pm and 4:30pm. Our buses transport students to the Glenbervie station, to Moonee Ponds Junction or to Shamrock Street, to cater for tram and train travellers. No St. Bernard’s student should be at Essendon station during those times.

Parents of Students with Medical Conditions
It is now the College’s policy that parents of students who have a medical condition and expect the College to manage their sons’ condition at the school, are to notify the school and have a Medical Action Plan completed by their Doctor annually. The medical conditions may include: Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis due to an allergic response and any other condition that may require the school to administer an action plan that reduces injury occurring to your son or need the college to contact an ambulance.

Please contact your son’s respective Year Level Coordinator to ensure a Medical Action Plan form is sent to you and that your son’s medical condition is documented in the College database. For any further detail please contact John Samanna on 9289 1112.

Fee Note:
A discount of 3% off the fee charge is applicable if this account is settled in full by February 25, 2009. 

- HOLDERS of current (i.e. January 28, 2009)
- Healthcare/ Pensioner Cards
- EMA applications forms must be lodged at the College by February 27, 2009.
- EMA eligible families will receive a further 10% of the fee charge

AHERSA Captains’ Conference 2009
What happens when 32 young, astute leaders gather in one place in the name of the selfless Edmund Rice and the dedication of his fellow Christian Brothers? You play African drums, sing Coldplay, and show this continent’s easterners which code of football is best of course! But to tell you this would be an injustice itself given the camp was on about a whole lot more, about how the essence of our faith can have powers beyond our realisation.

On Thursday afternoon I left Melbourne bound for the far away town of Mulgoa, near Penrith, at the Christian Brothers conference centre known as ‘Winbourne’. I left going into the unknown in more ways than one, as I brought with me the experience of St Bernard’s, to answer the question and to ponder the theme of the days away - ‘How is social justice alive at your school?’

The work being done in the schools near and afar is a welcome reminder of how we are doing justice as a college and wider community. Hearing the speeches generated many ideas, which hopefully can provide inspiration for this year’s council to think creatively and to bring in new ideas and concepts.

There were many highlights, which included a talk from Wallaby great Captain John Eales. There was also a confronting talk by a homeless woman, and a walk at night through the red light district of Kings Cross.

I found the 4 days, from January 22-25, planned by Br Paul Conn, Mr Brian Garrone, Mr Bob White and Br Bill Wilding to be an enriching experience on a personal level, and something I hope I can bring to our school in 2009. Many thanks must go to these men for organising an unforgettable weekend of networking, informing and friendship building.

Now as a College community we can continue to grow and flourish with the knowledge that we have the tremendous capacity to do great things by doing the simple things.

Let us as a College live 2009 with the words of Nelson Mandela ringing in our ears - “Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation”

Report by Anthony Laughton

Congratulations to:
- Andreas Florez for achieving a VCE Top Score for LOTE study of Japanese – Units 3 & 4
- Simon Lalor for being selected to represent the College in the Top Class Music Performance – VCE Season of Excellence 2009
- Brendon Angleton who in 2008 attended Northland Design Studies Program, in order to gain entrance into subsequent tertiary design related courses, has successfully completed the program. The College is happy to announce that Brendon has gained entry into the University of Ballarat Vis Arts

Testing
During the first few weeks of term students in Year 7 and Year 10 will complete a comprehension test that provides important data for staff that supports their work with your son. Students will do this in an English class. This data will be available for discussion with your son’s English teacher at parent/teacher interviews at the end of first term.

Ms Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

VCAST
Thirty nine Year 11 and 12 students have hit the ground running. They are hard at work (literally!) at school learning literacy, numeracy and personal development, out in the work force working alongside electricians, plumbers, carpenters, builders, retail managers etc and also attending TAFE studying their career choice. These gentlemen are certainly proving that they have what it takes to learn and do!

David Bernard, VCAST Coordinator
Curriculum and SBC Website
The SBC website has a lot of resources related to Teaching and Learning. Publications to download will lead to key Curriculum documents such as the Acceleration policy. Work assignments in the quick links will allow you to see what assessment tasks are happening in each class. Student resources has copies of assessment tasks, criteria sheets and other learning resources related to class activities and students should make use of this for extra copies of information and other support materials. Subject information (currently the 2008 version) is available on quick links.

Information about each of our programs is available under the Curriculum banner heading. Please become familiar with different parts of the website and take some time to peruse the resources on the school website related to Curriculum.

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

After School English
English staff will be available every Monday (with the exception of next Monday, February 16) in the Year 11 Corridor, Room 643 at 3:00pm for English tuition.

All Claurvaux students are encouraged to attend at least three sessions, particularly as assessments draw nearer.

Parents will be notified by letter, if a student’s English teacher recommends that a student would particularly benefit from some individual assistance.

Mrs C McGee, Claurvaux English Coordinator.

Year 12 Uniform
Parents, please be aware that sport uniform is not to be worn by Year 12 students on any day.

The only exceptions are for
1. students who are competing in ACC Sports on Wednesdays, which for Term 1 are Cricket, Tennis and Volleyball
2. students who have a double lesson of PE, which will occur on Thursday or Friday in the fortnightly cycle. PE students know which is the correct day.

Sport uniform is not to be worn by students who have training for ACC Sports before or after school on any given day of the week.

Students wearing the incorrect uniform may be sent home to change.

Carol Iannazzo / Chris Knauf, Year 12 Co-ordinators

Auditions for 2009 Musical
Following the success of Jesus Christ Superstar last year, in 2009, St Columba’s College will be hosting the annual musical, Sound Of Music. Open auditions will be held at St Bernard’s on Tuesday, February 24 at 4:00pm–6:00pm (prior to the Father Son Games Night).

Boys wishing to audition MUST see Ms Bradmore or Mr Steward to sign an expression of interest form and to collect the necessary information pack.

Music News:
We welcome new students to the college and encourage as many as possible to get involved in our comprehensive music program. Application forms for private music lessons are available from the Music Department or downloadable from the college website.

Instrumental Music Students are advised of Bands and Ensembles that start rehearsing from Monday February 9:

Mondays: Big Band 3:10pm - 4:30pm
Tuesdays: Intermediate Concert Band 7:30pm - 8:30am
Guitar Ensemble 3:10pm - 4:10pm
Wednesdays: Instrumental Study Vocal Group 8:00am - 8:30am
Thursdays: Senior Concert Band 7:30am - 8:30am
Shout 3:10pm - 4:10pm
Junior Jazz Ensemble 3:10pm - 4:10pm
Fridays: Stage Band 7:30am - 8:30am

Ensemble membership lists are posted on the Music Department notice boards, opposite Mr Puglisi’s office. All music students are advised to check the lists. All guitar students not allocated a band are strongly encouraged to attend Guitar Ensemble on Tuesday afternoons.

Music Theory and Music Homework Help: Sessions are held very Tuesday after school. Students may choose to prepare for and undertake official theory exams or may simply aim to improve their results in elective music classes.

"Wanted for 2009, Sports First Aid Trainers for St Bernard’s Old Collegians Football Club"
Even if you do not have a background in sports training, we can put you through the appropriate course and have you work in with other trainers at the club. We are in great need as we’re fielding extra teams and have fewer trainers on deck.

Any questions or queries please call Ian Wheeler on mobile 0408 943 357.

ACC Athletics
Training continues each Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Aberfeldie athletic track.

The coaches have been overwhelmed by the response from the Year 7 boys but we still need to get more seniors to training. It was great to welcome back 2003 Athletic Captain Adrian Mott, who will again be assisting Ed Stoijkovich with the sprints and relays, as he did in 2005. Adrian has had great success with his athletics, winning the Stawell Gift in 2006. It is great to see old boys of the College willing to give something back to St Bernard’s.

Speaking of old boys, Hayden Kennedy has also joined the coaching team this year and we welcome him on board.

Note: Throwing training, at lunchtimes, will start next week so throwers watch the daily bulletin for times and days.

Mr Gerard Brown

World Education Program Australia Limited
Learn all about student exchange, WEP Australia and the 2009/2010 exchange programs available at one of WEP’s FREE information sessions in Melbourne.

17 February, 10 March at 7.30pm-9.30pm
Kingston Arts Centre, 979 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin 3189

31 March, 16 June at 7.30pm-9.30pm
Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122

Students can choose from over 20 countries to live and study with the support of a host family, school and community. WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments. For more information please contact Judith Ortmann on 9598 4733.

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 the College

www.sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au