From The Principal

Dear members of the St Bernard’s community,

Last Wednesday, we held our Academic Assembly. It was a significant occasion and an opportunity for us to celebrate the academic high achievers of 2008. As part of the occasion, we welcomed back to the College, the 2008 College Captain and Dux, David Ireland.

David detailed his journey at St Bernard’s from being a moderate achiever, who lacked confidence, to a focussed, diligent student, College Dux and powerful orator. It is difficult to conceive of a better exemplar for the students in the audience. David acknowledged the significant role of teachers and his parents, in supporting his studies and his ambition.

On this occasion, it was also significant to hear from College Board Chair, Mr Peter Hogan who clearly articulated the intention of the College to encourage and promote academic excellence at St Bernard’s. Peter thanked staff for their hard work and exhorted the students to make the most of their opportunities at St Bernard’s.

In addressing the students, I reminded them that it is no accident the first word in the College motto is “discere”. It means, “to learn” and is the first word when you look at the College crest. Learning is the core business of schools and excellence in learning is what we came together to promote and celebrate.

Teachers in the official party wore formal academic dress representing all College staff. This was symbolic of our commitment to assisting students achieve academic excellence.

The award winners were acknowledged as an example of what is possible, when students work hard and maximise their talents. All students were challenged to set their sights on emulating the award winners of whom we are so proud.

Welcome to the staff, Mrs Michelle Puglisi who will provide administrative assistance, in the music department and Ms Sharon Francis, who will commence this week as the laboratory technician on the Clairvaux campus.

We extend our prayerful sympathy to Mr Dennis Hobson, on the death of his mother, Mrs Margaret Hobson.

I would like to remind all parents of the importance of students compling with the uniform requirements of the College. This is particularly important as they travel to and from school. With Term two rapidly approaching, it is also timely to ensure that blazers and ties are purchased, clean and ready to wear.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:

Project Compassion, the annual drive during the season of Lent to help the needy is run by Caritas Australia. Caritas Australia is the Catholic agency for international aid and development. Its web site has this description: We are....

- a Catholic agency that does not discriminate on who we work with;
- committed to delivering aid and development in a highly efficient manner;
- member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest development agencies in the world (a confederation of 162 Catholic agencies around the world);
- focused on sustainability by always working with local partners;
- we recognise the structural nature of poverty and the need to challenge these structures;
- It recently launched ‘Caritas on YouTube’

Caritas’ Project Compassion began last week with a focus on aid for the poor and the role women play in developing countries like Uganda. As it was International Women’s Day last Sunday, March 8 we honour all women, especially in developing countries, with this prayer.

We honour the women of all times and all places:

- Women of courage
- Women of hope
- Women suffering
- Women mourning
- Women living fully
- Women experiencing joy
- Women delighting in life
- Women knowing the interconnectedness of the human family.
- Women honoring the sacredness of the relational, the affective.
- Women quietly tending the garden of human flourishing.
- Women boldly leading the transformation of unjust global structures.
- Women seeking Wisdom.
- Women sharing Wisdom.
- Women receiving Love.
- Women giving Love.
- Women: life-giving.
- Women: the image of God.

Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love. On this day, we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere. We know that whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is not of God. Help us to be faithful to your call to love. Amen

Parent & Board News

Parents and Friends Association meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Ladies and Friends Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

General News

Academic Assembly

Congratulations to 2008 year level Dux students who were presented to the whole school Assembly on March 6. They were each presented with an engraved pen to mark the occasion and an Academic Gold Honour Pocket. The students were:

- Year 7: Michael Katiforis;
- Year 8: Xavier De Bruijn;
- Year 9: Bernard Kelly;
- Year 10: Christopher Keryk;
- Year 11: David Baldi and College Dux: David Ireland.

David also spoke about his experiences as a St Bernard’s boy and more recently his achievements in attaining dux. David’s closing exhortation to us all encouraged us to do our very best, “...my message to you [is to] enjoy yourself, but at the same time, do yourself proud. This school presents you with the opportunity to do so, so make the most of it. If you want it, it’s up to you.”

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

Top: 2008 Year Level Dux Students with Tony Paatsch, Principal. Below: the Executive Team with the Board Chair, Peter Hogan.

Please remember in your prayers
Teresa Tarallo, grandmother of Nathan Olsson 9A May She Rest in Peace
The Strand
Advance notice is given to The Strand parents that Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday, April 1 (last day of classes for Term 1). This is now less than three weeks away. Booking sheets will be given to all Strand students in the week leading up to April 1 and interviews will be held in the College Gymnasium between 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Classes finish for the Term on that day at 12:40pm.

Enrolment Nights for Year 7 in 2011
Application meetings will be held for New Families on Tuesday, APRIL 21, 2009 and for Families with Current Students on Wednesday, APRIL 29, 2009 in the College Auditorium at 7:30pm

Bushfire Message Book
St. Bernard's is pleased to support the bushfire message book, an initiative proposed by the Federal Government in which members of our community can write a letter of support to those who have lost so much in the recent fire tragedy.

Parents, staff and students are invited to write a message of support, sign their name or even include a short piece of poetry that shows your support of those who have suffered so much.

The message book will be available to be signed at the College front office and College Library from March 9 through to March 23, 2009. Many thanks to Ms. Anne-Marie Healy and Mr. John Samanna for their assistance with this.

If you wish to see the Message from the Prime Minister regarding the Bushfire Message Book, please go to our website: www.sbc.vic.edu.au

St. Bernard’s College Hall of Fame
All Old Collegians, partners and friends of the College, are cordially invited to attend the launch of the St. Bernard’s College Hall of Fame. This event will take the form of a cocktail party and will be held at 89th floor Observation Deck of Eureka Tower Southbank on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 7:00pm. Cost will be $75 per head.

Bookings may be made by contacting Michael Perrett, at the College, by mail, or on 9289 1106, Fax 9337 1741 or mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au

Year 12 Study Hall has begun and it is great to see that so many boys are taking advantage of the extra study hours at school. All year 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend study hall. The boys who have attended so far have been given study tips and hints, also advice on the best way to make use of their time.

It is not too late to attend in Term 1 and students are encouraged to speak with either myself or Mr Luke Stewart if interested.

Ms Bernadette Kirkwood

The Science Association is a new student initiative that aims to promote Science within the school community, with involvement from students, student council members, and College staff. Activities will be run by the Association on a regular basis and will begin with an egg drop challenge for The Strand Students on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. The association would also like to highlight events occurring in the community and opportunities for students such as those listed below. Keep an eye out for more Science events!

Evolution - The Festival
2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. It is also the 150th anniversary of the publication of The Origin of Species, which sparked an intellectual, social and spiritual revolution. Australia will celebrate and reflect on Darwin's ongoing impact with public events including exhibitions, films, forums, tours, dinners, lectures, debates and church services. See the website for details http://evolutionaustralia.org.au/ (search for events in Victoria)

Youth ANZAAS Expressions Of Interest
Youth ANZAAS is a residential 5 day National conference for 50 science students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from Australian and New Zealand schools. Youth ANZAAS 2009 will be held in Melbourne from Sunday, July 5 to Friday, July 10, 2009. For further details see http://www.anzaas.org.au/youth.html, or email expressions of interest at youth_anzaas_interest@anzaas.org.au and you will be put on the mailing list to receive more information.

Biofutures is a week long residential forum for students in Year 11 and 12 in Australia and NZ held annually in Brisbane during July. BioFutures allows students to explore cutting edge technologies and apply these technologies to National and global challenges. For more information, see www.ausbiotech.org/biofutures, or contact ABSA.QLD@ausbiotech.org

Season Of Excellence
St Bernard’s celebrates the stellar performance of two graduating visual Arts Students.

For the first time, two St Bernard's students were selected to exhibit at the Top Designs and Top Arts exhibitions in this year’s season of excellence. Andrew Hruszowski’s photographs were selected for Top Arts. This comes on top of his 50 study score for Studio Art. Luke Grbac's Design Folio was selected for Top Designs. Luke was the dux award winner for Visual Communication and Design.

Both these students were shortlisted from over 3000 works with an approximate final 60 works exhibited. It is wonderful to see their talent and hard work recognised outside the St Bernard's community. You can see examples of their work in the 2009 edition of the Clairvaux Annual and on our web site.

Top Arts will be showing at the National Gallery Victoria, Federation Square from Wednesday, March 25 to Sunday, June 14. Top Designs will be showing at the Melbourne Museum Carlton from Saturday, March 21 to Sunday, July 12, 2009.

Mr Eddie Stojkovich, Visual Arts KLA Leader

Music News:
We are pleased to announce a further expansion of our ensembles program at the College, with the start of the Barbershop Quartet ‘Shazam!’ and the SBC Percussion Ensemble. Both these groups are exclusive in nature and offer some significant performance opportunities for our advanced vocalists and percussionists. We look forward to their performances in the future.

St Bernard’s College will be represented by 30 students from the vocal ensembles of ‘Squeak’, ‘Shout!’ and ‘Shazam!’ at the up-coming ACC Vocal Workshop day at St. Bede’s College on March 16. Many thanks to staff members, Luke Steward and Amy Crawford who have helped build and consolidate our vocal program as one of the best amongst ACC schools.

The Music Soiree on May 7 is an opportunity for any student in the College with musical ability to perform in the Auditorium, in front of a small and supportive audience of parents and families. Students interested in performing individually or in an established small group may register their interest with Mr Puglisi at anytime up until April 24, 2009.

Private Music Lessons:
Parents with sons enrolled in private music lessons are advised that cancelling lessons can only be done with written confirmation by a parent/guardian. This notification must be received with one full term’s notice. For example, at the beginning of Term 1 to become effective from the end of Term 1. Late notification can be accepted up to 4 weeks prior to the end of any given term.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Canteen Volunteers
A big thank you to all our volunteers for helping out in the first month and remind every one that they need to attend every day their group is rostered on. If you are unavailable, could you please ring Manny or Sharon before 9:30am on 9289 1136.

PLEASE NOTE there are still vacancies on Thursdays if any one can assist.

Sharon Grass, Canteen