**From The Principal**

As we reach the end of Term Three one of the significant areas of focus is working with the Year 12 group as they end their time at the College. I’d like to wish the VCAL students well with this Friday being their final day of formal classes as they prepare to either enter the work force by commencing apprenticeships or access further training. The VCAL students will rejoin the VCE students for the formal end of year celebrations.

For those Year 12 students studying for their VCE I hope that they will finish the year well and make the most of the staff who are available to them both during formal scheduled times and after class. A rigorous study regime over the next six weeks can really make a difference and it is important that celebrations of the end of school don’t impact on this. The time to celebrate is when the exams are over.

The completion of 13 years of formal schooling is certainly an achievement worthy of celebration. Senior staff met this week with all families to ensure that the Year 12 boys are fully supported as they plan an appropriate finale to their time as a student at St Bernard’s.

The gospel from last Sunday provides an interesting perspective on the role of St Bernard’s in the lives of the students we educate.

Mk 7: 32 - 35

> And they brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hands on him. > He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man’s ears and touched his tongue with spittle. > Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, “Ephphata”, that is, “Be opened”. > And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly.

St Mark tells us that those who are touched by Jesus become “open”. In New Testament times saliva was considered to be the concentration of breath that was a person’s spirit. By placing saliva on his tongue Jesus animates the dumb man with his Spirit. The man moves from a life of total silence and inability to communicate to life in a world of openness and possibility. He can now live in communion and communicate with others.

I hope that our Year 12 boys have had a similar experience to the man in the Gospel. I hope that St Bernard’s has made them open to the needs of others and their own capacity and obligation to live in communion with and take responsibility for others.

Congratulations to all staff and students involved in the St Bernard’s College Public Speaking awards evening. The quality of the speakers was exceptional. There were 19 contestants, 7 from Strand Campus and 12 from Clairvaux.

Congratulations to Adrian Lo Monaco, the Under 17’s winning team, and the Under 16’s winning team.

I wish all students and families a restful and safe holiday break.

Best wishes

Tony Paatsch

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**Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:**

**Stewardship**

In the most famous stewardship parable, in Matthew 25: 14-30 (see also Luke 19: 11-27), three servants are entrusted with great sums of money, and are then assessed by the master when he returns, on the basis of how they made use of the “talents” of money they had received. The ancient sum of money used in the parable, the “talent,” has now become for us the term for any human skill or “gift” that we have a responsibility to develop, as did the servants who are praised in the parable. A faithful steward, now as then, needs to make good use of his or her talents.

Each of us has enormous potential, but few things are saddler than to hear at the end of a person’s life: “That person had a lot of potential.” We are meant, as good stewards, to use God’s gift fruitfully and creatively, so that with true gratitude for what we have received, we may return God’s gifts to him with increase. If we truly have the spirit of stewardship - the “attitude of gratitude” - we will not let God’s gifts go to waste, and we will not selfishly cling to them, but use them generously to serve others. That is the point of stewardship.

Arch Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Edmonton, Canada

As we enter into a conscious effort to develop more fully within our schools the spirit of stewardship, each of us is invited to examine how we make use of the abundant gifts that we have received. Do we bury them away, or cling to them, or do we thank God for them and share them generously and courageously for the common good?

If we are all seeking to be more faithful stewards of God’s gifts, then each person must take responsibility to be a more engaged and effective member of our local, regional and national community. The deepening of the “attitude of gratitude” will enhance our commitment to prayer and our engagement in the mission of evangelisation, to an increase in the response to our call to service, especially to those who are poor and marginalised. This is at the heart of social justice.

A conscious, engaged, courageous and intentional orientation to stewardship will help all of Edmund Rice Education Australia’s initiatives to flourish, and will invite new ones to be created in the service of God’s people.

**General News**

**Sad Passing**

Former staff member Mrs Eileen Bennett passed away peacefully on Saturday September 5 at the age of 94. Eileen taught at the Junior School on The Strand campus for many years and was the mother of past students Br Gerard Bennett ‘68 and Matt ‘70. Br Gerard was also student counsellor at the College from 2000-2004.

**Year 12 VCAL 2009**

Formal classes for Year 12 VCAL students will conclude on the last day of term 3, September 18. This will apply to most students in the VCAL class, although a few will need to finalise their work requirements at the start of Term 4.

VCAL students will return on Friday October 16 for the Year 12 BBQ before school and the Graduation Assembly later in the day. In order to participate in the formalities of the Assembly all students are required to be in full school uniform (tie and blazer) and clean-shaven. Parents are encouraged to attend and please contact either of the Year Level Co-ordinators for further details.

Carol Iannazzo & Chris Knauf, Year 12 Co-ordinators

**Year 12 Reminder**

A reminder that all Year 12 students need to hand in their green forms stating their preference in relation to their VCE Certificate and Clairvaux magazine. This needs to be in the front office no later than September 30.

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This week the College Cross Country Team participated in the Associated Catholic Colleges championships where they again won it all. With wins in the Under 14, 15, 16 and Senior Divisions and the Under 17’s losing by a point, SBC snared the Intermediate and Senior Cups and the overall championship. Congratulations to all students involved and thanks to Mr Gerard Brown, Mr Michael McIntyre and Mrs Helen Roberts for their work with the team.

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Investig8
Advanced notice for parents of Year 8 students that the final investig8 for 2009 will be boys' individual LEnearing Adventure Project (iLEAP) Presentation Day on Thursday November 26. It has been a refreshing challenge with a substantial learning curve for many so, with countless hours being invested, all parents are encouraged to come along and view the boys' great work.

More detailed information to follow.

Ms Loukomitis

Class Clowns National Grand Final
Clowny travel from all over Australia to compete for national comedy glory - and that ain't no joke! The 2009 Class Clowns National Grand Final will be held on September 15, at the Malthouse Theatre, Southbank with our very own Ray Lawrence and Michael White (Yr12) battling it out to be crowned the funniest teens in Oz with their comedy sketch, Limbo!

In Term 2, SBC students prepared an original comedy piece (stand-up, group sketch or something else in between) and participated in a regional heat workshop with professional comedians before presenting their act live in a public performance. Also representing the College at the regional heat were Year 10 students Joshua Braybrook, Lachlan Brown, Will Darlot, Tobias Lewis, Stephen Sabato, Khegan Sheehan, Harley Skidmore, Zaron Smith and Basil Zoccali. These performances were judged, and, like all regional heats held Australia-wide, the winners continued on to their state finals, with the winners of that being flown to Melbourne to perform at the National Grand Final to compete for the title, not to mention $1000 cash for their school and a $1000 budget to buy themselves something nice, too!

So send in the clowns and go "Limbo"!

Art Exhibition and Film Premier Night - Thursday October 13
The Visual Arts Department and students of St Bernard’s extend an invitation to all parents, students and staff to celebrate the creative talents of the graduating Studio art, Visual Communication, Design and Media students. Works of excellence from all levels will be on display with awards presented for outstanding ar works on opening night. The opening begins at 6.30pm in the gallery (O’Brien Hall) finishing at 8.30pm, with films will be screened from 7.30pm in the auditorium. Refreshments will be provided. The Gallery itself will be open to the public from 3:00pm to 4:00pm Wednesday October 14 and Thursday October 15.

Swannie Award
On the evening of Tuesday September 1, Year 12’s David Baldi was presented with the most prestigious award in the field of debating, the Swannie Award, at a ceremony at Federation Square. A Swannie award is given to the best speakers in each region in the DAV debating competition, the largest debating association in the world with over 10,000 students in Victoria participating, representing over 250 schools. SBC participates each year and it is a good training ground for those students interested in honing their skills in public speaking and persuasion, particularly for careers in law or journalism, for example.

The presentation ceremony started with an address by The Honourable Associate Justice Kathryn Kings, who spoke of the need for clarity of thought and expression in today's world. Her audience was most impressed with her clarity of thought and expression.

David is to be congratulated on his outstanding achievement, made all the more mentorious by the fact it is the second year in a row that he has taken out this award.

PWC Business and Economics Competition
Congratulations to Jacob Lumsden and John Rosarto, both of Year 12 Business Management, who received High Distinction Awards and prizes in the Price Waterhouse Coopers Business and Economics Competition for 2009. Both students were in the top 3% of the 8000 competitors who entered the competition across Australia. A great effort and well done!!

Cycling News
The St. Bernard’s College cycling team travelled to McPherson’s Park in Melton on Tuesday September 1 to compete at the Victorian Secondary Schools Cycling Championships. It was a successful day, with two category victories and all boys representing the school impressively. In the Under 17 male racing category, Thomas Dopich of Year 10 rode an outstanding race, using all his strength and tactical know-how in the blustery conditions to outprint the field and take line honours. Later on, in the Under 19 male novice category, Thomas Lynch of Year 11 rode like a seasoned veteran to outclass the opposition and take victory in the last race of the day. Both these boys have earned the right to ride in the state finals, held before the last stage of the Herald-Sun tour in Lygon Street. Well done to all boys who rode extremely well in tough conditions on the day.

On Sunday 23rd August a small but eager group of boys travelled to Upper Beaconsfield to compete in the Victorian Schools Mountain Biking Championships. Again, the boys competed very well on a technical course, with Patrick Tilli of Year 7 achieving the best result for the day with a 6th in his category.

We look forward to bigger and stronger squads in 2010!

An invitation is also extended to all students (and parents) wanting to take part in the 80km Around the Bay in a Day Schools Challenge on the October 18. Entry fee is $50 and entries into the school team can be made at: http://www.atb2009.com.au/atb/team/hl883. Feel free to contact me at the college if you have any further queries.

Mark Rayson

2009 Victorian Interschool Snowsports Championships, Mt. Buller
Congratulations to the following courageous students (and families) who braved the elements at Mt. Buller last weekend to compete in the Victorian Interschool Snowsports Championships – the biggest single Snowsports event in the Southern Hemisphere, with over 5,000 competitors involved: Don-Edward Esposito (Yr.12) Div. 1 Snowboard GS – 64th; Xavier Coleman (yr.11) Div. 1 Alpine GS – 90th; Michael Satterley (Yr.9) Div 2 Snowboard GS - 45th; Div 2 Snowboard X – 69th; Kristian Said (Yr.7) Div. 3 Alpine GS – 99th. Anthony Wilde (Yr.9) Div 2 Alpine GS - DNS.

Bruno Spiller, Snow Sports Team Manager

MUSIC NEWS
Spring Concert
The SBC Spring Concert will be held in the Last week of Term 3, Tuesday September 15 at 7:30pm in the College Auditorium. All the College Bands and Ensembles are gearing-up for this important showcase so we encourage you to get along. Tickets will be sold at the door at a cost of only $5 per individual and $15 per family.

Private Music Lessons
This is a timely reminder to those enrolled in private music lessons that all students enrolled in 2009 will be automatically enrolled in 2010. Notice in writing is required at the beginning of Term 4, 2009 to effectively cease music lessons at the end of this year.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

SBOCArts Productions bring you the Bee!
The St Bernards’ Old Collegians Arts Productions will premiere its debut show “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” in October this year. The show centres around a fictional spelling bee set in Putnam Valley Middle School, where 6 quirky adolescents compete in a Bee run by 3 equally quirky grown-ups and features a cast and crew of former students from St Bernard’s and St Columba’s. See flyer for details.