From The Principal

One of the essential characteristics of a school in the Edmund Rice tradition is a commitment to the poor and marginalised. This can be quite a challenge in our community where most of us are not poor. One way of responding authentically to this commitment is to use our resources, human and financial, to support education amongst the less well off. In recent years St Bernard’s has done this well in a range of settings. One significant contribution has been to the Brother Beausang school at Embulbul in Kenya.

In the last decade staff, parents and Old Collegians have had the opportunity to visit Embulbul. On these “immersion experiences” visitors help where they can, show solidarity with staff and students and develop an empathy not possible without the intimacy that comes with personal interaction.

Next week Mr Bruce Wallace will be leading a group who will spend time in Embulbul. We wish the group well and thank them for their willingness to be part of the St Bernard’s expression of the Edmund Rice charism.

During this week, Mr Brendan Douglas and four students joined teachers and students from St Joseph’s Geelong on an immersion experience in the indigenous community of Naiuyu Nambiyu in the northern Territory. Like the African immersion, this is the opportunity to change one’s perspectives and to briefly “walk a mile in another’s shoes”. I hope that it will provide the impetus for further understanding of, and engagement with, indigenous issues for us.

These two immersion experiences are a practical response to the challenges put to us by the Christian Brothers Congregation. In 1996 a gathering of the congregation generated the following:

Our involvement with people at the margins requires the conversion of heart that enables us:

- To see the world through the eyes of the poor
- To accept that our involvement with the most disadvantaged in society is a call to faith in the person and faith vision of Jesus

We call on all brothers to move to ministry with people at the margins

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the annual luncheon of the Ladies and Friends Auxiliary. It was a great occasion and I’d like to acknowledge the hard work of Mrs Anna Farfalla, President and her Committee members: Sharon Dodoro, Lisa Edwards, Nadia Nickels, Enza Pagano, Randa Zarka and Frances Cuda. The luncheon is primarily an occasion to celebrate involvement in the St Bernard’s community along with the chance to raise funds to support the College and our African commitment. I would encourage any ladies, friends (or brave fathers) to consider attending the function in future years.

This week it was confirmed that we have at least one confirmed case of H1N1 Influenza in the College. This means that only children confirmed by a doctor as having the virus will be quarantined. Those sharing a house with a confirmed case will not be required to enter quarantine, unless they too are confirmed as having the virus.

Classes who may have been in contact with a confirmed case will no longer be quarantined, and schools will no longer be partially or fully closed. Students who are feeling unwell should remain at home and not attend school. Students and families with flu-like symptoms are advised to seek medical attention and limit their contact with others.

If your child becomes ill at school, we will contact you immediately and ask you to arrange to collect your child. Please make sure that we have your up-to-date contact details.

Good general hygiene remains the best defence against the flu and families should continue to ensure children regularly wash their hands and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing. This practice is being reinforced with your children while at school.

If you have any specific concerns:

- Visit www.health.vic.gov.au
- Call the Swine Influenza Hotline on 180 2007
- Call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 606 024 – for expert health information (freecall 24 hours, 7 days)
- Visit your doctor (GP) – if you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue).

We welcome to the staff Mr Cameron Evans in his role as Development Manager. Cameron is an Old Collegian and will work closely with our Director of Development, Mr Michael Perrett and take responsibility for publications including this newsletter.

Late Term 2 can be a trying time for students and staff. Schools are among the worst places for the spread of seasonal illnesses and this year we have had a significant number of students and staff affected. When this is added to the demands of preparing for Exams and Timed Assessment Tasks it can be difficult for all of us to remain positive in our approach to school. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and goodwill of the staff and students over the last few weeks to ensure that the teaching and learning environment at St Bernard’s remains a positive and productive one.

As this is the final newsletter for the semester, I wish all in the community a safe and happy holiday break. We look forward to commencing second semester on Tuesday July 14, rested and refreshed.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Please remember in your prayers
Kathleen Feehan, mother of Veronica Maloney, grandmother of Michael (‘97) Brendan (‘98) and Patrick Moloney ‘99.
May She Rest In Peace

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:

Eddie Rice Camps are having their major fundraiser at the National Theatre in St Kilda Thursday July 2. A fantastic line up includes Dave O’Neill, Elliot Goblet, Jeff Green (UK), Tahir, Vigilantelope and Nazem Hussein and at only $60, it’s a great night for a great cause. See their web site for more details
http://www.ercvic.com/fundraising.php
POPE CALLS FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Pope Benedict has stated that there was an "urgent need" for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) "to be implemented to the full." In a message read at the official launch of the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) "World Appeal to a New Mobilisation for Childhood" in Geneva recently, the Pope assured the campaign organisers of his prayers and support for the world appeal. The appeal itself comes on the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and affirms, "Children must be considered fully as human beings, true right-holders, entitled to enjoy human rights in an inalienable way and without discrimination."

Benedict XVI expressed his hope that the initiative would call attention "to this important [convention] and the urgent need to fully implement it." The Pontiff made a particular message of the need to "respect the inviolable dignity of the rights of the child, of the recognition of the fundamental mission of the family in education, and of the necessity of a stable social environment that can favor the psychological, cultural and moral development of each child."

Parent & Board News

Men’s Association Activities
Many thanks to all the fathers and sons who participated in our 'Between Fathers and Sons' program over the last 7 weeks. The course finished last Wednesday with a small celebration.

Parents and Friends Association
The next meeting of the Parents and Friends Association will be held on Monday, July 13 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Ladies and Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting of the Ladies and Friends Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

General News

Important Notice
Strand parents are reminded that classes for Years 7 to 9 students finish at 12.40pm on Thursday June 25 and Parent Student Teacher Interviews begin at 2.00pm. All students are asked to go straight home and change out of uniform before holidays begin, not visit fast food outlets or other schools whilst in uniform. All parents should have received forms to pre-book interviews. Interviews continue on Friday June 26 from 9.00 am until 12.00 midday. Classes begin for Semester 2 on Tuesday July 14.

John McKenna, Deputy Principal The Strand

Kokoda

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have been chosen to represent the College in tackling the Kokoda Track on July 27 to August 7: Luke Larsen, Matthew Van Den Ham, Daniel Vogl, Isaac Madden, Michael Trainer, Simon Caven and emergency Jarrod Bye. All Students are currently in training with 6 students from both Ave Maria and Debnay Park Secondary College. The trek is being promoted and organised by the Victorian Police Force.

Music News

Term 2 has been a particularly busy one for the music department with involvement at Founder’s Day, the combined concert with the Napier Community Orchestra, the Australian National Eisteddfod in Canberra and most recently the year 7 Concert for Years 7A-D.

It is hoped that, through the comprehensive music program offered to Year 7 students, both students and parents alike are further considering study in music as an important addition to academic studies at SBC. Application forms for private lessons are now due with parents encouraged to support their sons in either further or future musical engagement. Students in 7A, B, C & D are very much welcome to discuss options with myself, Mr Smith or Mr Felstead at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Welcome to our 2009 Italian Language Assistant

A very big welcome & benvenuto to our Italian Language Assistant, Mr. Stefano Testi. Stefano is from Milano and will be helping students of Italian to improve their oral and written skills. Stefano completed a Degree in foreign languages (English & Spanish) at the Cattolica University, Milano and is also completing a Master's Degree in Teaching Italian as a Second Language at the University for Foreigners, Siena. Stefano will be with us until the end of the year and we thank him for all the work he is doing with our students.

Mr. Stefano Testi (left) being welcomed by Professore Bruno Spiller.

Dante Alighieri Society – Round Table forum on Health Issues.

A forum organised by the Melbourne Branch of the Dante Alighieri Society, entitled General Health Issues, will be held in the College Boardroom on Thursday June 25 commencing at 7:15pm. Dr. Domenic Barbaro, member of the Society and well know physician in general practice, will lead the forum to be conducted in both English & Italian. Refreshments will be provided by the Society and all members of our community are welcome to raise any health issues they may have. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to reply to me as soon as possible at bspiller@sbc.vic.edu.au or on 9289 1151.

Mr Bruno Spiller, Senior Teacher of Italian, Clairvaux Campus

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<tr>
<th>The Auditorium’s 10th Anniversary of St Bernard’s Musical Production</th>
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<tr>
<td>St Columba’s and St Bernard’s THE SOUND OF MUSIC</td>
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<td>To be held on August 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 at 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Tickets for ‘The Sound Of Music’ will be on sale from June 20 at 1:00am and will only be available online and with credit card</td>
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<td>To book tickets you will need this website link: <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/YO">http://www.trybooking.com/YO</a></td>
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Year 10 Ski Camp 2009

The Year 10 Ski Trip permission form and levy payment is due on Friday July 24. Please ensure the envelope you put them together in has your son’s name and homeroom on the front.

Ski Vests

Just a reminder that SBC ski vests are available form the Uniform Shop for $40 and $50 depending on style.