From The Principal

Last week, I had the privilege of attending a concert at the College to raise money for communities affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. In this concert, a number of our bands and ensembles performed and were joined by the Napier Community Orchestra. The standard of the performance was high and the joy apparent as boys played and sang was infectious. I would like to acknowledge Mr Carmelo Puglisi, Ms Amy Crawford, Mr Chris Smith, Mr John Felstead and Mr Luke Steward for developing and encouraging the musical talent of the boys. Thank you to all members of the Napier Community Orchestra for showcasing your talent and allowing the boys to learn from you.

The night was an outstanding success, raising almost $1000. I hope that it also provides the impetus for further development of individual and group musical excellence at St Bernard's. In the coming weeks, our band members will travel to Canberra for the Australian National Eisteddfod. We wish them well and know that they will represent us proudly.

St Bernard's has a strong tradition of parents being extremely involved in their son's learning community. In this sense, the College "feels" much more like a primary school than a large secondary school. Last Friday night, the Parents and Friends Association conducted a social evening for parents of Year 7 and 8 students. It was great to see a strong turn up from parents and teachers and I thank all those involved. I would encourage all families to attend future events of this type. Anything that fosters strong relationships within the community, particularly between parents and teachers, ultimately makes it easier for us to teach boys well.

In recent weeks, a group of senior staff have been meeting to consider the College's approach to cyber bullying and our policy regarding appropriate use of technology. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an incredibly powerful learning tool and increasingly the preferred method of communication for young people is electronic.

Many of us have experienced situations where people will say things over the phone that they would not say face to face to another person. Communicating by text or keyboard seems to add to the feeling of "distance" from the person to whom one is "talking". Experiences and interaction "online" can therefore seem less real than in real life.

As a school, we regularly deal with conflict between students and often find that it has its genesis in online communication. Some of the MSN transcripts of "conversations" we have seen contain insults replete with expletives, sexual references, homophobic abuse, threats of violence and similar offensive material.

Increasingly, young people find themselves exposed to violent and sexually explicit material online as well as through their phones. The phenomenon of desensitization through frequent exposure to sensory experiences is well documented. Viewing violent behaviour makes us more accepting of violence and less disturbed by it. Similarly, all forms of pornography disrespect and objectify females, due to its emphasis on the mechanical over the relational, and thus is sending an undesirable message to young people.

In the coming weeks, we will send families a number of pamphlets which contain helpful information about keeping young people safe as they use electronic communication. The first of these pamphlets is included with this newsletter and deals with socialising online. I encourage families to discuss the issues raised.

As we attempt to educate students about these issues here at St Bernard's, we would also urge parents to discuss them with their sons at home and to monitor their use of ICT. We encourage your support in this matter.

Best wishes

Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:

Last Sunday morning, May 17, a group of ERN members (and their family and friends) met and joined in the building of a giant human sign at St Kilda beach in order to send a message to politicians and community leaders regarding the damage being done to the earth. On that same afternoon, a 'Fair Trade' afternoon of entertainment was organized at the home of a young group of ERN members in Seddon at which Fairtrade tea/coffee was served. The event was part of Fairtrade fortnight, which ran from May 3-17. The Fairtrade campaign is aimed at advocating for structural change in international trading systems, to ensure that workers are paid a fair wage for their work and enabled to live dignified lives.

The LONG Walk to the ‘G’ - St. Bernard’s Student Leaders in conjunction with St Columbia’s Student Leaders invite you to participate in the LONG Walk to the ‘G’.

The Student council is inviting all members of the St. Bernard’s community to attend this event, which will be held on Saturday, May 23.

The event begins mid afternoon at Federation Square and the Student Council will be there from 4.45pm with the SBC banner and flags. We will be located around the stage area.

The Walk actually begins at approximately at 6:00pm and ends at the Ponsford Stand at the MCG. If you wish to leave after the walk – that’s fine. The Annual ‘Dreamtime Match’ of Essendon vs Richmond follows the Walk.

Last year, Student Council and members of the SBC community had their biggest turnout and we are looking to build on those numbers, if you are heading to the footy – come a little bit earlier and walk with us.

We encourage the boys to wear something blue. For anyone interested in the wonderful work in Indigenous issues that the Walk celebrates please look at the website: www.thelongwalk.com.au

Year 10 Leadership Day: "Be the Change"

20 lucky Year 10 students were invited to attend a day with Congregational Leader of the Christian Brothers, Br Phillip Pinto at Amberley Lower Plenty.

The day focussed on social justice and included presentations from Br Phillip and Pierre from the Democratic Republic of Congo and a team of African Drummers.
Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues (continued)
The day was facilitated by Peter Hay and Kate Garrone from Amberley. The boys were challenged to "Be the Change", to make the world a better place, rather than merely standing by and watching injustice in the world.

Br Phillip spent the whole day with the boys, participating in every session and speaking in a way that could not help but stir their hearts.

The program is designed to give boys the opportunity to get involved in leadership around the college this year and into the future. Hopefully we will see our boys "Being the Change" for SBC and beyond in the future!

Brendan Douglas, Director of Missions

Parent & Board News
Men’s Association Activities
The ‘Between Fathers and Sons’ Program for Year 8s continues next Wednesday, May 27 at 7.30pm in O'Brien Hall for all participants.

The next meeting of the Parents and Friends Association will be held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

The next meeting of the Ladies and Friends Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

Seeking Raffle Donations for Ladies Luncheon 2009
The Ladies Auxiliary is seeking donations for prizes suitable for raffles being held at the Annual Ladies Luncheon in June.

If you own a business or would like to donate a prize, your donation would be acknowledged with the sponsors’ name appearing on the prize programme.

General News
The Strand parents are reminded that the end of ‘Timed Assessment Tasks’ for students for Semester One is Thursday, May 28 followed by a Correction Day for The Strand staff on Friday, May 29. There will be no classes for students at The Strand on that day.

Important Term 2 Dates:
Unit 3 Exam Week and Year 12 Events
Parents, please note the following important dates for Term that relate to Year 12 and 11 VCE students doing Unit 3/4 subjects, and VCAL students.

June 8 Queen's Birthday Holiday
June 9 Unit 3 exams - no Year 12 VCE classes regular VCAL class continues
June 10 Unit 3 exams - no Year 12 VCE classes regular VCAL class continues
June 11 GAT - all Unit 3/4 students, including Year 11 regular VCAL class continues
June 12 Year 12 Reflection Day; compulsory for all Year 12 students on campus
June 15 Unit 4 classes commence - Day 6 schedule
June 24 Careers Seminar Day - on campus

Casual clothes may be worn for Unit 3 exams and the GAT. This also includes Year 11 students. Casual clothes may also be worn on the Year 12 Reflection Day.

For further information, please contact either of the Year 12 Level Co-ordinators, Mrs Carol Iannazzo on 9289 1124 or Mr Chris Knauf on 92891088.

VCAA Unit 3 Examination Dates
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>9:00am-10:45am</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:45am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>9:00-10:45am</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:45am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45-4:30pm</td>
<td>Envir. Science</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>10:00am-1:15pm</td>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
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Students should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to start time

Cyber information
Enclosed in today’s newsletter is a Guide to Socialising on the Internet, a leaflet from Australian Communications and Media Authority. The SBC E-Learning team considers that this leaflet may provide some useful guidelines for families about social networking on the internet. Sites such as YouTube, MySpace and Twitter are some examples of social networking sites. The leaflet also contains some tips and warnings about hazards. There is a website (www.cybersmartkids.com.au) that has other relevant information on cyber safety and we would encourage all parents to be familiar with these issues. Of course, social networking sites should be used with caution and never for the purposes of bullying.

Caroline Sheehan on behalf of the E-Learning Team

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

Music News
Concert News - The ‘A Collaboration to Help Rebuild Communities’ concert was a great success last Thursday evening, raising $750 for the ‘Help Rebuild Communities Through Music Fund’. The audience members were treated to the sounds of the many SBC Bands, Ensembles and Vocal Groups as well as special guests the Napier Community Orchestra.

The SBC Big Band and the Senior and Intermediate Concert Bands are ready to go to Canberra next Friday to participate in the Australian National Eisteddfod. We wish the 50 student participants the best of luck.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Changing the way we travel
We are pleased to announce an exciting new initiative for our community. Recently the College began working on developing a TravelSmart travel plan.

This project is a partnership between the Victorian Government and Moonee Valley City Council. The travel plan is designed to support change from high car usage to more sustainable travel for the journey to and from St Bernard’s - such as walking, cycling using public transport, and carpooling.

TravelSmart will run a series of focus groups across our school measuring travel behaviour. Regular updates will be placed in this newsletter and there will be opportunities for discussion. If you would like further information please contact Lisa Bagnati on 9243 8762 or lbagnati@mvcc.vic.gov.au.