From The Principal

At last Wednesday’s full school assembly significant awards in the Arts and Sport were presented. The year 12 students were farewelled and the student council were invested. On this occasion Mr Bernard Dobson, Old Collegian and former principal of St Bernard’s, was our special guest. I am grateful to Bernard for his willingness to provide our students with his views on the importance of leadership and service. Congratulations to Aaron Bagnato and Tom Lucin who were awarded Arts Person and Sports Person of the year respectively on the day.

Recently the College received media attention based on the behaviour of a small number of Year 12 boys. I am disappointed that these students put themselves in a situation where antisocial and unacceptable behaviour could occur. Some weeks ago we met with each Year 12 student and at least one of their parents to reinforce our expectations about end of year celebrations. Last week senior local police met with the group to reinforce these expectations from a police perspective. Unfortunately a small number of boys and their families must now deal with the consequences of some poor decisions. The consequences include exclusion from the Valete Dinner, exclusion from VCE exams at St Bernard’s and possible police charges.

“Two hundred boys behave impeccably in end of year celebrations” does not make the newspaper headlines or television news. While one can blame the media for selectively reporting and sensationalising incidents, it is important that students acknowledge that their behaviour is their responsibility and, along with their families, accept the consequences of it. It is also important to acknowledge and congratulate the vast majority who celebrated the end of 13 years schooling in a dignified and appropriate manner in keeping with their pride in the College and their individual achievements. I thank and congratulate those boys.

This week we received notification from the Moonee Valley Council that work will commence later this year on an underpass connecting the Steele Creek trail with the Maribyrnong River trail. This will be of great benefit to students travelling on foot or by bike from the South side of Buckley St and I hope that this development will encourage boys to ride or walk to school, improve commuter safety and reduce the number of motor vehicles at the College each day.

Best wishes

Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice

Issues:

LAUNCH OF EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL ONLINE JUSTICE COURSE

Edmund Rice International (ERI) has developed an online course intended to help people learn more about the work of ERI, how they can be part of it and how they can take effective action for justice at a global level. You can access the course via the web site: erisj.org.au/course

No prior knowledge is assumed, and whilst it is meant to be informative and interesting, it is not an academic course. It is also free, and course participants can work through the material at their own pace. The course is designed for busy people who would like a basic understanding of how organizations such as ERI can work within the UN system to bring about improved outcomes for the most vulnerable people on our planet and for our earth itself.

The course is divided into eight topics containing material for reading and reflection, some questions for discussion and an opportunity for chat with like-minded people around the world – (an optional feature), some suggestions and guidelines for engaging in a simple exercise in advocacy of your own choosing and some quizzes to test your own understanding – (there are no marks or grades associated with the course)

Those interested are encouraged to sign up and either work through the course individually (each topic takes about two hours to work through) or to form a group and work through it together.

Volunteers Opportunities:

Volunteers are welcome to join the good work of two outreach initiatives being conducted out of Edmund Rice Centre Amberley. The Br Paul Noonan Asylum Seeker House of Welcome operates in Richmond on Sundays 12pm - 4pm. Contact Liam Lucas: LLucas@edmundrice.org

The St Kilda Food Van operates in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda on Wednesday evenings. Contact Bernie Wilson: Bernard@amberley.org.au

General News

SMS Attendance System

In 2010 parents will be notified of student absence via an SMS system. This has proven to be effective in many other schools so we look forward to an increase in efficiency and accuracy in our attendance records as a result. For this initiative to be successful, we require all parent contact information to be correct so please complete the attached form and return it to your son’s homeroom teacher by Friday October 30.

Summer Uniform

Please note that all students are required to wear the summer uniform from November 4.

Mr Nick Scully, Clairvaux Campus Director

Parents of Strand Campus students are reminded that the Timed Assessment Tasks weeks begin on Monday, October 26 and continue until Friday, November 6. There are no scheduled classes on that Friday, 6th November.

John McKenna, Strand Campus Director

Elective Selections for Students Entering Year 9 in 2010

The Elective selection process for Year 9, 2010 will begin on Monday October 26 with an information session for students during Period 1. Parents and students are invited to attend a further information session on Tuesday October 27, beginning at 7:30pm in the Auditorium. At this session, information will be provided relating to electives offered, the processes involved in selection and input of subject choices as well as an initial run down of the Santa Monica program. Elective selections will close on Friday November 6.

Mark Reedy, Subject Selection coordinator

Academic Awards

Academic Awards for students in Years 7-10 will be distributed on Thursday December 10 at evening assemblies. Each student receiving an award will be advised by letter on Monday December 7 and are expected to attend the presentation to accept their award. Requests for approval to not attend must be submitted in writing to the Campus Director. In addition to Distinctions, Merits will also be awarded at Years 7-9, with the Dux and Edmund Rice Encouragement Awards also being presented.

Academic Awards for students in Years 11-12 will be presented at a full school assembly on Wednesday February 10 at 10am. The Dux and Golden Jubilee winner as well as the Dux of Years 7-10 will be presented at this assembly.

Construction of Buckley Street Underpass, West Essendon

The Council will soon be undertaking the constructing of a pedestrian and cyclist underpass in Buckley Street approximately 150 metres west of Lily Street, West Essendon. These works were slated to begin on Wednesday 21 October 2009 and aim to be completed in March 2010, weather permitting.
For the construction of the underpass the works will be undertaken in two stages and will involve the closure of Buckley Street in halves between Lily Street and Dickson Street. Temporary traffic conditions will be in place for the duration of the works and will enable two-way traffic (one lane in each direction) to be maintained along Buckley Street.

Night works will be undertaken for the set-up of traffic conditions for Stage 1, Stage 2 and for the removal of the traffic management at the completion of the roadwork in Stage 2. Variable Message Signs will be situated in Buckley Street to advise motorists of forthcoming changed traffic conditions.

This project will provide safer connections for pedestrians and cyclists between the Maribyrnong River Trail and the Steele Creek Trail. It will also improve access and connection to St Bernard's College and Rosehill Secondary College.

Please note that at the completion of the underpass that some Buckley Street bus stops may be adjusted but there will be more information provided closer to the completion date.

A copy of the construction plans is available for inspection at the Council’s Citizen Service Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue Moonee Ponds (9243 8888).

ACC ATHLETICS 2010
In preparation for the 2010 ACC Athletic Carnival the athletics team has commenced training on Wednesday mornings, at Aberfeldie athletic track. It will be held only one morning a week during Term Four and will concentrate on trying to develop our depth and also to strength some of our weaker events. Training is from 6.45 am – 7.45 am and will run for seven weeks. As always breakfast will be provided for the boys back at the College after training.

The remaining training dates are:
October 14th, 21st, 28th.
November 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

(Note: Any Year 7 boy who is committed to Honours Band should continue with music.)

Gerard Brown, Athletics Coordinator

MUSIC NEWS
Music Lessons 2010
As the year draws to a close the Music Administration Team are preparing student projections for 2010. As part of this process, students currently undertaking private music lessons will be automatically re-enrolled into music lessons in 2010. Students not wishing to participate in music lessons in 2010 are asked to submit written notification from a parent by November 6, 2009. Students in year 8 undertaking shared lessons are reminded that they will automatically move to individual lessons as of the start of year 9.

Band and Ensemble Lessons 2010
A new initiative will be trialled in 2010 whereby Strand students can gain tuition in a band or ensemble of 3 to 4 members. Tutorials will be aimed at training groups in effective group rehearsal technique & skill proficiency and may suit some students who currently are not involved in the College music program. Strand students or their parents are encouraged to contact me if interested or have further questions.

Students and Parents are advised of these important dates pertaining to the Music Program:
Junior Band Western Region Trip: November 17 & 18
Piano Concert: Tuesday November 24, 7:30pm, Room 302
Year 7 Concert: November 26, 7:30pm

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Business Directory
For the past twelve years the College has circulated a Business Directory to all current students and families as well as all on our enrolment and Old Boy registers - approximately 9000. Responses have always been very enthusiastic and many businesses have reported good results from their advertisements. The Directory itself includes useful College information for parents and, as such, is a worthwhile reference for the entire year.

The 2010 Directory will be forwarded in late January so if you are interested in having your business associated with the larger St. Bernard’s community please contact the Development Office on 9289 1106 or via email at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au by December 4.

The Directory is open to all friends of the College.

Michael Perrett, Director of Development

Careers News October 2009, #2

1. RMIT PARENT INFO EVENING - RMIT is holding an information evening for parents/future students in Years 10 & 11. Hear from a range of RMIT representatives about study options and transition from school to university. Also covered: pathways from TAFE to uni, selection, scholarships, work integrated learning and Special Entry Access Schemes (SEAS). When: 5.30-7.30pm, Wed 11 Nov; Where: Bundoora campus west, bld 202; RSVP: 9925 2555 or email (give names) student.recruitment@rmit.edu.au.

2. NEW COURSES NOT IN THE VTAC GUIDE: Check these on the VTAC website. ENTER’s for these courses are often lower than may usually be expected because some applicants will not be aware of them.

3. CHANGE OF PREFERENCE ASSISTANCE. Yr 12s will receive an information pack from the careers department in mid November.

4. VU BUILDING INDUSTRY CAREERS EXPO. 7 November at Newport campus. Pick up flyer from careers resource centre or visit

www.vu.edu.au/events/visit-vu.

5. FACE THE MUSIC. Any student interested in the music industry: performance, marketing, record label, promotion, technical, management etc should attend this great event. Held at the Arts Centre Saturday 31 October. Pick up further details outside the careers resource centre.

6. SURVEYORS ASSISTANT POSTION. Wonderful opportunity with a great SBC family, for a year 12 student to get a start in the field. Essendon based. Contact Mr. Rosel ASAP!

7. SCIENCE EXPERIENCE. Holiday program at RMIT University. Call Clare Russell on 9925 3699 or www.rmit.edu.au/scienceexperience.