From The Principal

This week as students returned after the term break, they will have noticed some changes to the College. The refurbished reception area and administration block are now fully operational with only minor building works to be completed. In addition to the major building works, the Discere area has been remodelled; new windows have been fitted in Building 6; safety rails have been installed along paths behind the pool; Oval 2 has been top dressed and fencing removed. I would like to thank Mr Bruce Wallace and the College maintenance and grounds staff: Judd Vella, Paul Papillio, George Camilleri, Brett Huxtable and Lachie Robertson for their outstanding work throughout the holidays.

Last year, renowned sculptor Pauline Clayton was commissioned to work with students to produce a sculpture, in bronze, representing the spirit of St Bernard’s. Pauline challenged the students to identify and define this spirit and to develop images that might accurately represent it. In this discernment process, students clearly identified two images that reflect the College spirit.

The first image is scriptural and is the parable of the Good Samaritan. This simple story resonated with the students. They identified the St Bernard’s student as compassionate, altruistic, courageous and generous just like the Samaritan of the Gospels They noted the similarities in this story with the story of Edmund Rice some 1800 years later.

The second image is that of the ANZAC. The students identified with the symbol of the ANZAC and the values it has come to represent. The ANZAC were honourable and brave young men, who put others before self and were prepared to make great sacrifices when called on to do so.

I think it says great things about the young men of St Bernard’s, that they identify the core values of the College with those of the ANZAC. I hope that we continue to be able to awaken, develop and embed the quintessentially Australian ANZAC attributes of courage, honour, mateship and compassion in our young men. The identification with the scriptural Good Samaritan similarly speaks of a student culture grounded in the gospels and focused on social justice.

The sculpture will be unveiled before the school community during the liturgy on Founders Day, (May 6) this year. I warmly invite all members of the St Bernard’s community to join us on this day. Please let us know if you are planning to attend. A reply slip is attached to this newsletter.

Congratulations to Ms Chanette Ward Mr Tony Glynn and Mr Mark Rayson Mariska Broekman, on their respective weddings during the holidays. Congratulations also to Mr Shaun Lancashire on his recent engagement to Rosemary Cua.

At the end of last Term, we farewell Ms Jacqueline Munoz, we wish her well as she commences a new challenge in the psychology field. Mr John Villella will be on leave during Term 2. We welcome to the staff Mr Oscar Yildiz, who will be working in the VCAL area.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/
Justice Issues:

Our main fund raising effort for ‘Project Africa’ coincides with Founder’s Day (May 6) each year and once again, The Strand students and our Year 10s will be participating in a Walkathon to raise much needed funds for Br. Beausang Catholic Centre in Nairobi. Years 11 and Year 12 students will also be fund raising in different ways for the same cause. So advance warning to all parents and friends , that sponsorship forms for the Walkathon will be circulating and we hope that each student on both campuses could raise at least $20 for this worthy cause.

Edmund Rice Camps:

Over the Easter break, camps were held for refugee children and another for Indigenous children. ERC (Edmund Rice Camps) is a full-time non-profit organisation, which provides camp experiences throughout Victoria for disadvantaged children, families and more recently, for refugees and indigenous children. Volunteers are allocated to each camp to provide a 1:1 ratio of care for each camp participant. The most experienced volunteers on each camp assume roles of greater responsibility in order to facilitate the logistical coordination of the program and to offer support for the remaining volunteers who provide direct care to the camp participants. Quite a number of St Bernard’s past students have become involved in the program, some joining whilst still at the College. The majority of volunteers are between 17 and 30 years of age and come from Edmund Rice Schools, other Catholic and Government schools and University. They help to run the camp, help out in the kitchen with cooking or dish washing, assist in the office with some administration, drive a bus for a day or two or are a 1 on 1 mentor for the participants of the camp. If interested, check out their web site: www.ercvic.com

Please remember in your prayers
Ann Lee, grandmother of Angus Buckley 8G
Grandfather of Andrew Tancred 7F
May They Rest in Peace

Parent & Board News

Men’s Association Activities

Each year, St. Bernard’s provides a program for Year 8 students and dads called ‘Between Fathers and Sons’. This year, it will run during Term 2 over a series of 7 consecutive Wednesday evenings. Each Year 8 family, within the next week, will receive a ‘flyer’ explaining the program with an invitation to come to an Information evening on the Program.
Parents and Friends Association
The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.
Parents and Friends Association’s Social Night for Years 7 and 8 Parents will be held on May 15, 2009 commencing at 7:00pm in the Pavilion. For the full details please refer to the attached flyer.

Ladies and Friends Auxiliary
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

Ladies Luncheon 2009 (NEW VENUE)
St. Bernard’s Ladies and Friends Auxiliary would like to inform you of the annual “Ladies Luncheon”. It will be held on June 10 at Ascot House Receptions, 50 Fenton St, Ascot Vale from 11:00am-3:00pm. The cost is $55 per head.

Many opportunities throughout the day to win some fabulous prizes in our many raffles that will take place. This is always a terrific day so be sure to book your seat early. A flyer with the return slip was sent out during the school holidays.

All money and bookings must be paid by May 21, 2009. No bookings or money can be accepted after this date. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. All enquiries, please call Nadia Nickels on 9336 3534.

General News
Students Absent from the College
Please report your son’s absence to their respective Campus: Clairvaux – 9289 1151 or The Strand – 9289 1128. Please do not ring the Main Office.

NAPLAN Testing for Year 7 and 9
Testing for students in Year 7 and Year 9 under the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will take place on the mornings of May 12 and 13. The NAPLAN tests are conducted by VCAA on behalf of MCEETYA (Ministerial Council on Education).

The results of the Test provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a students’ performance in Literacy and Numeracy. The information is used to support teaching and learning programs here at St Bernard’s. Later in the year, you will receive your son’s personal report which will outline skills in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.

We would ask that you make every effort to ensure your son is present for those tests and avoid any appointments or other interruptions to the morning of May 12 and 13.

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

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

Opening Hours:
Main Office: 8:15am - 4:15pm
Accounts: 8:00am - 4:00pm
The Strand Office: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Clairvaux Office: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Telephone:
9289 1000
9289 1108
9289 1128
9289 1151

Uniform Shop (Term 2)
Tuesdays: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Thursdays: 8:30am - 11:45am
9289 1176

Years 10 and 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
A reminder to all Clairvaux parents that Years 10–12 classes conclude at 1:30pm next Thursday, April 30. The Years 10 and 11 Parent Teacher interviews commence at 2:30pm in Building 6 (i.e. the Year 10 and 11 classrooms). Maps to locate specific teachers will be provided on the walls of the corridors. Your son has an interview sheet and should be arranging interview times with his teachers. Scheduled interviews take priority over ‘walk up’ interviews. We ask that your son attend the interviews with you.

Nick Scully, Clairvaux Campus Director

Music News
Please note these important music dates for the coming weeks:

May 7: Semester 1 Soiree, College Auditorium 7:30pm.
May 29 - 31: National Eisteddfod, Canberra.

We encourage all students and SBC community members to come and support any of our concerts or public performances. We particularly encourage the 51 students competing in 3 divisions at the National Eisteddfod in Canberra. We wish them all the best in their preparations.

The May 14 concert, entitled ‘A Musical Collaboration to Help Rebuild Communities’ is a fundraising initiative with proceeds going to a fund which has been established to replace and restore music and musical equipment in the areas affected by bushfires earlier this year.

Tickets are available at the door or may be reserved by emailing Michelle at mpuglisi@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Friends of Music Committee will be meeting again on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30pm in the Music Department, Room 302. All are welcome to attend and contribute to the success of our music program.

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. (eg. 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.

Mr C Puglisi, Director of Music

St. Bernard’s Old Collegian’s Football Club require
Under 16 players for the forthcoming season. Enquiries to the President, Paul Madden on 0425 718 971.

REPLY SLIP

FOUNDER’S DAY – MAY 6
9:30am in the Main Car Park

Name: ..............................................

Number Attending: .....................

(Please return slip to Campus or Main Office or telephone the College on 9289 1000)