From The Principal

Dear members of the St Bernard’s community,

Congratulations to the student council in their organisation of the fundraising day, which was held on Monday this week. The students and staff united to raise over $7,000 to assist in bushfire relief. The Prime Minister noted at the memorial gathering last weekend that the fires have shown us “the worst of nature yet the best of humanity”. The response of the St Bernard’s community clearly demonstrates the latter.

At such times, our faith is really tested as we confront the age old question of why bad things happen to good people. As people gather to comfort each other and mourn, they often do so within the framework of the Church. We pray that at such times the Church, and those who come together as “church”, may be a source of solace and healing.

The following is from the prayer of St Bernard...” Teach me to profit from the suffering that comes across my path. Let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me”

This week, we commenced the liturgical season of Lent. During the next forty days, we are all challenged to focus less on ourselves and more on the needs of others. At the College, we will be asking students to reflect on practical ways in which they might do this. I hope that within your families, you will encourage and support boys in their reflection and response to this challenge.

We extend our prayerful sympathy and support to Alex Treherne (7E) and his family, on the sudden passing of his father Jason.

We also remember Father Adrian Ckuj (’87), brother of Simon (’86) and Nicholas (’90). Fr Ckuj was Chancellor of the Ukrainian Apostolic Visitor in Italy and assistant pastor at the Church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus in Rome.

Congratulations to all involved in the ACC swimming carnival last Friday night. The swimmers showed class in the pool and held the lead for most of the night. A narrow defeat was disappointing but provided the team the opportunity to show a more important manifestation of class, as they graciously congratulated the winning team from St Bede’s. A win in the junior cup bodes well for the future. Particular thanks to Carol Iannazzo, Bernadette Kirkwood, Old Collegians, Andrew and Luke Van Meel and Michael Angel, along with squad captain Jake Hamilton.

The cheer squad was loud, high spirited, positive and gave their all in support of the swimmers. I thank the student council and other senior boys for your efforts in supporting our team.

I am pleased that many Year 12 students have taken the opportunity to undertake supervised private study on afternoons when they are not required to be at school. I encourage those not committed to this program, to consider it as an addition to the rigorous and disciplined home study regime they are expected to be undertaking. As I reminded boys at their first assembly, VCE is simply a mechanism for ranking students. These ranks are used to determine access to most tertiary places. It is expected that students should spend 20+ hours per week of homework and study outside of class.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

EDMUND RICE NETWORK NEWS/JUSTICE ISSUES:

Bushfire Appeal

Congratulations to our student councillors, ably led by College captain, Anthony Laughton, who co-ordinated a St Bernard’s response to the Bushfire Appeal last Monday, raising money and awareness among students with a range of activities on that day. A superb audio presentation by Anthony played to the whole school set the tone for the day and the boys responded very generously to the Appeal.

New staff to St. Bernard’s and to Edmund Rice Schools:

On February 16 and 17, all staff new to St. Bernard’s in 2009, and who are also new to Edmund Rice Schools, attended a two day program that introduced them to the spirit and culture of an Edmund Rice community. Called the ‘Galilee Program’ it aimed to:

- Introduce participants to the stories of Oceania and EREA: their vision, mission and strategic directions;
- Encourage participants to consider their capacity to contribute to fostering the spirit of God’s vision of justice, peace and compassion for all creation within their ministry;
- Inform participants of opportunities for engaging in the wider Edmund Rice Network;
- Commission ritually the participants and affirm their giftedness.

New Supporters for ‘Project Africa’

Many thanks to those parents who have recently joined the ‘Project Africa’ sponsorship scheme after talks at Parent Information Nights. We are hoping to keep the same number of students at school, who were sponsored last year and to date are only a few short of the same number. If you are still interested in the scheme, contact the school for a form or download from our website.

Please remember in your prayers
Bill Zammit, grandfather to Andrew Zammit 1OC and great uncle to Aaron Ginethil 7E
May He Rest in Peace

Parent & Board News

Parents and Friends Association meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Board Room.

Ladies and Friends Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 9:30am in the Pavilion. Everyone is welcome!!

Men’s Association Activities

Congratulations to all who attended our Father and Son Games night last Tuesday evening. It was the biggest attendance we have ever had to such an evening, with over 630 participants and nearly 40 staff and other helpers. Special thanks to the Old Collegians footballers who donated their time and skills in running clinics and cooking sausages for so many people: a wonderful community event.

Top: Father/Son Games - Below Left: Senior Team - Joe Lauricella, Jake Van Meel, Anthony Bonn, Jake Hamilton - Below Right: U15 Relay Team - Jake Panazzo, Alex Turner, Michael Dillon, Frazer Gattens
General News
The Strand parents please note that Thursday, March 5 is our Strand Athletics Carnival day. There are no classes on the day. The Carnival will finish at 1:30pm and buses will depart soon after.

Enrolment Nights for Year 7 in 2011
Application meetings will be held for New Families on Tuesday, APRIL 21, 2009 and for Families with Current Students on Wednesday, APRIL 29, 2009 in the College Auditorium at 7:30pm

Senior Academic Assembly
Students in Year 10 and 11, 2008, who are to receive Academic Awards, will be honoured at the Academic Assembly at 9:00am on Wednesday, March 4. In addition, we will acknowledge the Dux at each year level and the School Dux, David Ireland, will return to accept his award. If you wish to attend, please advise John Nocci on 9289 1103 or via email before Wednesday.
Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

2008 Year 12 VTAC Report
With the release of the VTAC 3rd round offer data last week, the school is now in a position to review the tertiary pathway data from the 2008 Year 12 cohort. The full report will appear shortly on the SBC Careers Website (see ‘Careers and Pathways Reports’).

In the meantime, some notable trends: there was a marked increase in University of Melbourne Offers with twenty-five 2008 students receiving an offer. Of the 166 students who applied for tertiary courses, 91 received a first round offer and 36 a second round offer. 123 students secured a university place, with 38 securing a place at TAFE. There was a significant increase in students securing science, arts, business and accounting/commerce degrees. Somewhat surprisingly, there was marked drop in students entering into engineering. However, with the increased popularity of the broad New Generation degrees at University of Melbourne, a number of these students may stream into Post Graduate Engineering, once they complete their undergraduate degree.

Please note that later in the term, we will be receiving broader student data outlining not only tertiary, but also employment pathways. This report will appear on the Careers Website.
David Rosel, Careers Adviser on 9289 1159

Music News:
The music program has well and truly settled into the New Year. We are keen for as many students as possible to be involved in some aspect of our large and varied program of offerings.
Our Junior Vocal Group (Years 7–8) known as ’Squeak!’ rehearse every Monday morning at 8am and our senior group, ’Shout!’ rehearse after school on Thursdays until 4:00pm. Singing is a means by which anyone can contribute and participate in music. We welcome new students to rehearsals and try outs.
The Guitar Ensemble operates on Tuesdays after school until 4:00pm and is open to any budding guitarist. Likewise, we invite new members to try out. Students are also advised of free music theory classes on offer after school on Tuesday. Students who are interested in these lessons are advised to register their interest before attending the first week.

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. e.g. 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.

Friends of Music:
A reminder to all that the first Friends of Music meeting for 2009 will be held on Tuesday March 10 at 7:30pm in the Music Department, Room 302. All are welcome.
Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

ACC Swimming Carnival
So near and yet so far....
Last Friday night, the ACC Swim Carnival was held at MSAC. It was a tough tussle between St Bede’s and St Bernard’s who were swimming in adjacent lanes all night. In the final tally, they outgunned us by the merest of margins, 4.5 points.

Two ACC records were broken – Under 17 Butterfly by Nick McArthur, and Under 17 Medley relay: Matt Borzillo, David Brancatisano, Nick Mc Arthur, Tom Steel and Lachlan Travers.
For the full story go to our website:
www.sbc.melb.catholic.edu.au

St Bernard’s Volleyball
National Schools Volleyball Championships
Once again, our volleyball squad produced outstanding performances at the recent National Schools Volleyball championships. We achieved the position of number 2 single sex school in Australia. With an overall national ranking of 15th, we further cemented our position in the top echelon of Australian school volleyball.


State Selection - Congratulations to the twelve St Bernard’s students who recently were selected in the 2009 Victorian State team squads: Victorian Under 15 Squad - Year 8: Alex Jelo, Daniel Allison; Year 9: Joseph Yigit, Riccardo Morelli, Adrian Smith. Victorian Under 17 Squad – Year 10: Leigh Fletcher; Year 11: Tom Swallow, Pat Vo, Vinh Nguyen, James Fitzgerald won selection. Victorian Under 19 Squad – Year 12: Michael Cirillo.

Sean Dolan (Year 12) and Leigh Fletcher (Year 10) were selected and represented Victoria in the recent 2009 National Beach Volleyball Championships.

Volleyball Hall of Fame - Congratulations also to Michael Cirillo (Year 12), Sean Dolan (Year 12) Russell Seitz and R Gwynne (old boys) who were recently inducted into the St Bernard’s Volleyball “Hall of Fame”.

Michael Dolan

Introduction to the Psychology of Success
Free Presentation for Parents and Teachers of Adolescent and Young Adults will be held on Tuesday, March 17 between 7:15pm-8:15pm at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall Street, Maribyrnong. The presenter will be a youth psychologist.
To reserve your seat for this free presentation, contact Cre-8 Coaching on (03) 9317 7014 or info@cre8coaching.com.au

Young People win an iPod! (Moonee Valley City Council consultation with students and parents about youth issues)
Young people aged 12 to 25 years of age and parents can have their say by completing an online survey, which can be accessed via the Youth Services page of the Moonee Valley City Council website http://youth.mvcc.vic.gov.au. By completing the survey applicants will go in a draw to win an iPod nano 8GB, or an iTunes gift card to the equivalent amount.
Both surveys will be online until March 15, 2009. For further information contact Youth Services on 9243 8888 or email youth@mvcc.vic.gov.au.