From The Principal
It was with great sadness that we received news this week of the death of Mrs Maree Johnson, Principal of St Joseph’s College, Melbourne. As a fellow EREA school, we extend our prayerful support to Maree’s family and the St Joseph’s community. Maree was a great educator, passionate supporter of Catholic Education and friend of St Bernard’s. She will be sadly missed.

At the whole school assembly this week, I spoke to the theme of “No Man is an Island”, the famous line from the John Donne poem. Swine flu and the measures we are asked to observe to prevent its spread, reminded me of our interdependence and the responsibility we share to behave in ways that are supportive and protective of each other.

In recent weeks, the students have been asked to complete the Peer Relations survey. This survey asks students about their treatment of others and asks them to disclose their experience of bullying and other disrespectful practices. When issues are identified we are in a position to respond and work with those affected by them. I encourage parents to discuss this survey and the issues that it raises with your sons.

The notion of taking responsibility for those in your community is pertinent to the recent security issues at the College. As many of you would be aware the College was broken into last Monday night (May 25 after 1:00am). The thieves stole laptops, phones and cameras along with a set of keys that provide access to many areas of the College. They returned on Friday night (May 29 approaching 3:00am), accessing some areas by key and breaking into other areas. Their primary target was computer equipment and electronic devices. The value of the goods lost is in the order of $20,000.

In response to this, we have upgraded security and are in the process of re-keying the College. There is of course considerable expense involved along with a great deal of inconvenience. In the short term, it means that students will not have access to computers in a number of teaching areas. This has a real impact on our ability to deliver the curriculum in a contemporary fashion.

In working with the police and viewing video footage of the thieves in action, it appears likely that we are dealing with young people who have an intimate knowledge of the property. It is highly likely that people within the College community will have some information about either the thefts or the movement of the stolen property. One of those involved in the initial break in wore a distinctive striped hoodie with the stripes extending to the hood (Picture below left). If anyone is able to provide helpful information, I would ask you to contact me at the College or Detective Senior Constable Jason O’Connell on 9376 6895.

Last week, we received the welcome news from the Federal Government that we received a grant of $200,000 as part of the Building the Education Revolution program. This will be used in the Margaret Carey building to refurbish and upgrade homerooms for Year 8 and 9 students. The work will be staggered over the next 12 months.

Congratulations to the musicians who represented the College on their recent visit to Canberra for the Australian National Eisteddfod. It was a tremendous result with the Senior Band winning silver and the Intermediate band gold.

Thanks to the staff involved – Chris Smith, John Felsted, Jeff Mifsud and College Director of Music, Carmelo Puglisi. I’d also like to acknowledge the excellent leadership of Deputy College Captain Aaron Bagnato in the music department.

I would like to reinforce to families that boys are expected to be in full and correct uniform as they travel to school and remain so until they attend homeroom. At this time, they are free to remove blazers. Please support us by reminding boys of this expectation even if they are being dropped off in the car park or walking from the bus set down area. It is a clear expectation that jewellery such as ear, brow and lip rings will never be worn with the College uniform. Thank you in anticipation for your support in this matter

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:
Extracts from a recent address to principals of Edmund Rice schools by EREA Director, Wayne Tinsey......

“For what do we want Edmund Rice Education to be known on the Australian education scene? It’s good that we’re known as places of academic excellence; it’s good that we’re known for our sporting prowess; it’s good that we are known for the connections of our old boys and ex-students and our commitment to service learning. Is this sufficient? “

“At times even the parents of our students need to be reminded that we are on about more than strong academic results, ‘good discipline’ and providing a ‘caring environment’, as important as these qualities are for any school community...... It is clear that we have a mission to those in our society who have lost direction spiritually or who are searching for meaning. However, this cannot be used to ‘let
Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues (continued)

us off the hook’ when it comes to our Gospel imperative to serve the materially poor; to those who are most marginalised; whose dignity is affronted by poverty and lack of opportunity and choice.”

"Fr Peter Henriot who conducted a three day workshop with Northern Region Principals in 2000, says that to be poor is: 'To be hungry, to be without decent shelter and clothes, to lack adequate educational and healthcare opportunities, to be unemployed, to be on the margin of society, to feel excluded from decisions that affect you, to feel controlled by outside forces, to be unable to deal with problems of daily existence, to be discriminated against.' Liberation theologians would suggest that this description befits the ‘non-person’, the silent ones of history.”

"As human institutions, we can only struggle to live up to our own vision, to reform our life continually, so as to be coherent with our vision. Our efforts to address these questions in the light of the Gospel contribute to our authenticity and capacity to claim the title of Christian community. Faithfulness to the Charter for Edmund Rice education demands that we do so.”

Parent & Board News

Men's Association Activities
The ‘Between Fathers and Sons’ Program for Year 8s continues next Wednesday, at 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall for all participants.

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
Whilst there is a Government School Pupil Free Day on June 12, 2009, please note that it is "business as usual" at the College and Ryan's and Tullamaine buses will still be running.

John McKenna and Nick Scully, Deputy Principals

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

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 92891124 or Mr Chris Knauf on 92891088.

VCAA Unit 3 Examination Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>9:00am-10:45am</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
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<td>11:45am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<td>2:45pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>9:00am-10:45am</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>10:00am-1:15pm</td>
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<td>Pavilion</td>
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Students should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to start time.

Use of Student Resources

Student Resources is part of our school intranet website. Here all students can access teaching materials, assessment tasks, criteria sheets, mini movies, powerpoint presentations, worksheets and other support materials. In addition to this there are up to date messages and useful links to relevant websites. In light of possible future developments with regards to swine flu it is possible that teachers may have to engage in 'remote teaching'. If this were the case then Student Resources would be where materials would be placed with students able to access them via the website and reply to teachers using email. Please make sure that you and your son are aware of this resource on our school intranet and make use of it.  

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

Music News

The Bands completed another successful campaign at the Australian National Eisteddfod in Canberra over the weekend. In 2007, our first Eisteddfod netted 3 silver trophies and, with this benchmark in mind, 50 students, along with staff and parent contingent, travelled to the ACT determined to better these results. Friday evening was the night for the Big Bands and the SBC Big Band opened the account with silver for their efforts in the 18 Years and Under B Grade division. Saturday saw St Bernard's strike gold with the Intermediate Concert Band victorious in their efforts in the 16 Years and Under C Grade division whilst the Senior Concert Band rounded out the day with silver in the 18 Years and Under B Grade Concert Band division.

To add further merit to these fantastic results St Bernard's College was the only all-boys school that performed containing solely boys. All-boys schools from Canberra and NSW amalgamated with their sister schools for larger numbers and broader range of instrumentation but our team stood alone, making their achievements even more commendable.

For the second time now the SBC Music Department has impressed on a National level. Congratulations to all the musicians who participated for making SBC history.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

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

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
To book tickets you will need this website link: http://www.trybooking.com/YO