From The Principal

On Wednesday this week, we celebrated Edmund Rice Day, with a liturgy incorporating the blessing and unveiling of the sculpture. The bronze work is deliberately untitled and represents the spirit of St Bernard’s. During the liturgy, we were honoured to hear from former Principal, Mr Frank Fitzgerald and the sculptor Pauline Clayton before the formal blessing of the work by distinguished Old Collegian Fr Gerard Dowling.

The sculpture is placed in a position where most students will pass it as they come to and from school. Frank expressed his hope that each time they walk past the sculpture, boys reflect on their support of others. Pauline reminded us that the work is made to be touched. The physical contact helps to bring out the texture of the bronze, and helps to connect us with the work. I hope that boys will take the opportunity to connect with and reflect on the sculpture as they pass. I also encourage parents and visitors to the College to do the same.

A real feature of the liturgy was the showcasing of some of the talents of the performing artists in the College. It was wonderful that the assembled students were given an appreciation of the musical and dramatic talents of their peers. This is particularly significant given that the implicit message of the sculpture is that St Bernard’s is a place where all students are nurtured, recognised, supported and celebrated.

During the liturgy the significance of the sculpture was stated clearly by College Captain, Anthony Laughton. His address included the following:

In today’s gospel read by Aaron Bagnato we hear a classic tale with which I’m sure we’re all familiar, called the Good Samaritan. Such a simple parable in which we hear Jesus’ story of an outsider helping a stranger. The story tells us the importance of compassion and mateship. It is a story that embodies the spirit of the Bernard’s boy, St Bernard’s and Edmund Rice. It’s a story that will be forever displayed through the sculpture behind me, to show us as people of good will, of courage; brothers who are there for the fallen and for our mates. Edmund Rice was man who devoted his life to helping others, bringing justice to the young boys of Ireland. He stood by them at a time where their future looked bleak. Years later and today we gather to rejoice in our heritage and acknowledge how we have adapted it to our way of life at school.

The Parents and Friends and the Ladies Auxiliary each made a substantial contribution to the cost of the sculpture. I would like to thank and congratulate them for their support of such a significant project.

I would like to acknowledge the staff and students who worked hard to make the liturgy memorable: Mr Carmelo Puglisi and the band for the inspiring music and particularly Andreas Florez, for a wonderful rendition of “He ain’t heavy he’s my brother, Ms Suzie Bradmore for her co-ordination of the unveiling, Mr Bruce Wallace and maintenance staff for setting up the area, Mr Jeff Mifusd for organising the sound and Mr Brendan Douglas for preparing the liturgy. As we have come to expect, the senior leaders of the College, Anthony Laughton, Tom Cattapan, Aaron Bagnato and Daminh Bui were polished and a great example to the students.

The focus of the remainder of the day was on practical support to the poor in Africa through a walkathon and celebration as a community with a range of fun activities. I thank all students for their commitment to this fundraising and encourage those who have yet to return money to do so quickly.

Peter Hogan, Chair of our College Board has recently returned from visiting Br. Beausang College in Embul bul (Kenya). The College is in urgent need of laptops. Many senior students need to stay at the College until very late to complete their homework. A laptop will make study much easier for them.

If you have a laptop that you no longer require and would like to donate it to the College in Kenya, would you please contact

pammit@sbc.vic.edu.au. The age or make of the laptop doesn’t matter. It need only have a functioning battery and word processing package.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues:

Our main fundraising effort for ‘Project Africa’ was held on Founder’s Day (May 6) and once again, The Strand students and our Year 10s participated in a Walkathon, to raise much needed funds for Br. Beausang Catholic Centre in Nairobi. The day was a great success but the fundraising still needs to happen with many promised amounts still outstanding. Many, many thanks to those who have already contributed. The final amount will be announced in the next newsletter.

Edmund Rice International Expands Communication Channels - Edmund Rice International (ERI) is a Non Government Organisation (NGO) jointly established by the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers to bring issues and situations to the attention of the international community at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. It advocates particularly the rights of children, especially in regard to education, and the promotion of sustainable ways of living. In an attempt to make its work better known to members of the Edmund Rice Network, an ERI Monthly Newsletter has been produced which is available online on the ERI website.

Please remember in your prayers
Rosetta Muscat, mother of Joshua 8D
May She Rest in Peace

Top Left: Sculptor Pauline Clayton at the Liturgy and unveiling of the sculpture.
Top Right: A recent Kokoda training session up to the top of Mt Macedon.
Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues (continued)

In addition, anyone with a presence on the "Facebook" social networking site can join the Edmund Rice International facebook group that has been established there.

"The Church cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice ….. The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society … is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation "in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good."

Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est"

Parent & Board News

Men's Association Activities

The 'Between Fathers and Sons Program' began last week with Year 8 participants and they are reminded that this continues for the next six Wednesday evenings in O'Brien Hall with a prompt 7:30pm start.

Parents and Friends Association

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 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.

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.

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

All money and bookings must be paid by May 21, 2009. We cannot accept bookings or money after this date. All enquiries, please call Nadia Nickels on 9336 3534.

General News

The Strand

Timed Assessment Tasks (TAT) will be held from May 18 to May 29, with no classes for students on May 29 (Correction Day).

Anti-Bullying Poster Competition – Chance to Win an iPod

Students are invited to submit a poster that can replace the current anti-bullying posters displayed around the College. For students to have a chance to win an iPod, they need to read the criteria explained on the Competition Posters around the College.

You can also download the criteria from the College website, in student resources under Student Services. There are two categories, one for Year 7 to 9 students and the other for Year 10 to 12 students. Posters need to be submitted by Friday, May 22.

John Samanna, Student Welfare Officer

NAPLAN Testing for Year 7 and 9

Testing for students in Years 7 and 9 under the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will take place on the mornings of May 12, 13 and 14. 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 student's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. The information is used to support teaching and learning programs here at St Bernard's.

We would ask that you make every effort to ensure your son is present for these tests and avoid any appointments or other interruptions to the morning of May 12-14.

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.

Ms Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

Kokoda Track

Ten SBC students are training diligently in their quest to conquer the 96km of the Kokoda Track in late July and early August. Unfortunately, only six boys can be chosen and this decision will be made in the middle of May. SBC will be walking the track with students from Debney Park Secondary College and Ave Maria College, as well as the Victoria Police (refer to photo on front page).

Mr Hayden Kennedy

Music News

The major performance events have commenced for Term 2 with the Senior Concert Band performing for the Founder's Day Liturgy on Wednesday, On Thursday night, the Semester 1 Soiree featuring 22 performance items, was presented to a supportive group of parents, family and guests.

The next major musical offering is the 'A Collaboration to help Rebuild Communities' concert, to be held in the College Auditorium on May 14 at 7:30pm. This concert will feature most of the major performing ensembles at the school with special guests the Napier Community Orchestra. Along with being a fund raising concert to help restore musical equipment in fire ravaged areas of Victoria, this concert will provide a very important 'pre-elapsed' performance opportunity for the Concert Bands and Big Band.

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

The College has 51 students competing in 3 divisions at the National Eisteddfod in Canberra from May 29-31. We wish them all the best in their preparations.

Particular note to Musicians - Members of Bands and Ensembles are reminded:
1) Members of the Concert Bands or Big Band are asked to wear the appropriate performance uniform for the May 14 concert.
2) Members of all Ensembles at SBC are responsible to catching up on news and announcements if absent from rehearsals.

Private Music Lessons - Parents with sons enrolled in private music lessons are advised that lessons can only be cancelled 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.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

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