From The Principal

Reflection is an important capacity for individuals as it is in organisations. Each year as our graduating class of Year 12s prepare to finish their schooling at St Bernard’s we conduct an exit survey asking them to rate the College in a number of key areas. I’m pleased to report that this year 95% of exiting students report that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the proposition “overall I am satisfied with the quality of education provided by the College”.

94% of students say they agree or strongly agree that they “felt safe and secure during the school day”. The same percentage report that they believe the College promotes a high level of achievement for all students.

The data provides the raw material for us reflect on how we are performing. Questions eliciting lower levels of agreement were generally pertaining to the effectiveness of communication with families and opportunities for parents to be involved in decision making at school. I hope that our increased use of technology including email, SMS and the website will assist us improve these areas. The results of the survey are posted on the College website. Across the board they indicate high levels of satisfaction and show that St Bernard’s is a College of which we can all be justifiably proud.

This week boys were asked to take home a letter from the Victorian Bishops entitled “Your Vote, Your Values”. The letter sets out issues and questions that can be asked of parliamentary candidates at the upcoming Victorian Election. I encourage you to engage with your local candidates on the issues raised. Included are some questions pertaining to the funding of Catholic Schools.

A great deal of disinformation surrounds the funding of Catholic schools in Australia. Catholic schools receive most of their funding from the Federal Government while State schools receive most of their funding from the State Government. Frequently we see media reports to the effect that State Schools receive less Federal funding than Catholic Schools. While true, such reports distort reality as they ignore State Government funding.

The reality is that each student in a school like St Bernard’s attracts about $7,000 in total government funding. Each student in a State School attracts about $12,000. The fees that families pay make up the differential.

In the lead up to the Federal Election, the Federal Government agreed to maintain current Federal funding levels for Catholic schools indexed until 2013. In a historic decision this week both major parties in Victoria agreed that from 2012 each student in Victorian Catholic schools will be funded at 25% of the cost of education in a state school (increased from the current figure of 22%). This funding will be indexed and linked to the cost of educating a student in a State School. This agreement and the funding link will mean that the pressure on Catholic schools to increase school fees for parents in will be reduced.

This year the awards night for Years 7 – 10 will be held on the evening of Thursday December 9. This event is significant for the College community because it recognises and celebrates student achievement, an extremely important facet of College life. Last year some award winners chose not to attend the awards ceremony. It was embarrassing to announce an award winner and find that they were not present without prior explanation. It also shows a lack of respect for the occasion and devalues the significance of the achievement for students and their families who are present. This year any boy not present without prior notification and approval will forfeit his award.

Last week we had the opportunity to recognise and thank the many parents who volunteer their time, energy and expertise over the course of the year. These wonderful parents provide practical assistance in a variety of areas, most notably the canteen. Spending time at the College facilitates the formation of strong relationships with each other and the staff. Ultimately it is the students who benefit from this relationship. Volunteers also give witness to the Christian reality that what is really important is service of others. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Canteen managers Sharon Grass and Mandy Curtain in organising the dinner and coordinating the canteen volunteers throughout the year.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:

Ending Poverty an Obligation Not Charity

“Eradication of poverty should not be considered as an act of charity but rather as an obligation of the international community,” Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, newly appointed permanent observer of the Holy See at the United Nations, stated before the UN General Assembly at a meeting on eradication of poverty and other development issues. Noting that the international community has the means to end worldwide poverty, the Archbishop stated that “whatever the form it takes, poverty is an insult to our common humanity that so many people around the world continue to suffer”
He went on to observe that poverty profoundly affects the dignity of the human person and that it affects mainly those who are not capable of a decent livelihood, especially children, the disabled, the elderly, and women - especially children who make up almost half of those living in absolute poverty today.

"Unfortunately," he noted, "the combined food, fuel, and financial crises since 2008 have slowed down, and even reversed, progress towards eradication of poverty in many developing countries around the world." so that "64 million more people are now estimated to be living in extreme poverty in 2010 while some 40 million more went hungry last year because of the food, fuel, and financial crises."

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) is an alliance of trade unions, NGOs, women’s and youth movements, community and faith groups and others to call for action from world leaders to meet their promises to end poverty and inequality. Its main aim is to achieve policy and practice changes that will improve the lives of people living in poverty.

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.” - Dom Helder Camara

FAMILY Matters- A helping hand for families, by families
Family Matters is a new initiative being undertaken by the St Bernard’s community in cooperation with the community of St Columba’s. The lives of students and their families within our school communities often intertwine. Working together, we hope to be able offer a helping hand, when it is needed. Our aim, in offering help, is to provide some level of normality when life is all but normal. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to ask for help. We need to break down this difficulty in asking for help and be there as a family for each other, because that is what our Christian community is and should be about. We need everybody’s help to make sure that our families know we are only a phone call away.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?
We are asking families who think they can offer assistance in a number of areas to join a bank of helpers who can be called on when needed. The areas of help are listed below. If you feel you can offer assistance please fill out a form that is available from either Reception or the Canteen. Names will then be placed on a database, and when required you will be contacted by a member of the Family Matters Group.

- Meals
- Home Maintenance / Garden
- Household / Ironing
- Transport (Adults only)
- Baby sitting
- shopping

If you have any questions please contact Dennis Hobson, Faith Development Coordinator, on 92981063 or 0423730212.

General News

Important Note for Parents of Year 12 Students in 2011
There is an essential Year 12 2011 Parent Information Night to be held on Wednesday December 1 in the College auditorium which all parents concerned are expected to attend.

Notice to Parents of Students in Years 10 and 11
Formal work in Unit 3/4 subjects begins on November 22, 2010 for students who will be doing 3/4 subjects in 2011. Classes will operate with input, homework and introduction of assessment tasks and allow students to optimise all learning opportunities in their senior classes. Attendance is compulsory as part of the 2011 academic year with classes running until December 1. It is hoped this will assist with planning for end of year family activities and holiday employment options.

Year 11 exams begin on November 8. Students are expected to be in full school uniform and arrive a minimum of 15mins before the start of the exam. Coordinators must be advised of any exam clashes by October 22nd to allow time for rescheduling.

Academic Awards
The presentation of Academic Awards for Second Semester 2010 to students in Years 7-10 will happen on the December 9. We ask that you keep this evening free with further details about the timing and venue of each of the presentations to be sent out closer to the time.

Academic Awards presentation to VCE students (those in Year 11-12, 2010) will occur on the February 16, 2011 beginning at 10am.

Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning
**St Bernard’s College Newsletter**

**Notice to Year 8 Parents**

Investig8 Presentation Day is nearing and Year 8 boys are doing their best to finish or reach as close to completion their iLEAP (Individual LEarning ADventure Project.)

Year 8 parents are invited to come and see the work the boys have researched during some of each Day 9 this year on Thursday November 25

There will be two sessions in which iLEAPs will be presented:
- Before recess 9:30am – 10:15am
- After recess 11:30am – 12:15pm.

Year 8 parents should find out from their son which session their son normally has iLEAP (before or after recess) as this will be the time their session will run.

Staff, parents and students will be able to walk around and talk to boys about their research, the difficulties they faced and how they managed to overcome these.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Investig8 staff*

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**Congratulations...**

- **to Year 9’s Alex Ielo who has been invited to attend the Greater Melbourne Volleyball Academy.** The Academy is a designated junior high performance program of the Volleyball Team Australia High Performance Pathway and is designed to assist young athletes to reach their full potential both on and off the court. Through the program Alex will further enhance his access to national representation pathways.

- And in keeping with the Volleyball theme, congratulations to Year 10’s Joseph Yigit for his nomination in the Leader newspaper 2010 Sports Star Award. Joseph is also a decorated volleyballer and as a result was nominated for this prestigious award. The article can be found on Page 40 of the most recent Hume Edition

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**Years 7 & 8 ACC Debating**

SBC recently hosted the annual Years 7 & 8 ACC Debating and Public Speaking Competition, fielding a team in each of the 12 school competition. Our Public Speaking team comprised Aidan Sexton (7H), Liam Healy (7F), Luke Pupillo (7F) and Dion Harris (7F). Each speaker had to prepare a 3 - 4 minute speech, then, in the following round, two team members presented another prepared speech on a different topic whilst the other two team members had five minutes to prepare an impromptu topic (“Books are losing their importance”). In a fantastic effort the St Bernard’s team came out on top winning this division of the competition.

Our Debating team comprised William Pamment (8A), Darcy Trainor (8H), Jarrod Grech (8B), Miguel Pasa (8H) and Christopher Galle (8D). The team prepared two debates and won both with Darcy Trainor picking up a Best Speaker commendation. Unfortunately they were defeated in the third debate; the team had only 40 minutes to prepare for the topic “That water is an undervalued resource in Australia”. The SBC team was outstanding but, in a fiercely contested competition lost, by a solitary point to St Bede’s.

Well done to all the students on their wonderful efforts as well as those of Jordan Chamberlain (7H), Matthew Senior (7H) and Joseph Prencipe (7H) who showed visiting schools around, took teams to their rooms, assisted with set up and pack up and were generally very helpful.

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**Foundation Sports Night - November 17**

The St Bernard’s College Foundation Board cordially invites you to attend our Annual Fundraising Sports Night. All funds raised through ticket sales will go to assist the work of the board which includes the upgrading of College facilities, the purchasing of teaching and learning tools as well as increasing student opportunities. Please see the attached flyer for details

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**Music News**

The Music Program will be delivering performances almost up to the last day of the year with the following events happening in the coming weeks:

- **Thursday November 25, 7:30pm in the College Auditorium**: Year 7 Concert for 7E,F and G, including Junior Band, Honours Band and Intermediate Concert Band.
- **Tuesday November 30, 12:30pm – 2pm at BMW Edge, Federation Square**: Festive Harmonies featuring the SBC Honours Band, Junior Band, Intermediate Concert Band & Big Band.

The Year 7 Concert is an important showcase of the musical efforts of year 7 students during Semester 2 and we encourage a large audience to support the students in their efforts. An entry charge applies of $5 per individual or $15 per family of 2 adults and unlimited children. The Federation Square event is a free public concert. Family and friends are welcome to attend.
Private Music Lessons: A reminder to parents and students that the deadline to give notice regarding the cessation of private music lessons in 2011 has passed. Music students who do not provide this notice will be automatically enrolled for music lessons in 2011. Likewise, students considering enrolling for Instrumental Music Lessons in 2011 are asked to do so before the end of November to ensure a spot next year.

Queensland Music Tour 2011: We are pleased to announce that this trip will go ahead next year over the dates of July 15 – July 20 2011. At this stage, all places are full (53 students).

Musical Instruments: Students and Parents are advised that any school-owned musical instruments that have been borrowed are to be returned for inventory and maintenance by November 30.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

2011 January Dolomite Tour
There are two places left on the 10-day January Ski/Board Tour of the Dolomites. Please contact Mr. Bruno Spiller, Snow Sports Team Co-ordinator, for further details. Email: bspiller@sbc.vic.edu.au; College voicemail: 9289 1000.

Strathmore Bowling Club
Strathmore Bowling Club are looking for young players to join their club. The offer is open to any students in the area who would like to have a go! Junior Scholarships to the value of $1200 are available to students so why not give it a try! If you are interested in having a roll please contact Alan Colson on 0410467972 or email Rob Baker - rob_be@bigpond.com at the Strathmore Bowling Club.

Amberley Edmund Rice Centre Art Show - November 12 -14
Edmund Rice Centre ‘Amberley’
7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty
(Melway 21C12)
Opening Night November 12 at 7.30pm:
$10 ADULTS $5 CONCESSION
Weekend (Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 9am – 4pm)
$5 ADULTS $2 CONCESSION
For bookings please contact ‘Amberley’ on 9439 8282 or manager@amberley.org.au (tickets also available at the door however booking is preferred to assist with catering)

Colts Pre Season Training Program
What is the Colt’s Program? The Colt’s Program is targeted at 16, 17, 18 and 19 year olds and designed to identify and improve player performance across a range of fitness and skills parameters. The program will include both individual and team activities and events using the Kennel and other outside venues.

Commencing : Monday 15th November at 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Thereafter : Each Friday & Monday @ 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Christmas Break: Friday 17th December
Recommencing : Monday 31st January @ 4:30pm
Concluding :Friday 25th February 2011
Co-ordinator Craig Connelly 0407 543 329 cconnelly11@bigpond.com
Facilitator :Gary McAllister 0411 733 579 g.mcallister@xavier.vic.edu.au
Specialist Instructors (Fitness, Ball Skills, Team Participation, Reflex & Reactive Training): TBA
Cost $160 (cost includes Colts Training Kit)
Location St. Bernard’s Oval No. 2
Registration & Payment :Go to website, complete registration form and pay online www.stbernardsfc.com.au

Electrix Aerobics - Competitive Aerobics Club
Ever wanted to be a part of a club where you not only make lots of friends, but get to compete with them too on both a national and international stage? If this sounds like something you’d be interested in, and providing you’re aged 8 years and up, call or email to register your place now! For bookings or further information please contact us on 0404441198 or at electrixaerobics@gmail.com
ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE

CANTEEN / CATERING ASSISTANCE 2011
A Parent Participation Scheme Project

CANTEEN

NAME: ................................... Phone No: ..........................

ADDRESS: .................................. Postcode: ..........

DAY MOST SUITABLE :  
{Please tick box for first choice }

MONDAY [ ]  TUESDAY[ ]  WEDNESDAY [ ]

THURSDAY [ ]  FRIDAY [ ]  SECOND CHOICE IS ............

HOURS: Normal time is 9:30am – 2:00pm - If you are able to assist for shorter blocks of time you would be most welcome

I AM AVAILABLE: {Tick one}  9.30am - 2.00pm   [ ]
9.30am - 12noon   [ ]
12noon - 2.00pm   [ ]
Other (Please specify)  .......................

❖ If you wish to be in a particular group or with your friends please give details.

❖ Rosters will be forwarded to you prior to the first day of school in 2011.

Please return this form by Friday, November 26, 2010

Inquiries re Canteen should be directed to Sharon Grass or Mandy Curtain in the Canteen on 9289 1136
FOUNDATION SPORTS NIGHT

**When:** Wednesday November 17, 2010  
**Venue:** St Bernard’s College Pavilion  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Cost:** $50 per head  
(2-course meal with drinks at bar prices)

Star of the night will be the incomparable Merv Hughes to talk all things cricket with an eye to the upcoming Ashes series.

**ONLY 180 TICKETS AVAILABLE!!**

**ALL WELCOME**

For all bookings and enquiries please contact Michael Perrett by Monday November 15 on 9289 1106 or at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au
Dear Parents,

St. Bernard’s Parents and Friends would like to invite you to an evening to farewell our Deputy Principal Strand Campus John McKenna. John has been in the role for 15 years and leaves St. Bernard’s with a considerable legacy in so many ways.

The format of the evening will be a formal welcome from Mrs Marie Vocale the President of Parents and Friends, followed by a response from Mr. McKenna and then social interaction with John, members of the Board, the Executive, staff and other parents.

Details of the evening are as follows:

Date: 7 December 2010
Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Venue: The Pavilion, St. Bernard’s College
Dress: Semi-formal

Finger food and drinks will be provided.

We hope that you will be able to join us to farewell and thank John as he enters a new and exciting period of his life.

For catering purposes and the production of nametags, would you please email names of people wishing to attend to Marie Vocale on boma3@bigpond.com or by phone 9289-1113 to Brendan Douglas by Tuesday, November 23rd, 2010.

Marie Vocale
President
St. Bernard’s Parent and Friends