From The Principal

Welcome back to all families for Term Four. This week sees the launch of the College Strategic Plan. The email that you receive with the link to this newsletter will also include a link to the Strategic Plan which is posted on the College website. I hope that you will take the time to read it as it sets the direction of the College for the next 6 years.

I would like to acknowledge the committee who worked over the last year to distil the data collected from the community and to develop the final document. The process was led by Mr Bob White from EREA and chaired by Nick Scully. It included parents, Domenic Groenewegen and Therese Darmody; Board member Rod Lamplugh; Students, Anthony Gagliano and Tom Lynch; staff members Pauline Thompson, Shaun Lancashire, Daniel Salmon, Mirella Luca and Executive members Brendan Douglas and Caroline Sheehan with Pauline Zammit providing secretarial support. Sincere thanks to all those involved for their expertise and significant time commitment.

The document identifies “Community, Stewardship, Opportunity and Excellence” as the key values of the College. It sets out approximately 40 strategic goals. The Executive has prioritised these and intends to focus on the following goals in the short term:

COMMUNITY
- Explore a House system across year levels and campuses
- Investigate creative ways in which cross campus contact can be improved for staff and students
- Examine ways in which parent/school interaction and communication can be further enhanced.

STEWARDSHIP
- Investigate the wider promotion of and increased funding for immersion programs and social justice activities
- Implement a building program to cater for current and future student demand
- Assess issues relating to staff retention at the college
- Explore ways in which the college will respond to current and future environmental issues. Investigate realistic ways to reduce our carbon footprint and create greater awareness in environmental issues

OPPORTUNITY
- Investigate the viability of the inclusion of food technology into the curriculum
- Create a comprehensive immersion opportunities program.
- Evaluate the feasibility of flexible timetables/structure of the day.
- Instigate a plan for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

EXCELLENCE
- Develop a plan for the most effective implementation of ICT integration throughout the curriculum.
- Review the current Professional Development structure and opportunities for staff to ensure currency
- Continually improve academic standards and results.

These goals are written in relatively general terms but will be translated into specific actions. A number of significant proposals detailing such actions are before the College Board at the moment and will be articulated to the community in coming newsletters.

The issue of Government funding is important for the St Bernard’s community.

With the State Election coming up on Saturday November 27 funding for Catholic schools will again be an issue for all political parties. Government funding has not kept pace with the rise in the cost of education, resulting in higher school fees. We are seeking to link State funding for Catholic schools to 25% of the cost of education in a government school. Victoria is currently the only state in Australia that does not link government funding to Catholic schools in this way. It is estimated this would mean around $60 million extra in State Government funding for Catholic schools each year and ensure this funding keeps pace with rising costs. I encourage all parents to raise these issues with MPs and candidates from all parties, asking them directly “Will you support State funding to Catholic schools linked to 25% of the cost of education in government schools?”

I would like to remind you of the opportunity to farewell and thank John McKenna as he retires after 15 years as Deputy Principal at St Bernard’s. In keeping with John’s wishes the function will be a low key affair to be held in the College Pavilion on Tuesday December 7. For further details please see the invitation at the conclusion of this newsletter.

Annual Volunteers Dinner
on November 3, 2010
6:30pm for 7:00pm start
in the Pavilion

This is an opportunity for SBC to say thank you to the many helpers who assist the College in the canteen, library, reading, uniform shop, sporting groups etc. We hope you can join us. If you wish to attend please call Sharon or Mandy on 9289 1136 before Friday, October 29, 2010 or email scurtain@sbc.vic.edu.au
Last week we sent a “start up package” to families who have boys commencing at the College in 2011. Among the contents of this was a “Parent Involvement Form”. This form details the importance of parental involvement and sets out our expectation that all families contribute to the College in a voluntary capacity. It is twice as significant as family income in predicting success at school. Coincidentally, last week I read the results of research suggesting that family involvement in a child’s education is twice as significant as family income in predicting success at school. This is yet another important reason for parents to be as involved with the College as much as possible.

I would also like to inform the community that E.R.E.A, the College’s governing body, will be conducting a review of my performance as Principal in mid November. If you wish to provide feedback to the review panel please do so by email to Pauline Zammit on pzammit@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Please remember in your prayers Mrs Anne Ciampa, the mother of Nick (11F) who passed away on Tuesday October 12.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: OCT 17 – 23

The main aims of Anti-Poverty week are:

• to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia;
• encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organizations and governments.

With the encouragement of Edmund Rice International, members of the Edmund Rice Network around the globe joined in the Stand-Up Against Poverty campaign to demand action on the Millennium Development Goals. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is on Oct 17th. Students from Br. Beausang school marched through their local streets recently to highlight the event.

Did you know that:

• the number of Australians living in poverty was 7.6% in 1994, 9.9% in 2004 and 11.1% in 2006.
• the average life expectancy of Indigenous Australians is 17 years less than that of non Indigenous Australians and that the level of kidney disease is 10 times higher and the infant mortality rate among Indigenous Australians is three times the rate of the non Indigenous population.

There are many web sites to browse if you are interested in finding out ways to make a difference. Mission Australia highlights homelessness, APW activities provide a 7 day challenge on their web site, Anglicare, the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, the St. Vincent de Paul web site, Catholic social Services all challenge the reader to be informed and get involved not only during Anti-Poverty week but in an ongoing way. (www.antipovertyweek.org.au)

FAMILY Matters- A helping hand for families, by families

Family Matters is a new initiative being undertaken by the St Bernard’s community in co-operation 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

Summer Uniform
Please note that the summer uniform will need to be worn by ALL students from NOVEMBER 3.

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.

There is also an essential Year 12 2011 Parent Information Night on Thursday November 25 to be held in the College pavilion which all parents concerned are expected to attend.

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.

Japan Trip Trivia Night - October 22
In an effort to raise funds for the upcoming educational student trip to Japan a trivia night will be held at the College Pavilion on Friday October 22 at 7pm. Tickets are $15 per person or $100 for a table of 8 and can be purchased by contacting either Judy Sultana (j.sultana@sbc.vic.edu.au) or Anna Walker (a.walker@sbc.vic.edu.au). This is a BYO event but refreshments will also be available at the bar. So if you’re looking to win the major prize or purely in it for the glory, all whilst supporting a great cause, make sure you get along to what promises to be a wonderful night.

St Bernard’s College Western Front Experience Remembrance Cabaret
Come and remember the efforts of those men and women who fought in all wars by joining the SBC staff and students in their musical and dance cabaret. The night will be held on November 6 at West Coburg Bowls Club, Lindsey St Coburg from 7:30pm – 10:30pm. Cost is $25 per person (tables of 10) with all money raised to help students attend the Western Front Experience Tour. To book a table please contact Alexandra Cometti at a.cometti@sbc.vic.edu.au or on 9289 1089.

Leadership Dinner
Student council members, along with their parents and staff, recently celebrated a great year’s work at a leadership dinner at the College Pavilion. College Captain, Tom Lynch outlined the achievements of the Council over the year while College Principal, Mr Tony Paatsch, spoke of the wonderful contribution the boys have made to College life. The night was a great way to thank both to the staff who assisted the students over the year and their parents for their wonderful support of their sons.

2010 Italy Study Tour
The 2010 Italy Study Tour has just taken place during the Term 3 break. 20 students of Italian experienced a “journey of a lifetime”. For many, it will mean life-long friendships, as well as an even better appreciation of Italian life, culture and history. Highlights of this year’s tour included: 6-day homestay in Treviso with students from the Istituto Mazzotti; visits to some of Italy’s iconic artistic and historical centres – the Vatican Museums; Tha Accademia in Florence (home of Michelangelo’s David); Venice; Siena and the Contrada of the Lupa; Cortina; Asiago; Verona & Milano, with guided tours of La Scala Opera Theatre & San Siro. A ride in a Ferrari was also a highlight. Many thanks to the parents who supported the experience as well as Strand teacher of Italian, Prof. David Selva, who brought his unique appreciation of all things Italian to the tour. We look forward to welcoming students from The Mazzotti School late in Term 1, 2011. For further news and report on the 2010 Tour, please visit the College website.

Mr Bruno Spiller, Tour Organiser
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

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**Colts Pre Season Training Program**

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<tr>
<td>Commencing</td>
<td>Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} November @ 4:30pm – 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>Each Friday &amp; Monday @ 4:30pm – 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Christmas Break</td>
<td>Friday 17\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
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<td>Recommmencing</td>
<td>Monday 31\textsuperscript{st} January @ 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Concluding</td>
<td>Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} February 2011</td>
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**Co-ordinator**
Craig Connelly
0407 543 329
cconnelly11@bigpond.com

**Facilitator**
Gary McAllister
0411 733 579
g.mcallister@xavier.vic.edu.au

**Specialist Instructors (TBA)**
- Fitness
- Ball Skills
- Team Participation
- Reflex & Reactive Training

**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

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**Ace Fun Tennis School**

**Coaching - Match play - Fitness - Social tennis**

Group lessons cost start as little as $11 per lesson

- Gladstone Park Tennis Club 18 Elmhurst road Gladstone Park
- St Matthew’s Tennis Club 95 William Street Fawkner
- Kensington Banks Tennis Club Smithfield Road Kensington
- North Park Tennis Club Flemington Road Parkville
- West Lalor Tennis Club Kingsway Drive West Lalor
- Werribee Sports & Fitness Centre Ballan Road Werribee.

Tel 1300 ACE FUN or 1300 22 33 86

www.acefuntennisschool.com

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**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.
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