From The Principal

During the last week we have conveyed our sympathy to the community of St Patrick’s Brisbane following the tragic death of Elliot Fletcher, a Year 8 student. This week, closer to home, we did the same to the community of Aquinas College Ringwood following the tragic death of Kyle Vassil, a Year 7 student.

The idea of seeing a son off to school in the morning never to return is unthinkable and it is difficult to imagine the distress of the families and the school communities. As parents and teachers we do not expect to outlive our children and pupils. As we come to terms with these distressing incidents it has been opportune to remind all of us in the St Bernard’s community of our role in ensuring everybody remains safe. At school this has meant consideration of our displan arrangements and a reinforcement of our policies and procedures when supervising students.

Staff have been proactive in working with students on anti-bullying strategies and have encouraged boys to speak to a teacher if they are concerned about their own safety or that of another student. Authorities suggest that young people are increasingly tending to carry weapons, believing they will act as a deterrent to bullying or violence against them. While there is no evidence to suggest that this is an issue at St Bernard’s, boys have been reminded of the dangers of carrying weapons and the importance of telling someone if they become aware of a weapon in the school.

It is possible that some boys may be adversely affected by these incidents. Should this be the case boys are encouraged to make contact with the College counsellors either directly or through their homeroom teacher.

In the first newsletter this year we emphasised the importance of communication between home and school. The recent information nights for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 were well attended and provided a welcome forum for parents to interact with staff. I’d like to thank the families who attended and the staff for their efforts in ensuring the success of these functions.

Upcoming Events

February 22 at 5:30pm – Board Meeting
February 22 at 7:30pm - Friends of Music Meeting
February 25 at 6:00pm - Father and Son Games
March 2 at 9:30am – Ladies and Friends Auxiliary
March 3, 2010 at 10:15am – Opening Mass/Blessing of the Administration Building

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:

A new and most exciting approach to Lent has been prepared by Bishop Walker, and taken up by the Australian Bishops. A series of instruction by video, on Lent, by various Bishops, and based on ‘Lectio Divina’ is currently in operation. Just check the link, http://www.clrinsw.org and read contents. A special booklet has been prepared to accompany the series, and this is available free from Broken Bay Institute. It is also available as a pdf file on the Reflection website. Link: www.thereflection.vividas.com

Tutoring at St Albans and Sunshine

Edmund Rice Refugee Services has begun its tutoring programs for 2010, its 9th year of operation. Again we are looking for tutors willing to spend 60-90 minutes sitting beside a student of refugee or new arrival background. The one-to-one tutoring happens in a communal supervised setting. Sessions are:
Monday at St Albans, 4.00 - 5.30pm  
Tuesday at Sunshine, 4.00 - 5.30pm  
Wednesday at St Albans, 4.00 - 5.30pm  
Saturday at St Albans, 10.30am - 12 noon.

If you are interested in tutoring contact Sean (0417 136 640 or seantmcmanus@yahoo.com)

World Day of Social Justice February 20

In 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice. The day was observed for the first time in 2009.

Governments committed to the promotion of social justice at national, regional and international levels. They also pledged to promote the equitable distribution of income and greater access to resources through equity and equality and opportunity for all. The governments also recognized that economic growth should promote equity and social justice and that “a society for all” must be based on social justice and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Observance of the day is intended to contribute to the further consolidation of the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

General News

EMA Application Forms
Holders of current (i.e. 27th January, 2010) Healthcare/Pensioner Cards please note that EMA applications forms must be lodged at the school by February, 2010.

After School English Tuition: Clairvaux Campus
Every Monday afternoon from 3:00pm until 4:00pm, English Teachers are available to provide extra English help for students. Students from Years 10, 11 and 12 are encouraged to attend. The sessions take place in Year 11 classrooms. You may be notified by letter that your son would particularly benefit from attending. Please contact the Clairvaux English Coordinator, Mrs Christine McGee, if you require further clarification.

2010 Italy Study Tour Experience
An information evening regarding the 2010 Italy Study Tour was held in the College Boardroom on Wednesday February 17. The evening was well attended and it was great to see so much interest in our biennial Tour, which will take place in September. A reminder that initial deposits for the Tour are due next Wednesday, February 24. Payments to be made directly to the Accounts Office. Once our final numbers are decided, a series of meetings will be held to finalise details of the Tour.

VCAL News 2010
It was great to meet such a large number of parents at the VCAL Information night on Feb 4. Thank you for your support. From all reports, the boys appear to be enjoying the variety that the VCAL program has to offer.

TAFE courses and work placement are now underway with Mr John Soler and myself hoping to start visiting students as early as next week.

Upcoming events include a visit from a representative of the Australian Manufacturing Technology Institute Limited and also a trip to GM Holden in Port Melbourne.

Year 11 Retreats
On February 16 the Year 11 retreat program finished up. For the last two Monday and Tuesdays, Year 11’s have been visiting the beautiful retreat centre Amberley located in Lower Plenty. The focus of this program has been on starting the last two years of the school year in a positive manner. Study habits, relationships between students and staff, finding and understanding the importance of God as a platform to build our life on were all important themes that were reflected on. A highlight of this program is the dinner with parents at days end served in the College pavilion. This was extremely well attended and gave families a chance to speak about the important challenges that lie ahead as the boys seek to find their own distinct pathway in life.
We look forward to the boys making the most of their next two years at the college as they strive to achieve their own personal goals.

Mr Brendan Douglas

Music News

It has been an energetic start for the music program this year. We are only weeks away from our Music Camp for the Intermediate and Senior Bands with payments and permission forms now due. The quality of musicianship displayed at our first rehearsals suggests that this has the potential of being a bumper year for music at SBC.

Of significant importance, the Friends of Music Committee will meet for the first time for 2010 on the evening of February in the Music Department, room 302 at 7:30pm. All parents and SBC community members are welcome. As a new fundraising initiative, the Friends of Music at St Bernard’s College has organised a bus trip for parents and friends to Rochford Winery in the Yarra Valley for a 2 course lunch, winery tour and wine tasting. The trip is scheduled for Sunday March 21 and will cost $65 per person. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and friends to meet and socialise whilst contributing to, and supporting the College’s Music Program. This trip is limited to 32 guests so it is important to book seats ASAP by emailing Michelle at mpuglisi@sbc.vic.edu.au. This invitation is open to all SBC parents and their friends, not just those who have boys involved in the music program.

The Friends of Music further support the music program with practical support at concerts by selling tickets, setting up supper and helping backstage. Volunteers in these areas are always welcome and no special skills are necessary to help. Any parent who can spare 2 hours on a concert evening to assist are invited to register their pledge of support. Our scheduled concerts for 2010 are:

 Semester 1 Concert: May 13th
 Yr 7 Concert 7A-D & H: June 17th
 Spring Concert: September 14th
 Yr 7 Concert: 7 E-G: November 25th

Mr Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

ACC Athletics

This week sees the first of the Athletic squad’s night carnivals. The carnivals are invaluable for the coaches in getting an idea of current form and the performances at both carnivals, by the competing athletes, will go a long way towards making up the ACC Athletic team selection.

Many of the positions in the team pick themselves with regulars like Lachlan Rayner (senior), Simo Rasic (U/17), Damon Kliman (U/15) and James Costello (U/14) all having competed very well over the summer. Others to impress in training are Shahiru Fernando (U/17), Vincent Bonasera and Matthew Dickson (U/16), Cameron Barasso (U/15) and Declan Gilbert (U/13) just to mention a few.

Mr Ed Stojkovich has the sprinters working well and Mr Tony Waters is very happy with the progress of his high jumpers. The make up of the throws and vertical jumps squads are not as clear cut and Mr David Waters, Mr Brian Hall and Mr Pat Fitzgerald are very keen to see the results from the two Tuesday carnivals.

Mr Michael McIntyre has no such worries as he has a plethora of options with his middle distance team. His training sessions, since resuming training this year, have been extremely tough but his charges have responded brilliantly and the team looks very strong. No one has emerged, as of yet, in the Under 13 age group but the other age groups all look strong. The Under 17 squad is perhaps the most competitive with anyone of six boys a possibility of running the 1500 metre event at Olympic Park. It will be a great race to watch at the first of the night carnival.

The night carnivals will be held at Aberfeldie athletic track on Tuesday, February 23 and Tuesday, March 2 commencing at 7.30pm. There will be no morning training on those days. Any student is welcome to compete on the night even if they have not been training. All squad members should have received a note with details of the two nights, but the event schedule can also been found on the college website, under Athletics.

Mr Gerard Brown

Congratulations to Tom Madden (9C) on being a member of the North West Wizards Cricket team which won the Victorian Under 14 State Championships.

For Sale

Broad-brimmed hats ideal for HPE classes and sports activities, with SBC embroidered on each, are available from the uniform shop for $20. A great way to be “sunsmart”.

St Bernard's Football Club

St Bernard's Football Club Under 17 training commences Tuesday March 2 at 4-30 at St-Bernard's Oval.

All enquiries to Mel Beyer  0412-247486
Careers News

1. I'M NOT SURE HOW TO CHOOSE A CAREER.....then be assured that you are like many other people at some stage of their lives. The important thing to consider is what you are going to do about it. Although you can change careers if the first one doesn't suit, and you are likely to have a number of careers anyway, career choice does deserve serious consideration. Some questions to take on board and ponder are:

What interests me?
What do I enjoy doing?
What am I good at?
What school subjects do I like?
How do I like to spend my spare time?
What is important to me?
How much and what type of study do I wish to do after finishing school?

By answering these questions you will start to get some clues about what will best suit you. Of course, if you are in year 12, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with myself!

2. NEWS FROM MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY – The university reports that students are showing increasing confidence in the ‘Melbourne Model’, as the 2010 VTAC offers reflect growing demand - particularly for undergraduate Science and Biomedicine. ENTERs in 2010 for Science of 89.05 (85.00 in 2009) and 97.9 for Biomedicine (95.00 in 2009). For more information about the university see: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au.

3. I WANT TO BE A VET! The annual Veterinary Science Open Day is an opportunity for future students to go behind the scenes at the Veterinary Hospital in Werribee. Speak with staff, join interactive activities, meet current students and take a tour. Course and career advice will be available. When: 10am-3pm, Sun 21 March; Where: University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee. For further details, call 8344 7844 or visit www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday.

4. FIND OUT ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY – ADFA provides training and education for future leaders in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Combining military and leadership training with an undergraduate degree from the University of NSW, you will be paid to study, get a Uni of NSW degree in Arts, Business, Engineering, Science or Technology. No HECS debt, free health care and a guaranteed career in the Navy, Army or Air Force. Want to know more? When: 6.30pm, Wed 24 Feb; Where: Defence Force Recruiting, Level 14, 501 Swanston St, Melbourne; Bookings: 13 19 01. Parents and friends are welcome; Information: www.defencejobs.gov.au/adfa.

5. WANT HELP WITH FOLIO PREPARATION AND CAREERS? Folio preparation and design career discovery courses are held at the RMIT City and Brunswick campuses throughout the year. Courses are suited to Clairvaux students. Whilst such courses do not in any way guarantee a place into tertiary programs, they are a great way to build your profile and have fun! For further information, pick up details from the careers resource centre.


7. PLASTERING APPRENTICE WANTED. Do you know of someone with his own car, interested in this trade? If so, the applicant can call Archie Grogan on 0438 421 492

Mr David Rosel, Careers Adviser (9289 1159 or drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au)

Library News

It has been a busy start to the 2010 school year in the library. I would like to welcome Kerry Norton to the library team who is with us one day a week and to all my colleagues who have helped me settle into my new role heading up the library here at St.Bernards.

There have been some planned (and not so planned) changes in the library to date. The planned changes are in the Senior study area for our VCE students which has been fitted with new tables and chairs. The boys are using that area well and seem to appreciate the space. We are currently in the process of re-arranging the library areas to make even better.

We did not plan for the Library ‘flood’, and as I naively pulled up the blinds to look at the rain, (appreciating the comparison to the windows at the NGV), it wasn’t until the water came pouring in that I realised it did not, in fact, compare and that an action plan was required. The cavalry was then called and given tools, some bringing their own, and the rest as they say is history. We are operational again and many thanks to all who helped, especially Pat DelMedico who was leaving for home when she was summoned back!

Ms Emorfia Kupraiou