From The Principal

Principals of the forty Edmund Rice schools in Australia gathered last week for our annual conference, the theme of which was overcoming educational disadvantage. Speakers challenged us to consider how our schools are assisting in overcoming disadvantage for the most marginalised in our country, particularly indigenous Australians and those who arrive seeking asylum.

One of the speakers quoted eminent Liberation theologian Father Gustavo Gutierrez – “there is really only one commandment and that is to love.” This resonates in our own knowledge of scripture as St Paul reminds us “Right now three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love, (1 Cor 13:13). Love translates into justice and as an Edmund Rice school our obligation to just treatment of the marginalised is clear.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our students who are active in this area, volunteering for the soup vans, refugee tutoring, community service, Project Africa and providing Christmas presents for the homeless. Some of these initiatives are about providing funds or gifts but many more are about learning through service and raising our own awareness of the needs of others. Developing awareness allows us to stand in solidarity with the marginalised and, when we can’t provide direct help, use our privileged position in society to advocate for them. To take a line from the popular hymn, “who will speak if we don’t?”

St Bernard’s is blessed with an excellent staff. I spoke to the Year Twelve students last week and encouraged them to take advantage of their generous and incredibly committed teachers as they approach the exam period. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of two such dedicated educators in The Strand: Mrs Charlene Landavogt and Ms Rebecca Cracknell. Charlene is the 2010 winner of the “Spirit of ANZAC” prize for teachers. The State Government and the Shrine of Remembrance present this award each year to a young teacher to help promote the teaching of wartime history. Charlene will travel on an intensive overseas study tour to theatres of war where Australians have fought. We congratulate her and look forward to significant benefits for history at St Bernard’s. (Please see how you can get involved with Charlene’s work at the conclusion of this newsletter)

Ms Rebecca Cracknell has been made a reserve for the position of Herald Sun Teacher Ambassador. This is a highly sought after position and involves international travel to Scotland to attend the Glasgow Learning Festival, the running of two professional development workshops for other teachers and the production of an education kit. We congratulate her on this wonderful achievement and sincerely hope that she has the opportunity to participate in the program.

Last weekend a group of students, accompanied by Ms Bernadette Kirkwood, returned from walking the Kokoda track. This is an initiative of Victoria Police and encourages interaction between students from St Bernard’s, Debney Park and police members. I congratulate all involved and commend Victoria Police on this innovative and successful program.

Last week, on behalf of this community, I met with Mr Kelvin Thompson MHR, member for Wills, and Mr Bill Shorten MHR member for Maribyrnong, to discuss issues related to the ongoing fair funding of Catholic Schools. Both members understand the impact of Federal funding policy decisions on school sectors but it was good to be able to make both aware of what this means for an individual school like St Bernard’s. Some of the points I emphasised included:

• Historically Government funding for Catholic schools covered the wages for staff. Curriculum budgets, capital developments were paid for by the community through fees. A gradual erosion of funding now means that over $1000 of each St Bernard’s students’ fees goes toward staff salaries.

• Media reports often trumpet figures suggesting that Catholic and independent schools receive more Federal Government funding than state schools. This is true, because State Governments substantially fund state schools. The only meaningful figure is the total cost to the public purse of educating a student in a state school compared to a Catholic school. It costs the taxpayer 63% of the cost of a state school education for every student in a Catholic school. This is a substantial saving to Government.

• Catholic schools are generally not wealthy. As a sector the demographic of the students we teach in Catholic schools is much more similar to state schools than independent schools.

• Catholic schools are efficient in our use of resources. When considering all sources of funding we educate each student for 92% of the cost of educating a student in a state school.

The funding of Catholic Education is a significant issue for families in Catholic Schools. I encourage everyone in this community to consider the positions of all candidates as we cast our votes tomorrow.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

IMPORTANT...Canteen Help Required

Due to changes in family and work situations we now desperately need more help on most Thursdays. If you are available please call Sharon or Mandy on 92891136
Upcoming Events
August 23 at 5:30pm – Board Meeting – Board Room
August 24 at 7:00pm – Discere Information Evening – Board Room
**August 25 – St Bernard’s Day**
August 25 at 7:00pm – VCAL 2011 Information Night – Board Room
August 27 - MARIBYRNONG 150
August 31 at 7:00pm – Year 9 2011 Santa Monica and Subject Selection talk - Auditorium
September 1 at 9:30am – Ladies and Friends Auxiliary – Pavilion
September 1 at 11:30am – Mothers of Old Boys’ Luncheon – Pavilion

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:

**Human Rights Approach to Migration Urged**
An estimated 214 million people currently live outside their country of origin. While for some migration is a positive and empowering experience, far too many migrants have to endure human rights violations, discrimination and exploitation. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay recently urged all concerned “to implement a human rights approach to migration, and to recognise the positive contributions of migrants, protect their human rights in law and practice, and facilitate their integration into host societies”

The High Commissioner went on to note that an increasing global trend to frame migration policies solely within a security and border control framework. This is exacerbated by policies which criminalise irregular migrants, and subject them to administrative detention regimes which are punitive in nature and often lack adequate safeguards. Vulnerable migrants can be detained for months and even years in immigration detention. The statement is one of several recent calls for the protection of the Human Rights of migrants issued by the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**. Although the comments were not directed towards any particular country, they seem particularly relevant to Australia at a time when in the lead-up to the federal election the major parties seem intent on demonstrating a ‘tough’ stance on ‘border protection’ against asylum seekers – a trend also criticised by the **Australian Catholic Bishops**.

Whilst Australia can be proud of its record of accepting migrants (according to statistics published in 2006 almost 25% of the Australian population was born overseas), more recently its hysterical overreaction to the relatively tiny number of asylum seekers arriving by boat and the harsh treatment directed towards them, is a source of shame and bewilderment.

**Members of the Edmund Rice Network Urged to Stand-up Against Poverty**
World Leaders will gather at the United Nations in New York for the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit in September. The Millennium Development Goals provide a unique opportunity to end global poverty and inequality by 2015 with the setting of achievable, time-bound and locally defined targets.

Edmund Rice International will be encouraging members of the Edmund Rice Network and Edmund Rice Schools around the globe to join in solidarity with each other, with millions of others and with the world’s poor by participating in the Stand-Up Against Poverty Campaign action planned for September 17th-19th.

Mr John McKenna, Strand Campus Director

**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.
Kicking Goals for Xav

In memory of former student Xavier Krikori, who, in January 2009 at the age of 17 was killed from the extremely aggressive cancer called Ewing Sarcoma, his family have successfully registered themselves as a non-profit charity, ‘Kicking Goals for Xav’. The aim of the foundation is to raise awareness and funds to support the research of Australian Sarcoma Study Group.

After a successful trivia night fundraiser and along with the help of St Bernard’s College Essendon, the Doutta Stars Football club, the Brunswick Hockey club, and family members and friends, the charity has raised over $15,000 to aid research. The next planned function is a Sportsman’s night to be held in October (date to be finalised).

If you have a business that is looking for a charity to support, why not consider Xav’s. The Foundation requires sponsorship in the form of donations of goods or services that can be used as prizes, auction items gifts in fundraising ventures. If you can help or require further information do not hesitate to contact Fiona Ehmer on either 0438374295 or 93374295.

General News

Notices for Year 8 Parents

This week, at Year 8 assembly, the Year 8 boys listened to Mr Reedy introduce the idea of subject selection for next year. The most important points for parents to note are:

• Boys can now, together with their parents, read up about each subject available for selection in Year 9 2011 by visiting the school website, clicking on ‘subject selection’ followed by ‘Year 9 2011 documentation’. This is vital to prepare boys for when subject selection for Year 9 2011 opens. (date to be advised)

• Parents and boys are invited to the school auditorium on Tuesday August 31, 7:30pm to hear two speakers present important information about Year 9, 2011. Mark Reedy, Curriculum leader, will speak about Year 9 subject selection for 2011 whilst Mark Smith, Director of the Santa Monica program, will speak about the wonderful opportunity all Year 9 boys participate in at our campus near Lorne.

Other points to note are:

• Boys interested in applying for Year 9 Discere 2011 please note that Discere always go to Santa Monica late in Term 4. Interested parents are encouraged to attend the Discere Information Night held in the boardroom Tuesday August 24th.

• On Tuesday September 7 at 7pm in the College boardroom, the annual St Bernard’s Vin Tuck Public Speaking competition will be held. Whilst this is open to all year levels, there has been some interest from Year 8 boys. Applications will be available from Mrs Robyn Sullivan. Boys are to prepare a 2 min speech on a topic of their choice with the option, that evening, of participating in the impromptu speech category. It is a real opportunity to take a risk and practise public speaking. I hope many boys from all year levels take up this challenge.

• On Thursday November 25 Year 8 boys will be showcasing their iLEAP projects which are taking shape. Parents will be welcome to come along either before or after recess that day to have a look at some of what Year 8 have been doing in iLEAP.

Ms Siobhan Loukomitis, Year 8 Co-ordinator

VCAL News

Last week, Year 12 VCAL students spent two days on the Bellarine Peninsula exploring a number of attractions including the Ford Discovery Centre in Geelong, Point Lonsdale Lighthouse and the Queenscliff/Sorrento Ferry. Monday night was spent at Santa Monica before returning to Melbourne. Even with the very wet weather on Tuesday, students were still able to complete a session on the Ace Karts go-kart track in Sunshine. Despite being soaked to the skin, everyone seemed to enjoy the camp finale immensely. Full credit to the boys who responsibly researched, arranged and booked most activities, meals and schedules.

Another reminder that Year 10 and 11 parents and students are invited to the VCAL 2011 Information Night on Wednesday August 25 at 7pm in the Boardroom.

Mr Chris Mannix

Clairvaux English

After school tuition is available to all Clairvaux students every Monday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the Year 11 Corridor. In addition, there is an “English Enrichment” session for Year 12 Students every Tuesday afternoon in the Yr 12 Corridor, run by Year 12 English staff to prepare students for the Unit 4 SACs.

English Options at Year 11(2011)

If students at Year 10 (and their parents) would like further clarification about the three English options available for Year 11 in 2011, please do not hesitate to contact the English Coordinator either on 9289 1146 or at cmcgee@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Mrs Christine McGee, Clairvaux English Coordinator.
Kokoda 2010

It is hard to put into words exactly how difficult it is to walk Kokoda. The boys and I have been back for only a short time and for most of us we still have various aches and pains.

Our feet certainly took a beating with blisters being the norm rather than the exception.

Whilst none of us will ever know what it is like to have been part of the PNG fighting, we certainly have an appreciation for the battle they had to fight against the terrain, weather, bugs and the mud.

The track helps to bring a clarity of mind to those walk it. You never really conquer Kokoda. If you are lucky Kokoda lets you get to the other side reasonably intact.

Each boy will have their proudest moment, most difficult moment, funniest moment, emotional moment. The track casts a spell over you as you walk.

I have had the privilege of walking Kokoda 2010 with a group of the most amazing Year 11 students; all different and all unique in personality and attitude but the one thing that bonded us was our link to SBC.

The attached photo was taken at Isurava Memorial. The 4 black marble pillars have a single word engraved on each of them. Mateship, Sacrifice, Courage, Endurance. The boys thought that Mateship would be appropriate.

Ms Bernadette Kirkwood

Year 9 Engineers at Work - Humanitarian Conference, August 5

A special collaboration between Engineers Australia, Engineers Without Borders, Worley Parsons and Akorn Educational Services recently gave six Year 9 students the opportunity to gain an understanding of engineering and the various options it offers. Engineers Without Borders presented a real-life humanitarian challenge in Ton Le Sap Lake, Cambodia to groups of students from nine Catholic secondary schools. The students then broke into groups to work with engineers from Worley Parsons and Engineers Without Borders to develop strategies for addressing their stream of engineering (i.e. mechanical, chemical, environmental, water, civil and electrical) in this scenario.

At the conclusion of the conference, the students presented their recommendations to all participants and were given information about Engineering Opportunities offered by the various Universities in the Melbourne area.

The boys had a very enjoyable day and came away with a far better understanding of not only the engineering profession but also the difference engineers can make in the lives of families who live in very trying conditions.

Congratulations to: Andrew Howley, Eddwinton Lao, Michael Jong, Johnny Nguyen, Zoli Kowalczewski and Matthew Winbanks who were a credit to the school throughout the day.

Ms Cathy O’Halloran

Music News

After a very successful musical production season, the Music Department is now moving towards Semester 2 Concerts.

One of our major concerts for the year, the SBC Spring Concert, is only a handful of weeks away, to be held on Tuesday September 14. This Concert will start at 7:30pm and all are welcome to experience the musical talent of our students. As in previous years, we will be acknowledging the efforts and contributions of our Year 12 musicians and announce the 2010 recipient of the Colin Chapman Memorial Award for the Most Outstanding Musician of the Year.

All music students are strongly advised to consider registering for the Semester 2 Soiree, to be held on the evening of Monday October 11. This is an opportunity for students to perform solo or in small, self-directed groups. It is imperative that students interested in performing at this event register with Mr Puglisi by the end of Term 3.

Along with honouring our 2010 agenda, students of the major school bands have been given Expression of Interest paperwork concerning the Music Tour to Queensland and the Gold Coast in 2011. We hope to travel with 3 or 4 ensembles to undertake a range of performances, including representing St Bernard’s College in the annual ‘Jazzin’ Up the Mall’ festival in Brisbane. Students who currently learn a band instrument or are involved in the bands are eligible to participate. Expression of Interest forms are due by Friday September 10.

Friends of Music: The next meeting for this group is Monday August 23, 7:30pm in the Music Department, room 302. All are welcome to support the work of the teachers and students in this vital area of College life.

Mr Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music
Italian News

Live Theatre Performance by AIDA Theatre Group, Verona (Italy)
The LOTE & Performing Arts Faculties are pleased to invite families and friends of St. Bernard’s to attend a special live theatre performance by renowned theatre group, AIDA, from Verona. The Company specialises in the Commedia dell’Arte (Italian masked characters). The performance, Harlequin’s Secret (Il Segreto di Arlecchino) is scheduled for Monday, August 30 in the College Auditorium, commencing at 7:30pm. Cost is only $10.00 pp (students half price). The show will be performed in a mix of English & Italian and lasts approximately 60 mins. For bookings or further information please contact me at bspiller@sbc.vic.edu.au; or on 92891000.

2010 Italy Study Tour Experience
A reminder that a final briefing session for those students who will be participating in the Italy Study Tour during the Term 3 holidays. The session will be held in the College Boardroom on Thursday August 26 commencing at 7:30pm. 

Mr Bruno Spiller, Senior Italian Teacher, Clairvaux Campus

Homicide Night: An Investigator’s Insight.
“What happens behind the scenes as police build their cases to bring criminals to trial” Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles of the Homicide Squad will once again present this year at the College Auditorium on Thursday September 9 at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets are $25 and include light refreshments. Places are limited so book early with all proceeds going to the Blue Police Ribbon Foundation, which perpetuates the memory of members of the Victoria Police killed in the line of duty through the support of worthwhile community projects within Victoria. For bookings or further details please see Hayden Kennedy (Clairvaux) or John McCann (Strand).

Better late than never….ACC Athletics Presentation Night
It happened so long ago that most of the athletics squad may well be thinking about next year’s carnival, but this year’s athletic presentation night will be held on Thursday September 21 in the Auditorium, commencing at 7pm. The presentations will be followed by supper in O’Brien Hall. All team members and their families are welcome.

Mr Gerard Brown

Volleyball
It was a long weekend with many of the boys meeting at SBC at 6.30am most mornings. The boys played very well at top level with the Under 16’s bringing home a silver medal (only missing out on gold by a few points after going straight through to the final undefeated) and the Under 17’s just missing out on a medal match. Playing at the highest level, the Open team gave their competitors a run for their money (losing to Mazenod and most teams only by a handful of points). The Under 14’s are a work in progress but never gave an inch nor took a backward step.

Just as pleasing was the positive feedback we received, the Events Coordinator reporting that St. Bernard’s had the best parental supervision of the tournament and very well behaved boys. On and off the court we can be justifiably proud of our efforts.

Elsewhere, the Junior SBC State League team which plays Saturday mornings is still undefeated even beating the all-conquering Falcons who haven’t been beaten in 3 years twice!

A big thank you to all involved but in particular to Danielle Fletcher for all her outstanding work with the boys and her tireless contributions to making the sport of volleyball such a success here.

Mr. Craig Osborne, Sports Co-ordinator.

2010 Vic Interschools Snowsports’ Championships at Mt. Buller
We wish Anthony Wilde (Year10, skiercross) & Michael Satterley (Year10 snowboard giant slalom) all the best in the forthcoming Victorian Interschools’ Snowsports’ Championships at Mt. Buller. Anthony will be competing this Sunday August 22 and Michael will be racing the following day.

10-day Dolomite Snow Tour, January 2011.
There are still a few places left on the Dolomite Snow Tour, which will take place from 12/01/11 – 22/01/11. For further information, please contact Mr. Bruno Spiller, Snowsports’ Team Co-ordinator at the College.

Mr. Bruno Spiller, Snowsports’ Team Co-ordinator.

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

‘IF IT CAN BE DREAMT, THEN IT CAN BE DONE’
**Spirit of ANZAC tour – your opportunity to be part of history!**

My name is Charlene Landvogt, a history/humanities teacher on The Strand campus. Recently I was selected to participate in the Spirit of ANZAC tour for teachers. In the term 3 holidays I will be travelling to Europe as a member of a group of six Victorian teachers in order to gain a better understanding Australia’s involvement in World War 1 and 2. I will be traveling to major historic sites including Gallipoli, the Western Front and London.

As part of this tour I am required to complete a project upon my return from the tour and this is where I am requesting your help. In 2011 I would like to begin creating an online database at the College, where year 9 Australian History students can research the history of soldiers from the Essendon area who served in World War 1. Students would use this information to create a profile of the soldier which would be uploaded onto a web database that could be accessed by St. Bernard’s College students and the broader community.

Students may examine aspects of the soldier’s life including his past, his military history and the battles he fought. The profile might include photos of the soldier, maps of the battle fields he fought on and his diary entries. They may look back at past weather records and document the conditions he faced. Using the photos or resources I would obtain in Europe, they might reconstruct the visual terrain he would have seen, show houses he would have marched past and describe the area where he is laid to rest.

Ultimately, this database would document the profiles of soldiers from our immediate school and local community who served in World War 1. It is my intention to provide our students with links to their local community and help them gain an increased appreciation of the sacrifice many soldiers from our local area made during past wars. I also hope that you, the community of St. Bernard’s College and Essendon, would benefit from this project, as you would discover the history of family members who you might know little about. In essence you, the community, would be commissioning our year 9 students to research a part of your family history.

If you know of a family member who served in World War 1 and would like them researched as part of this project, please forward their name to me.

My contact details are clandvogt@sbc.vic.edu.au or 9289 1122

Yours in appreciation,
Mrs. Charlene Landvogt.

**Careers News**

**Open Days Coming…**

Sun 22 Aug – Deakin Uni (Melbourne):
La Trobe Uni (Bundoora)

1. UNIVERSITY SELECTION CRITERIA: EARLY ACHIEVERS PROGRAM - Australian Catholic University began the EAP in 2008. Those who demonstrate commitment to the community and their studies may gain early acceptance into a course via EAP. EAP welcomes students with ability and enthusiasm to succeed – something not solely reflected in academic results. Successful applicants receive an offer in October, ahead of the usual tertiary offers. EAP applicants have to complete the relevant prerequisite subjects for their course and achieve the University’s minimum ATAR of 58.8. Info: www.acu.edu.au/counts, ph 9953 3300.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS AT DEAKIN – Deakin University offers a range of scholarships to help students from a range of backgrounds with the costs of tuition and accommodation. Academic Excellence Scholarships aim to recognise and reward students with outstanding academic abilities by assisting them to achieve their full potential (many include work-integrated learning opportunities). Access and Equity Scholarships are aimed at increasing access to higher education for students who are experiencing economic, social or geographical disadvantage. To find out more about Deakin scholarships: www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/scholarships/scholarshipsmatrix.php.

3. BACHELOR OF BUSINESS (SPORT MANAGEMENT) – Deakin Uni. has revised its Sport Management degree. Now the Bachelor of Business (Sport Management), the degree opens the door to the prospect of working on major events like the World Cup and Olympic Games, as well as working for professional sports and community sporting organisations. Previously called the Bachelor of Commerce – Sport Management, the course has provided a gateway to a career in sport for more than 1000 graduates for the past 21 years. The degree now has nine core business units, eight specialist sport management units, with seven free for students to choose a second major area of study; marketing is a popular choice for sport students (others include: HRM, accounting, finance, economics, commercial law, international business and information business systems). Up to 120 hours of work experience in a sporting organisation is also available.

4. WHAT ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY? ADFA is holding its annual University Open Day - see displays and learn what you need to about ADFA life. Defence Force Recruiting and the University of NSW will be there to give course/careers advice. Navy Midshipmen, Army and Air Force Officer Cadets will discuss life at ADFA, conduct tours and explain their military/academic experience. When: 9am-4pm, Sat 28 August; Where: Northcott Drive, Campbell, Canberra; 2011 ADFA University places are still available. Call 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/adfa.

5. INTERESTED IN PHARMACY OR PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES? Monash Uni’s Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has a Future Student Information Session for you. When: 6-7.30pm, Tues 7 Sept; Where: Monash Parkville Campus, 381 Royal Pde, Parkville; Register: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Ugrad-info-10.

6. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ENGINEERING CAREERS RMIT’s School of Electrical & Computer Engineering; When: 6.30-8.30pm, Thurs 9 Sept; Where: RMIT University Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5 (entrance through Bowen St); light refreshments with a time for questions; no need to book.

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