From The Principal

The most recent newsletter set out the College’s priority strategic goals. This week the College Board formally adopted the Strategic plan and ratified a number of significant strategic actions that flow from these goals. From 2012 we will be enrolling an additional class of Year 7 students. As a result of this in 2011 we will be decommissioning a redundant computer laboratory to accommodate this additional class. Beyond this, we will need to develop additional classroom space.

We have commissioned the College architects to plan an Art / Technology building to be situated adjacent to the current Technology rooms on the bank adjacent to Oval 2. This building will allow the junior Art rooms currently operating in the Margaret Carey Building to be reclaimed as general purpose classrooms to accommodate additional Year 8 and 9 classes.

The strategic plan strongly recommends that we implement a food technology program. The new building will contain facilities for the teaching of food technology to students at The Strand Campus.

We have taken a decision to implement a full laptop program for all students. By late next year all students in Years 10 – 12 will have a laptop computer provided by the College through the Digital Education Revolution Program. We intend to institute a notebook program for all Year 7 students starting in 2012 so by 2014 all students will have laptops. It is envisaged that boys will be issued a replacement machine at the start of Year 10. While families will fund this program as part of the student fees, we are confident that there will be significant savings through reductions in book lists, photocopying levies, ICT levies and reduced need to provide computing capacity at home.

I would like to acknowledge the Year 12 students for the positive way that they celebrated the completion of their time at St Bernard’s. Their final day at the College included breakfast at 7.30am, final full school assembly during the morning, Mass in the evening followed by the Valete Dinner. I would also like to acknowledge the significant work of the staff in putting these events together. Particular thanks to: Year Level Coordinators, Ms Vittoria Alcorace and Mr Shaun Lancashire; Director of Property Personnel and Services, Mr Bruce Wallace and Director of Mission Mr Brendan Douglas along with the Year 12 Homeroom teachers and College Maintenance staff.

This week we welcomed Anthony Gagliano, 2011 Vice Captain – Mission, back to the College after representing the College at the canonisation of Mary McKillop in Rome. A report on Anthony’s experience is included in this newsletter.

The Debating Association of Victoria have recognised two of our students with Swannie Awards for their debating skills in 2010. This is a points-based award system, recognising the best speakers in each year level in the State. The students were presented with their awards at a ceremony at the BMW Edge at Federation Square during the week. Congratulations to Frank Spanti of Year 11, and Deon Tsakis of Year 10 on this outstanding achievement, along with their coaches Mr Dallas Simpson and Ms Kate Torpy, for all their hard work. All debaters and coaches are to be thoroughly commended on their performances this year.

I would like to remind families that boys are required to be at school ready to commence homeroom at 8.45. When boys are late it is disruptive both to the administration of the school and to their learning. Please emphasise to your sons, the importance of arriving at school punctually. I also remind families that students are permitted to wear summer uniform from next Wednesday November 3.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:

State Elections Pending: What Will Influence Your Vote?

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has produced a leaflet, ‘A Vote for Social Justice’ which highlights some key justice issues. It was produced for the Federal election in August and is still relevant for the State elections coming up.

The leaflet aims to help voters think about some issues that will be decided in the election and offers some questions that could be raised with all candidates.

Issues are discussed under the headings ‘Fostering true partnership’, ‘Making ends meet’, ‘A place to call home’, ‘Welcoming the stranger’ and ‘Care for the environment’. The leaflet is available for download on the ACSJC website.

Have You Read This?

The Australian Catholic Bishops regularly write on issues of importance. The September Statement, “Violence in Australia: A message of peace”, considers how the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation lead to peace and non-violent ways of addressing conflict and divisions - a challenging task when so much of Australian culture encourages aggressive attitudes, promotes the need to succeed at all costs, or fosters the desire for revenge.
The statement points out that whilst Australia is essentially a peaceful country, with strong traditions of fairness and justice, there are also deep roots of violence in the Australian story: the dispossession of the Aboriginal peoples, the violence of its convict history, and the strand of racism that has been directed at immigrants at different times. The Bishops draw on the Gospels, social teachings of the Church and examples of individuals and groups working for peace in the Australian context, and highlight the role of all in making a difference for peace as individuals, as a community and as a nation. They also make clear how radical and central are Jesus’ teachings about peacemaking in the Gospel.

The Statement is available through the website of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and gives practical suggestions and poses important questions that will help individuals, parishes and groups as they consider how a disciples of Christ they might help bring peace to our world.

The Canonisation of Mary Mackillop

I was very privileged to be chosen to represent St. Bernard’s at the canonisation of Mary Mackillop in Rome and it was the greatest event I have ever witnessed.

My journey was shared with a group of 70 students selected from schools across Victoria and these new friends of mine made the journey even more memorable.

On October 17, 2010 at 7am, the Vatican had long queues containing thousands of excited Australians and international tourists. As the ceremony progressed all were filled with happiness and pride and when Mary was finally declared a Saint St. Peter’s Square erupted with cheers and applause. Australian dignitaries such as Kevin Rudd and Archbishop Dennis Hart came to talk to us and I also ran into some family members as well as a dear friend, Agnes who is an Aboriginal landowner from Daly River.

Saint Mary of the Cross is a real example we can follow, a person of extraordinary faith and courage. Her faith in God gave her the strength to achieve her goals even when some in the Church tried to stop her. She felt nearest to God at the times she faced great adversity.

May we too remain strong in our lives, in our faith and in our pursuit of happiness.

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

Important Note for Strand Parents

Strand parents are reminded that there are no classes for Strand students on Friday, November 5. It is a Correction day for Strand staff after the recent Assessment weeks.

Important Note for Parents of Year 12 Students in 2011 (Change of date and venue)

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.
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.

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 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 acometti@sbc.vic.edu.au or on 9289 1089.

Science students at the University of Melbourne
From October 11 - 15, six of our Year 10 students: Xavier De Bruyn, Xavier Butcher, William Fleming, Adrian Marcato, Ivan Galic and Jordan Lo Presti, spent the week in the Physics department of the University of Melbourne.

As part of the Growing Tall Poppies Program, the boys undertook a research project in Coherent X-Ray Science, investigating the topic of mathematics and physics meeting popular culture. Throughout the week, they were very kindly assisted by PHD and academic staff within the Physics department's Theory and Modelling Program. On the Friday, they presented their findings to staff, including one of Australia’s leading physicists, Professor Keith Nugent.

In a high pressure, independent work environment, the boys performed superbly. Staff were so impressed that they have asked them to present their paper at an academic conference later in the year.

ACC Junior Golf Results
Congratulations to our ACC Junior golfers on their fantastic result in the Junior Championship held at Weribee Park Golf Club on October 22. The team of Ted Donoghue, Will Ryan, Anthony Bartucca, Ben Nathan, Eddwinton Lao, Zoli Kowalczewski, Pat Comerford and Matt Grogan finished in 3rd place on 564 behind runners up, St Bedes on 486, and eventual winners, De La Salle on 480. Well done to all the boys and their coaches on this wonderful achievement.

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)
Careers News

Reminder....
As announced last month, the University of Melbourne will be offering 350 more Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) into the Bachelor of Science in 2011. As a result of this increased quota, it is important that students do not place undue weight on last year’s Clearly-in-Rank of 89.05. Instead, students should use 85.00, the approved minimum ATAR for entry to the Bachelor of Science, as a broad guide.

1. TERTIARY INTERVIEWS  Yr 12s are reminded of the importance of notifying Mr. Rosel if you have a tertiary interview.

2. UNI MELBOURNE GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIPS  The University has recently introduced the Melbourne Global Scholars Award for high achieving students. Students who achieve an ATAR of 98.00 or above and maintain an average of 65% in their studies will receive $2,500 to study at one of over 150 partner institutions in 37 countries across the world on exchange or in an approved or study abroad program, or at least $1,000 to study at a University of Melbourne Overseas Subject or approved short term program less than a semester.

3. ARCHITECTURE SUMMER SHORT COURSE  Melbourne Uni’s Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning’s Summer School is for students from Years 10, 11 or 12 who have an interest in architecture and design and want to learn more. Over the four days, students will be introduced to the fundamental aspects of architecture or a design related career. The Summer School will be run by a team of experts from the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning who have many years experience teaching and working in this industry. Pick up details from careers room.
Dates: 13–16 December 2010, 9:30am–5:00pm each day
Cost: $450 (covers all materials and lunches)

4. RMIT PHARMACY!!!!!!!  RMIT has just announced its new Bachelor of Pharmacy degree for 2011 intake. Available by direct application, students will be provided with an education leading to registration as pharmacists. The new four-year degree also offers access to many career opportunities within biomedical research and the pharmaceuticals sector. Prerequisites: Units 3 and 4 -English (any), chemistry and one of mathematics (any) or physics. *Please note the UMAT will not be used as a selection mode for 2011 intake.
This late announcement follows preliminary approval by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). Applications should be made direct to RMIT. Please note an application will not affect students’ VTAC preferences. Students need to register at: www.rmit.edu.au/medicalsciences/pharmacy  Interested students will receive notification of when application forms will be available.

5 AIMING FOR A CAREER IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY?  The PUSH Music Industry seminar is a must for any student interested in the music industry -recording, management, performance, events and technical. See careers board or pick up pamphlets from outside careers office. Spots fill very quickly!
Mr David Rosel, Careers Adviser (9289 1159 or drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au)

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
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