From The Principal

It is with much sadness that we received news of the death of Peter McMahon. Peter was an Old Collegian, parent and generous supporter of St Bernard’s. His most significant contribution was as Chair of the College Board for 11 years until 2008. During his tenure as Chair, significant development of the College site occurred with the addition of the Year 7, 12 and Administration buildings along with a changed alignment of the College to Rosehill Road. We thank Peter for his contribution to the College and extend our sympathies to his wife Maria, and family.

Last week I attended the annual conference of the Principals Association of Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools. It was a tremendous opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern and access the wisdom and experience of others.

The title of the conference was “Between Peter’s rock and a hard place”. The title reflected the feeling shared by many of the challenges we face as the religious leaders of our school communities. The institutional Church is finding it increasingly difficult to engage with young people in the Western World and for many families, the school has replaced the institutional Church as the face of Jesus Christ.

Attributing blame as to whose fault this might be is essentially a fruitless exercise. The Church is people and people are Church. We people are poorer without a connection to Church and we need to work to find ways to maintain and facilitate this.

I think the Principals are representative of most teachers and leaders in Catholic schools in that we keenly feel the need to be authentic in our support for the Church and its authorities. At the same time we need to challenge anything that makes it more difficult for our families and young people to engage with their Church. It has been said that young people don’t want “our catholicity”: that they are seeking a more contemporary manifestation of Church.

Some suggest that young people want spirituality without organised religion. I think perhaps that our children are more discerning and questioning, and perhaps more egocentric, in their engagement with Church. They engage when they feel the need and they do not accept Church teaching without questioning it. It is clear that most of our boys feel a connection to Church at some level.

The media remind us regularly of the failings of our Church. In recent times the issue of sexual abuse and the response to it has been prominent. I suspect most of us have experienced the curiosity of non-Catholic friends as to why we remain part of the Church in the light of this reporting. It has been encouraging to see that Church authorities appear to be genuinely attempting to address both the issue and the mistakes of the past in responding to it. Archbishop Mark Coleridge of the Canberra and Goulburn Dioceses last week wrote an open Pentecostal letter about the issue. It is an interesting document and seems to mark a shift in that it suggests that the issue is “in some sense cultural” within the Church. It is a scholarly, accessible and powerful document that acknowledges the complexity of the issue, errors of the past commits to seeking solutions with the focus on those offended against. I encourage you to read it. The letter is available at http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=86.

The larger an organisation is, the slower and more difficult it is to change. The capacity of the Church to change, and indeed a consensus about what is fixed and unchangeable and what is peripheral and therefore able to be changed is much debated.

It is pertinent to remember that the modern Church took almost two centuries to officially respond to the issues of the working urban poor created by the industrial revolution with the issuing the Papal Encyclical “Rerum Novarum” in 1891. While the rate at which the world is changing is much faster than in the 1700’s and 1800’s, the capacity exists to respond at a similarly accelerated rate. Significantly the will to do so appears to be strengthening.

In all of the current debate it is critical to remember that people are Church and young people are the future of the Church. As educators and parents, it is important that we encourage our boys to choose to remain involved. As part of an evolving Church they can ensure that contemporary Church remains the authentic face of Jesus Christ in the world.

Best Wishes

Tony Paatsch

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 8 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Building Committee Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8 – 7:30pm</td>
<td>Africa Immersion Group Meeting – Pavilion</td>
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<td>June 9 – 11:30am</td>
<td>Ladies and Friends Auxiliary Luncheon</td>
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<td>June 14 – Public Holiday – NO SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15 – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Advisory Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15 – 7:30pm</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Association Meeting – Pavilion</td>
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<td>June 16 – 6:30pm</td>
<td>Discere ILP Presentation Evening – Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17 – 7:30pm</td>
<td>Year 7 Concert - Auditorium</td>
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Edmund Rice Network News/Justice Issues
On Saturday night, May 22nd, the Student Council rallied round Michael Long as he in turn gathered people around himself to celebrate the indigenous people of our land. The Student Council managed to gather 38 people in Federation Square with thousands of others as they completed the ‘Walk to the G’ before the Richmond Essendon AFL Game for the 5th year running. Numbers are steadily increasing at the Square each year as more and more people vote with their feet in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

To top off the night, the council managed to get the school banner behind Michael Long as he was interviewed on ‘Before the Game’ by Ryan Fitzgerald. Great work indeed and thanks to Tom Steel and Will Sullivan especially for holding the banner there for so long. Special thanks also to staff and parents who showed support for council and this important cause.

Edmund Rice Camps: What are they?
Edmund Rice Camps originated in 1981 at Parade College, Bundoora in Melbourne. The Christian Brothers who ran the college offered its resources for numerous activities for needy youngsters.

Since then the organisation has spread throughout Australia and New Zealand, Ireland, England and more recently has made its beginnings in Africa & India. They run camps and programs that provide opportunities for kids of all ages to share new experiences with volunteer leaders aged 17 and older.

Edmund Rice Camps have given many participants their first experience of camping out overnight, swimming at the beach, canoeing, abseiling, bushwalking, even going to the cinema or telling jokes around a campfire. The camps promote interaction between leaders and participants, which provides an opportunity for the development of friendship and trust. Our participants and leaders learn a little about themselves, about people and about life.

The participants on an Edmund Rice Camp come from diverse backgrounds and situations, but all benefit from an involvement with the camps. Edmund Rice Camps currently have 10 different camps groups operating in Australia and NZ. They have in excess of 1200 active volunteers involved in programs, as well as many more volunteers who still associate with Camps. They assist close to 1400 participants each year through the various programs that are run. There are approximately 120 programs that are run across Australia with the equivalent of 450 days on camp in a year.

The leaders on our camps are young adults from the community or schools who support the ethos of Edmund Rice Camps and who generously volunteer their time and talents to guide and support our programs and participants.

An Edmund Rice Camp provides an opportunity for growth for all those involved. Many students and ex-students from St. Bernard’s have been part of this wonderful experience as leaders. If you would like to know more, the local contact person is Mark Monaghan who works at ‘Amberley’ – email is: mark@amberley.org.au or phone Mark on 9439 6142.

General News

Kokoda 2010
The application and interview process took place earlier this year for Kokoda 2010. The quality of the applications were very high and showed the boys had researched the history of the track and were keen to make sure their application was one that stood out from others.

The training began in week 2 of Term 2 and has been a challenge. In week 4 the SBC group meet the police, sponsors, mica paramedic, and students from Debney Park Secondary College, who all help form the larger track group. The team for Kokoda 2010 are Jordan Angus, Damian Cresp, Alex Nicou, Sam Schepis, Andrew Zammit, Brent Catoggio, Kieran Johnson, Jacob Shine. I look forward to walking the track with these boys in early August.

Ms. Bernadette Kirkwood

Notice to Parents of Students in Years 10 and 11
Formal work in Unit ¾ subjects begins on 22nd November 2010 for students who will be doing ¾ subjects in 2011. It is intended that this will assist students to optimise all learning opportunities in their senior classes.
Classes will operate with input, homework and introduction of assessment tasks. Attendance at these classes is compulsory and is part of the 2011 academic year. Classes will run from the 22nd November till 1st December. It is hoped this will assist with planning for end of year family activities and holiday employment options.

**Subject Selection**

Term 3 sees the beginning of the Subject Selection process for students going into Year 10, 11 or 12 in 2011. Subject selection at St Bernard’s involves some input about the structure of a course of study and students are encouraged to gather as much information as possible before making their decision. This could include looking at future career options with Mr Rosel and discussing progress in a subject with their teacher and discussing choices with parents and investigating the possibility of doing VCAL or VET or accelerating. Finally a subject selection is completed on line via the school website. Students will receive confirmation of course of study for 2011 in November of this year.

**Subject selection for Year 10** students going into Year 11, 2011 will commence with a student information session on the morning of Monday 26th July. The parent (and student) information session is a 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th July in the Auditorium. Information will be available on the school website from Friday 23rd July.

**Subject selection for Year 9** students going into Year 10, 2011 will commence with a student information session on the morning of Monday 9th August. The parent (and student) information session is a 7:30 pm on Tuesday 10th August in the Auditorium. Information will be available on the school website from Friday 30th July.

**Subject selection for Year 11** students going into Year 12, 2011 must attend a student information session on the morning of Wednesday 4th August. Information will be available on the school website from Friday 30th July.

*Ms Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning*

**2011 Dolomite Ski Tour Info Night**

Following strong interest in the proposed 10-day Dolomite Ski Tour in January 2011, an information night will be held in the College Boardroom next Thursday 10th June 2010, commencing at 7.30 pm. Details of how the tour will operate will be provided and there will be an opportunity for those who are interested to learn more about how the tour will function. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bruno Spiller (Snow Sport’s Team Co-ordinator) at the College.

*Mr Bruno Spiller*

**Music News**

The Year 7 honours band has had a special invitation to perform at The Song Room and Allans Music Education Teacher Professional Development Day on June 11. Our honours band will be guided by guest clinician, Mr Peter Francis. The band will provide an insight to the quality or our work at St Bernard’s as a benchmark for other teachers and schools.

The ‘Keys to Success Project’ acquisition certificate acknowledging all the donations towards our grand piano has been printed. Benefactors are invited to the semester 1 piano concert at the college in commemoration and acknowledgement of their support. The evening will include the first unveiling of the framed Acquisition Certificate. This will occur on Tuesday June 22, 2010 in the St Bernard’s College Auditorium at 7:30 pm.

The Year 7 concert for Semester 1 2010 is fast approaching. It will occur on Thursday June 17, at 7:30 pm in the College Auditorium. This is a compulsory activity for all students in class 7A, B C, D & H. We encourage all parents and families to attend in support of the students.

*Mr C Puglisi, Director of Music*
Career News

1. LIBRARY / INFORMATION INDUSTRY CAREERS - RMIT is holding an information session for secondary students interested in careers in information management, content management, electronic publishing support, knowledge management and libraries. **When**: 5.30-7pm, Tues 25 May; **Where**: Experimedia, State Library of Victoria, cnr La Trobe and Swanston Sts; **Info**: Dr Bonna Jones, 9925 3791.

2. SEE LA TROBE UNI WITH OUT LEAVING HOME – La Trobe has just released a fantastic online animated tour of the Melbourne campus, where students can check out the campus via a guided tour or explore on their own, view La Trobe’s facilities, play games, and go on a treasure hunt! **See it at**: www.latrobe.edu.au/virtualtour.

3. EXPERIENCE ENGINEERING BEFORE GOING TO UNI – RMIT is running ‘Experience Engineering’ in the holidays. Attend and you receive a gift bag from Dimension Data (sponsors) along with a 4 gig USB stick! You will also have a chance of winning an Ipad! Learn about iRobots, digital film, high voltage, radio bugs micro-technology and satellite dishes on your roof. **When**: 9.30am-4pm, Wed 30 June OR Thurs 1 July; **Where**: RMIT School of Electrical and Computer Eng, Building 10; **Info**: 9925 2090. **Cost**: Free (incl lunch) **Register**: www.rmit.edu.au/seh/experience.

4. GAMES DESIGN COMPETITION – Imagine, design and create the ultimate arcade game! This competition is free to enter, open to individuals and teams of up to three, open to all secondary school students in Australia. 1st prize: $2,500 cash; 2nd prize: $1,000; 3rd prize: $500. Winners will be announced at Swinburne’s Open Day, Sun 15 August at Hawthorn campus. **How to enter**: (1) Fill in the online registration form; (2) Imagine, design and create your game using the SwinGame SDK; (3) Submit the deliverables by 5.30pm on Friday 6 August 2010. **See**: www.swingame.com.

5. A GAP YEAR LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE Are you thinking of taking a gap year after VCE but aren’t sure what to do? Maybe you’d like to gain language skills to work/travel in another country? RMIT language programs in Japanese and Chinese (Mandarin) are offered in full-time intensive mode so you can study a language while enjoying a gap year. Study 4 days (18hrs) per week to complete certificates I to IV and emerge with language skills ready to work or travel. You will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of cultural activities to further your language skills, such as off-campus language immersion camps and language exchange sessions with native speaker ESL students. This program was awarded a ‘Certificate of Achievement Award’ in the 2009 RMIT Teaching Awards.

**Contact**
Ms Adrienne Bowd
Tel. 03 9925 2448
Email: adrienne.bowd@rmit.edu.au

David Rosel
Careers Adviser
9289 1159
drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au

Reminders……

• Herald Sun Careers Expo, Fri 30 July-Sun 1 Aug, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

• UMAT – Register by 4 June; Test date: 28 July 2010; http://umat.acer.edu.au

• ‘Focus on Melbourne’ University seminar series (various faculties); Register/Information: ph 8344 6543 or www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/focusonmelbourne

• Computer Games Boot Camp, 3-9 July; Monash Uni, Clayton; Info/registration: www.infotech.monash.edu.au/promotion/games-boot-camp/

• RMIT School Holiday Program, Insights to science, engineering, environment, health and medical sciences; Information and bookings: www.rmit.edu.au/seh/experience.
Homicide Night

Victorian Police discuss the methods used to solve high profile cases.

When: Thursday 15th July 2010
Where: St Bernard’s College Auditorium
Time: 7pm for a 7.30 start
Supper provided
Cost $25

Tickets bought at –

Debney Park Secondary College
Mount Alexander Road
Flemington 3125
(03) 9376 1622

St. Bernard’s College
41 Rosehill Road
Essendon 3040
(03) 9289 1043