Last week we were privileged to have Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann working in the College as artist in residence. Miriam lives at Daly River in the Northern Territory, the community that hosts the St Bernard’s students who take part in the indigenous immersion experience each year. Miriam is an extraordinary person. She was the first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in the Territory, she is an acclaimed artist, a member of the National Indigenous Council and, in 1998, was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

During the week Miriam painted with Art students and visited a number of Religious Education classes, as well as addressing the full school assembly. Her unique life experience, her passion for education, art and spirituality had an impact on staff and students alike.

Miriam is a passionate educator and has spent a lifetime working to integrate traditional and Western education for Aboriginal children and adults. One of her great gifts is the ability to integrate aspects of indigenous and Catholic spirituality and theology. The two are more similar than different. They share a common belief in a creator, an innervating and life giving spirit, a oneness with the land along with a reverence for it, and they both place a great deal of significance on community.

Indigenous perspectives have had an influence on mainstream Catholic thinking in recent years. Increasingly we think of God not as a sky God “up” in heaven but as an Earth God present in and at one with all creation. The strong biblical tradition of humanity as stewards of the earth is complemented by indigenous beliefs in the earth as mother and the connection of all living things to her.

This integration of spiritual and religious traditions is the theme and focus of much of Miriam’s artwork. I hope that her visit has had a deep and lasting impact on the students in terms of their understanding of Aboriginal people and the oneness of white and indigenous Australians. I am confident that it will be a catalyst for greater engagement with the indigenous community especially locally, and stimulate both the boys’ understanding of spirituality and the search for their own as they explore their place in the world.

Also last week we were joined by two African Christian Brothers. Staff and students enjoyed the opportunity to showcase the College to Brothers Benjamin Mbasa and Joash Sigu. The visit was a great opportunity to strengthen the links between St Bernard’s and the school we support in Embulbul. We look forward to visiting the African brothers when the first student immersion group visits Embulbul next June.

The annual production commenced last night and continues next week. The cast comprised of our boys and joined by the girls from St Columbas have combined their enormous talent with a great deal of hard work to produce an outstanding performance of “The Wiz”. I hope you have the opportunity to attend the show. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of staff members Ms Brooke Baker, Mr Luke Steward, Ms Suzie Bradmore, Ms Anna Walker, Mr Carmelo Puglisi, Ms Rita Krouskos, as well as former student and staff member Sam Dariol. Their efforts, as well as those of the many staff members who helped out in other ways, have been outstanding.

This weekend a group of St Bernard’s student accompanied by Ms Bernadette Kirkwood fly to Papua New Guinea to walk the Kokoda Track. They join with students from Debney Park Secondary College and representatives of the Moonee Valley region of the Victoria Police. We wish them well as they embark on the potentially life changing experience and we look forward to hearing of their adventures when they return.

As many of you would already be aware Director of the Strand Campus Mr John McKenna recently announced that he will retire at the end of the year. John has given outstanding service to the St Bernard’s community in his 15 years in his current role. We will have the opportunity later in the year to recognise John’s contribution in a more formal way. We have advertised the position and expect to make an appointment by the end of August.

Best Wishes

Tony Paatsch
Upcoming Events
August 6-20 – KOKODA
August 9 at 7:30pm – Parents and Friends Association – Pavilion
August 10 at 5:30pm – Building Committee Meeting – Board Room
August 12 at 7:30pm – World Youth Day 2011 Information Session – Board Room
March 11 at 2:00pm - Unit 3/4 Parent Teacher Interviews – Building 7
August 16 at 5:00pm – Advisory Forum – Principal’s Office
August 16 at 6:00pm – Finance Committee – Board Room
August 17 at 7:00pm - PACTS - Parents as Careers and Transition Support.
August 17 at 7:30pm - Western Front Experience Tour Meeting 1 – Board Room
August 20 – STUDENT FREE DAY - NO CLASSES

IMPORTANT
It has come to our attention that some families are still not receiving an email containing a link to the most recent newsletter. Can you please ensure the address you had previously given the College is correct and that your mailbox is not full. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please Note...
VCE Certificates and annuals for 2009 Year 12 students MUST be collected from the Front Office by the end of Term 3. If not, they will no longer be available.

Edmund Rice Network News/ Justice Issues:
Australian Election - Casting an Informed Vote
Social Policy Connections is an independent, ecumenical organisation, motivated and informed by Christian social thinking whose aim is to expand awareness of social justice issues in Australia and overseas, and influence public policy for the benefit of all people, especially the most disadvantaged. It is not aligned to any political party.

Social Policy Connections has developed a number of policy positions relevant to the forthcoming Australian federal election. Four policy areas of special interest have been chosen:
• Australian policy on Immigration and Refugees,
• Climate Change,
• Overseas Aid, and
• Indigenous issues.
Supporters are invited to consider approaching their political candidates, either local ones or others, to discuss these or other concerns. The web site is www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au

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
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 9 students going into Year 10, 2011 will commence with a student information session on the morning of Monday August 9. The parent (and student) information session is a 7:30pm on Tuesday August 10 in the Auditorium.

Subject selection for Year 11 students going into Year 12, 2011 must attend a student information session on the morning of Wednesday August 11. Information for all sessions are available on the school website.

VCAL News
Year 10 and 11 parents and students are invited to the VCAL 2011 Information Night on Wednesday August 25 at 7pm in the Boardroom. It will be a great opportunity to see what the VCAL program has to offer and allow you to consider your options in 2011.

Science and Engineering Challenge Success
For the sixth year in a row, St. Bernard’s College has qualified for the state final of the Science and Engineering Challenge with a massive 60-point advantage over the second-placed school on the second day of competition for the Melbourne metropolitan region. The Challenge is a national competition involving more than 22,000 students, run by the University of Newcastle for Year 10 (and some Year 9) students. It is designed to inspire students to study science and engineering at a senior level. Students participate in a series of exciting competitive activities throughout the day. These activities are designed to demonstrate the varied and practical elements of a career in the science and engineering industries. Activities the students took part in included: building and racing a hovercraft and a helium-filled airship, designing an eco-friendly house, designing and testing a lightweight bridge, designing the most efficient power supply for a small city and project management. The students will compete in the state final at Deakin University in early September. Congratulations to Year 9 students Troy Brown, Mark Buljan, Ricky Centofanti, Michael Katiforis, Ben Kelly, Matthew Lauricella, Adrian LoMonaco, Sean Marantelli, Tim Rose, Marcus Ruttkay, Andrew Tampilin, John Vu, Harrison Vuong, Sam Woods and Year 10 students Ben Borelli, Xavier Butcher, Zachary Bye, Brandon Cutajar, Xavier DeBruny, John DeFrancesco, Hugh Fitzpatrick, Will Fleming, Pat Hibbert, Jordan LoPresti, Adrian Marcato, Ric Morelli, Jake Pulitano, Paul Scicluna. Also thanks to Jeff Mifsud, Victor Torres and Judd Vella for their assistance on the day.

2010 Snowsports’ Team tastes success at Mt. Hotham
Our annual Snowsports’ Team Camp was held at Mt. Hotham recently. 28 students attended this years Camp, which gave our boys the opportunity to improve their skiing/boarding ability, as well as the chance to compete in the Vic, Schools’ Grand Prix Skiercross & Boardercross events. Congratulations to Jonathan Rose (Yr12) bronze medal in Division 1 Skiercross & Michael Satterley (Yr10) bronze medal in Division 2 Boardercross. Tim Rose (Yr 9) also competed and just missed a podium finish whilst Lachlan Allison (Yr12) was named our Snowsports’ Team Captain for 2010. A big thank you also to Mr. Hall & Ms. Joulian, who accompanied the students on the Camp. We also wish Anthony Wilde (Yr 10) all the best when he competes in the Division 2 Skiercross event at the Vic. Interschools’ Championships, Mt. Buller on August 22.

Ms Cathy O’Halloran

Mr. Bruno Spiller, Snowsports’ Team Co-ordinator.
Congratulations...  
to Christian Molinia (8E) who has been going from strength to strength in his cycling pursuits. In the Victorian Schools Cycling Championships on July 15 he came fourth and on Sunday July 18, in Ballarat for the Victorian Teams time trials he was a member of the team that secured the gold.

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).

Visiting THE WIZ  
The Wiz’s first review is in and it’s a great one! Students from St Albans Primary (recently arrived from such countries as Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Iraq to name a few) recently witnessed the first matinee performance of this year’s musical ‘The Wiz.’ Students and staff were thoroughly impressed with the performance put on by the cast which included students from both SBC and St. Columba’s. For many of these primary school students, this was their first opportunity to see a show such as this so many thanks to all involved in the production team of ‘The Wiz’ for allowing them to be a part of something magical.

THE WIZ almost sold out!!  
The Wiz is almost completely sold out with tickets remaining only for the Friday night performances (August 6 and 13). Tickets are $25 for adults, $18 for concessions and $75 for families with order forms, as well as other information, available on the College website. If you have any further queries feel free to leave a message on the Ticket Hotline 9289 1049 or email at wizfix@sbc.vic.edu.au. See you at the show!

Complimenti...  
to Ricky Centofanti (9H) who competed in the Dante Poetry Competition finals on Friday August 6 at Melbourne University. Ricky had to recite an Italian poem from a selection of poems in front of a panel of judges back in June. He managed to secure a place as a finalist and was short-listed from approximately 600 students into the top 10% in the State. Complimenti Ricky e Bravissimo!

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.

Careers News

Reminders - 21 Aug - Advertising Seminar  
4 Sept – Public Relations Seminar; Details for each: Location: RMIT, 239 Bourke St, Melbourne; Cost: $55; Register: www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au.

1. OPEN DAYS STILL TO COME:  
Sun 8 Aug – Deakin Uni (Geelong); RMIT Uni & TAFE; Victoria Uni & TAFE (Footscray); William Angliss TAFE  
Sun 15 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne); Swinburne Uni & TAFE; Melbourne Uni;  
Sun 22 Aug – Deakin Uni (Melbourne)  
Sun 29 Aug – Ballarat Uni; La Trobe Uni (Bundoora)  
REFER TO OPEN DAY PROGRAM ONLINE BEFORE YOU GO! BRING QUESTIONS!

2. INTERESTED IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?  
Information/demonstration evening. Hear from occupational therapists in a range of areas, see demonstrations, ask questions. When: 6.15-8.00pm, Thurs 2 Sept; Where: Education Precinct, Level 4, Austin Tower, Austin Hospital, Studley Rd, Heidelberg; Parking: $9 in Austin Tower – collect voucher on the night; Register: Loretta Hanson, ph 9496 5105 or Melissa.whitten@austin.org.au. to apply prior knowledge to the solution of new problems. Info: www.buseco.monash.edu.

3. MUSIC AT MONASH?  
Monash is holding an Information Session for school students. Hear about study options and entry requirements, and get questions answered. When: 7.30-9.00pm, Tues 17 Aug; Where: Music Auditorium, Building 68, Clayton; Parking: Free (blue zone); Info: Emily Williams, ph 9905 3231.

4. SUBJECT SELECTION –  
Yr 10 and 11 students have attended a subject selection session with myself. Please note for any parent interested in coming in for an individual appointment, with your son, please contact me ASAP!

5. YEAR 12S - NEW COURSES FOR 2011 –  
Some university and TAFE courses are approved for next year after the printing of the 2011 VTAC Guide has occurred. These courses will be listed on the VTAC website, so look out for them. The site will also tell you how to apply. Students and parents are again invited to make an appointment to see me to discuss 2011 pathway options.

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