The end of the 2011 school year is close and planning is well advanced for 2012. In this Newsletter, I hope to update families on a number of significant changes including a changed approach to staffing, the College e-learning and laptop program and building works at Essendon and Santa Monica.

Historically, teachers at St Bernard’s have taught exclusively on The Strand or Clairvaux campuses. The current strategic plan outlines the desirability of more teachers taking classes on both campuses. It is hoped that this will improve uniformity of expectation of student performance and workload. It should also allow decision making within faculties to take a whole school perspective. An additional benefit should be the retention of talented staff that will have opportunity to diversify their teaching experience.

It is hoped that about twenty teachers will work cross campus in 2012. While there will be minor adjustments to period times, Campuses will retain separate recess and lunch times, an important consideration given the nature of the school site.

From the start of 2012 all boys in Years 10, 11 and 12 will have laptop computers which have been provided by Federal Government funding. Digital Education Revolution Technology is an increasing part of our daily lives and offers wonderful opportunities (along with plenty of distractions and pitfalls!) The benefits of students working with this technology and teachers using it to deliver content and enrich learning are potentially huge, both in relation to developing skills for life beyond school and in producing deep learning.

Year 7 students will be the first to be part of the College self funded laptop program. Years 7 and 10 will follow in 2013 and when the same occurs in 2014 every student will have a laptop. It will become a learning tool integral to the students’ daily life at St Bernards. While never completely replacing paper and pen it will certainly replace Bible, Dictionary, Atlas, multiple hardcopy handouts and many textbooks. In time it may also replace diary, calculator and personal devices like mobile phone, ipod and the like.

The most significant physical alteration on the Essendon site during 2012 will be construction of an Arts and Technology centre. The building is an exciting development and the visual significance of a purpose built “Arts” centre closely aligned with our quality sports facilities should make a strong statement about the holistic nature of the education on offer at the College.

The building will be sited on the bank below the current technology rooms and will include contemporary teaching spaces for senior and junior art. Existing art rooms will be refurbished as a media centre and theatrette. The building will also have two rooms dedicated to food technology, an area of need identified in consultation phase of the College strategic plan. We intend to have junior students studying food technology as part of their program in 2013. The ground floors will contain a Physical Education centre. There will be some disruption to car parking during the construction phase but we are confident there will be little if any impact on the day-to-day operation of the College.

At Santa Monica the new dining facility will be in operation from the start of 2012. Five eco cabins have been constructed adjacent to the existing dining room. These will be completed in time for Year 7 camps in March. After this time they will be used by groups from both St Bernard’s and other schools. They will also be available members of the College Community.

The following is an email I received last week from Mark Smith, Director of the Year 9 Santa Monica Program. It reminds me that while buildings and technology are important the heart of our role is to teach our young men to see the face of God in others.

Today the 9C boys hosted a group of young asylum seekers who are in community detention with McKillop Family Services in Geelong. We had a classroom session giving the boys some background before our guests arrived. They boys were very welcoming and enthusiastic when the McKillop bus arrived and a game of soccer was quickly arranged. The McKillop boys, being principally from Burma and Vietnam, gave our boys a good drubbing! Some southern European pride was severely damaged.

We shared lunch together in the dining room then headed to Urquhart’s Bluff for a surf session. Our boys made up small groups and adopted one of our guests to teach them how to surf. The SBC boys were incredibly cheerful, polite and patient – showing them how to stand up then spending the next hour and a half pushing them off in the water and encouraging them. The smiles on the faces of the Burmese boys when they stood up on the boards were priceless. The McKillop staff were also full of praise for the boys and their attention to their guests.

If you get the opportunity to catch up with the 9C boys when they get home tomorrow, please affirm them for the great jobs they have done today. They put aside their own enjoyment of the surf to help these kids who had never done it before. They were a credit to the school and their families.

We hope to make this a regular part of the Santa program.

I hope we do too Mark.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Are you doing a 3/4 subject in 2012?

Unit 3/4, 2012 classes begin 28th November 2011 for 8 school days.

All Year 11 students (and any Y10 accelerating students) are expected to attend

Timetable will be published via email before 24th November
General News

From The Strand Campus Director

Remembrance Day
At this week’s Campus Assembly the boys were presented with some of the meanings behind our community days of remembrance. We asked the boys about whether they understood the difference between ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day; the symbols of the poppy and rosemary; and the appropriateness of acknowledging war itself.

must say that I have been really surprised with some of the student’s responses both in the class and out in the yard when discussing these topics with them. Their knowledge of these symbols and events seem to reflect a resurgent community interest in commemorating these days. The boys seem to be intrigued about the concept of human sacrifice, the notion that a soldier can place his life at risk for others.

These discussions with the boys have allowed me to reflect on what may have been on a soldier’s mind as he waited for the order that would propel him to his death? To whom did he speak? Of whom did he think? How did his faith, or lack of faith, affect him as he faced the prospect of not returning home? How did he deal with his fears? Did he laugh off the dangers he faced? These are some of the reflections that I will ponder on Friday at 11.00am.

It was Jesus who said, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that they lay down his life for his friends” John 15:12-15.

Year 8 Investig8 ILEAP Presentation Day
All Year 8 parents are invited to the ILEAP presentation day on Thursday November 17. Two sessions (9.30am and 11.30am) are offered depending on your son’s homeroom. It’s a great opportunity to be involved in your son’s learning at the College.

ACC Public Speaking
Good luck to all the Yr 7 & 8 students who will compete against other ACC schools next Monday at St Bernard’s; Luke Santomartino 7C, Luke Dilizio 7C, Elijah Rasic 7D, Martin Mcgurk 7D, Hugh McGlaughlin 8G, Aaron Myska 8B, Brendan Considine 8B, Thomas Monaghan 8E, Daniel Hutchings 8E, Declan Knights 8H, and Luke Sorensen 8H.

Dates to Remember on The Strand
Monday November 14 – 9H begins their Santa Monica experience.
Thursday November 18 – ILEAP Presentation day for Year 8 students and parents.
Friday December 2 – Year 7 2012 Orientation Day. No Year 7 (2011) classes. Year 8 & 9 normal classes.
Monday December 5 – Year 8 Activity Day.
Tuesday December 6 – 2nd hand book sales from 6.00pm in the gym.
Thursday December 8 – Year 7 – 9 swimming carnival.
Friday December 9 – Final day for Year 7 – 9 students.
Thursday December 15 – The Strand Awards in gymnasium (Year 7 at 7.00pm, Year 8 at 7.45pm, Year 9 at 8.30pm)

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

New Teen Drinking Laws
I want to draw parents attention to the new Teenage Drinking Laws that commenced on November 1st, when it will be illegal for an adult to serve anyone under 18 years of age alcohol without receiving permission from the young persons parent. This law was introduced to respond to community concerns of the substantial harm alcohol can cause young people and their families. For more detail I encourage you to click on the following link to make sure you are informed. Any one in breach of this law could face fines over $7000. http://www.teendrinkinglaw.vic.gov.au

John Samanna, Student Wellbeing Coordinator

A Reminder...
To those students who have outstanding Library books to please return them as soon as possible, or if required for exam purposes, no later than 22nd November, 2011.

St. Bernard’s Library Staff

Canteen
For those parents who did canteen duty this year but are unable to do it again next year can you please contact Canteen Manager Carolyn Holland on 9289 1136 or email CHolland@sbc.vic.edu.au before the end of term. Also for those who wish to volunteer in the canteen for 2012 please get in contact with us as soon as possible.

Carolyn Holland, Canteen Manager

A BIG thankyou...
To the St. Bernard’s Community who collected over 31,000 Coles Sports for Schools vouchers. Our total is yet to be confirmed with Coles but it will provide the boys with sports equipment at recess and lunchtimes for 2012. Thanks again for your support of the program and I hope we can go even better next year...

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport
**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society operates their Soup Van in the Footscray area 365 days a year. They provide food for homeless teenagers and adults; as well as for the many families who live in run-down boarding houses in the area. Every year they have an annual Christmas party for their ‘clients’ where over 700 people are given a three course traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Everyone who comes gets a present. Last year the Vinnies, because of the generosity of the St. Bernard’s community, was able to give every child and teenager an extra present. This is often the only present these kids will receive at Christmas time.

This year looks like there will be even more people coming. I am asking for your help to make this Christmas a happier time for the Vinnies’ clients. Could you please consider donating a present this Christmas? Anything that you would be happy to receive yourself would be greatly appreciated.


**All presents need to be clearly labelled which age group they are for. Eg Female Teenager 14 yrs**

There will be a box at Reception where the presents can be placed. They need to be picked up by the Vinnies on Friday 2nd of December.

Dennis Hobson, Director of Mission

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**Naiui Nambiyu, Daly River trip 2012**

Naiui Nambiyu is a remote Northern Territory community of approximately 500 people located 220 km’s south of Darwin on the Daly River. Each year the College takes a group of 12 students and 2 staff to this Aboriginal community for an experience of culture, the land and to meet and interact with other Australians living a very different life to the city context of Essendon/Kelora. Priority is given to students in Year 11, 2012. All Year 10 homerooms have been spoken to in recent weeks about this unique opportunity and your son should have received an introductory letter, itinerary and expression of interest form. Those intending to apply, or unsure, should attend the Information Session in the College Boardroom 6.30-7.30pm Tuesday November 15. No need to RSVP. If you and your son cannot attend the information session further enquiries can be made to David Sutton at dsutton@sbc.vic.edu.au. Expressions of interest close Friday November 25.

David Sutton, College Counsellor

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**Music News**

Parents and students are reminded of the Music Bursaries now available at SBC. There is an application and audition process for students to undertake in order to become eligible for this support. These bursaries are designed to support those students who contribute greatly to the life of the College through music. Further information and on-line application for bursaries can be found at www.sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/music-prizes-and-bursaries.html. Applications for these close on Monday November 14, 2011.

Students in 7E, F, G, & J are preparing for their concert on December 1st, commencing at 7:30pm in the SBC Auditorium. Families are encouraged to attend and tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are $5 per individual and $15 for families. Further information is available on the Music Department website.

As the year concludes, a reminder that the Intermediate Concert Band continues to rehearse. All students in Years 7-9 who primarily played in the Senior Concert Band are asked to attend the Intermediate Concert Band on Thursday mornings to support an upcoming performance on December 1.

The Friends of Music met on November 7 and have planned a range of initiatives for 2012. The first of these will be a winery bus trip to the Yarra Valley for parents and friends on Sunday March 25, 2012. All are welcome to attend this day which will include lunch at Killara Estate along with a number of wine tasting stops. As per the previous two winery days, this is a great social occasion which raises substantial funds for Friends of Music. More information will be published on the music department website in due course.

The Friends of Music is currently seeking donations of any description for raffle prizes. If you are able to assist, please contact the Friends of Music Donations Co-ordinator, Arthur Busuttil at archiebus@optusnet.com.au.

Business Directory

For the past fourteen years the College has circulated a Business Directory to all current students, current families, all on our enrolment register and all on our Old Boy Register - approximately 10,000. Response to the Directory has been very enthusiastic and many businesses have reported good results from their advertisements.

The Directory includes useful College information for parents and thus is a worthwhile reference for the entire year.

The 2012 Directory will be forwarded in late January and if you are interested in having your business associated with the larger St. Bernard’s community please contact the Development Office on 9289 1106, or at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au by December 10. The Directory is open to all friends of the College.

Michael Perrett, Director of Development
ART SHOW
18th, 19th, 20th November
Edmund Rice Centre ‘Amberley’
7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty
(Melway 21C12)
Opening Night 18th November 7.30pm:
$10 ADULTS  $5 CONCESSION
Weekend:
$5 ADULTS  $2 CONCESSION
Saturday 10am – 5pm
Sunday 10am – 4pm
Tickets for Opening Night
‘Amberley’ on 9439 8282 or
manager@amberley.org.au
www.amberley.org.au
(tickets available at the door – booking preferred to assist with catering)
Gather your family and friends, pack a picnic, warm up your singing voices and prepare to be enchanted by the festive atmosphere of this year’s Carols in Queens Park. Candles, songbooks, food and beverages available for purchase from 6pm. Don't forget your blanket!

Master of Ceremonies: Richard Thomas
Special guests: The Nymphs
Performances by: Moonee Valley Brass Band, Essendon Choral Society, Ascot Vale Primary School, Lowther Hall Festival Singers, Melbourne Abruzzo Choir and the Moonee Valley Community Choir
Enquiries: 9243 8888

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