From The Principal

It was wonderful to welcome students back to the College last week. While it is easier to get “work” done without the students on campus, this work is not the reason we teach. Schools are a soulless place without the life and vibrancy that students bring. Welcome back!

In the final newsletter of last year we acknowledged the excellent VCE results with 22% of Year 12 students achieving an ATAR in excess of ninety and Dux of the College, Tom Swallow achieving 99.45. I reiterate my congratulations to all students on their performance and look forward to welcoming our academic Award winners back to the College next week to receive their awards at the Academic Assembly.

The following staff have commenced at St Bernard’s this year and I warmly welcome them and wish them well for their appointments:

- Glen Buchanan - Maths, The Strand
- Marcus McKerrell - PE / Maths, The Strand
- Xavier Cox - PE / Maths, The Strand
- Brendan Tollit - Drama / English / Year 9 YLC, The Strand
- Lucy Vassallo - English / SOSE / Year 7 YLC, The Strand
- Sarah Brens - Japanese, The Strand
- Alex Feain - English, Clairvaux
- Lyn Luci - Ed Support, XC
- Linda Konstantinidis - Ed Support, XC
- Dean Armellin - Library / AV, XC
- Jorden Nichols - Santa Monica Gap, Santa Monica
- Peter Fogarty - ICT Gap (PT), XC
- Matt Barrasso - Arts Gap, XC
- Tom Chrystie - Sport Gap, XC
- Damian McKee - Director – The Strand, The Strand

We also welcome back Sally Newton from Maternity Leave.

During the holidays we were delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Daniel Stewart, son of Ms Anna Walker and David.

The holiday period was a time of bereavement for some of our families. Sincere condolences to the Crocitti family on the death of Angela, the Townsend family on the death of Dean, the Haratsis family on the death of Phillip and the Spanti family on the death of Giuseppe. We remember these families in our thoughts and prayers.

The holiday period saw significant maintenance work at both the West Essendon campus and Santa Monica. This included replacement of the roof on the corridor outside the Chapel, setting up the new notebook centre adjacent to the library, relocation of the Audio Visual centre and minor refurbishment of all Year 10 and 11 rooms with new table tops, fresh painting and carpet repairs. Replacement of the Hockey/Tennis surface remains a work in progress and should be finished later this month. At Santa Monica the historic, unsightly and unhygienic toilet/shower block is gone, replaced with all new facilities. The covered area between the cabins is finished and the power upgrade completed.

This year we hope to commence phase 2 of the Santa Monica development which will see additional accommodation provided and a new dining hall/seminar centre completed. At West Essendon preliminary concept drawings for the Arts/Technology centre are complete and planning is continuing.

Congratulations to the St Bernard’s Under 17 and Open Volleyball teams. Both went through the National titles in December undefeated to win National Championships. This was an outstanding performance.

You may have heard the aphorism that “good neighbours are the best insurance”. We are fortunate to have good and supportive neighbours but a number have contacted us in recent days to express frustration with vehicles blocking their driveways at the end of the school day. I ask that you be mindful of the local residents and other parents when picking up students from school.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Help Required

We are looking for a parent or guardian who could offer assistance with the repairs to the curtains in both the Drama Room and O’Brien Hall. If you are able to help please contact Bruce Wallace on 9289 1102 or BWallace@sbc.vic.edu.au

Bruce Wallace
**Upcoming Events**
14 – 18 February – Year 7 Orientation Camp
14 February – 7:30pm – Parents and Friends Association - Board Room
15 February – 7:30pm – Years 8 and 9 Parent Information Night - Auditorium
16 February – 10:15am – Whole School Academic Assembly – Gym
17 February – 6:00pm – Training Session for New Canteen Volunteers
21 February – 5:00pm – Advisory Forum – Principal’s Office
21 February – 6:00pm – Finance Committee – Board Room
22 February – 7:00pm – Daly River Trip Parent Information Session – Board Room
February – 9:15am – Opening School Mass - Gym

**General News**

**From The Strand Campus Director**

Thank you to all the staff, and particularly the students, who have made me feel so welcome in my first two weeks at the College. Please call me if you have a concern. My direct number is 92891127.

**Year 7 Camp:**
Thank you to Ms Lucy Vassallo and Mrs Charlene Landvogt for their work in organising the Year 7 camps for this term. Any queries about the camps should be directed to your son’s homeroom teachers or Lucy or Charlene. The dates for the camp are:
Camp 1: Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th February: 7F, 7B, 7G, 7D, 7H
Camp 2: Wednesday 16th February – Friday 18th February: 7A, 7C, 7E, 7J

**Uniform & Lateness:**
In response to concerns about consistency across The Strand campus, staff have requested that a note of explanation be provided to homeroom teachers on a student’s late arrival to school (more practically, the following day). If a student is late to homeroom without notice on two occasions during the same week, a Monday after school detention will be issued.

Similarly, we feel the need to provide our young men with similar boundaries regarding the wearing of the College uniform. If a student is out of uniform without a note of explanation, then a Monday uniform detention will be issued. Common sense will always prevail, and if you believe that this is not the case, please call me at the College to discuss the issue.

The Strand staff asks for your support on these issues and we understand that these topics can often generate some stress at home.

**MP3s and Phones:**
A reminder to all families that mobile phones and MP3 players are not to be used at school during school times. In circumstances where they are being used, the staff member has been asked to confiscate the item, place it in an envelope, and deliver it to the front reception with the date that the item can be retrieved by a parent. The student will be notified of that date at the time of the confiscation.

**Permission notes for Essendon Station:**
Please provide a letter of explanation if your son is required to be at the Essendon Station after school. I can issue him with a pass.

**Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director**

**Time & Space Program – Yr 10 and Yr 11 Students and Their Dads**
All Year 10 and Year 11 families that attended information evenings this week have received information about this wonderful program aimed at providing an opportunity for dads or mentors and their son to spend time and to create space to deepen their relationship. If you are interested in participating in this program and missed out on the application letter and brochure please contact John Samanna (Student Wellbeing Coordinator) on 9289 1112. All applications and monies must be received by Friday February 25. A maximum of 15 participants can be involved with the program so apply promptly to avoid disappointment.

**John Samanna, Student Wellbeing Coordinator**

**DAV Debating**
Debating is an invaluable skill for students to practise and it is beneficial for all sorts of careers such as law, media, journalism, education ... In fact, any occupation that requires persuasive skills!

The Debaters’ Association of Victoria (DAV) Debating Competition at St Bernard’s commences next month. Five debates occur through the year here at SBC, the host school for the Essendon region, each taking place on a Monday night. Names are now being sought for this year’s competition and students should speak to Mr Nunan on Clairvaux campus if they are interested.

**Kevin Nunan**
Daly River Information Night

A unique opportunity has arisen again this year for our students to participate in an immersion experience with the Nauiyu indigenous community at Daly River, Northern Territory. Mr. David Sutton will lead the 10-day immersion departing July 30 and returning August 8 with 12 students and a second staff member. The cost for this experience is $2000 per student. This covers airfares, meals, accommodation, transport and cultural fees.

The Years 10 and 11 students have been spoken to about this opportunity and invited to collect an information letter. To answer parent questions there is an Information night in The College Boardroom on Tuesday, February 22 from 7pm-8pm.

Should you be interested in attending this evening, please rsvp to me via email on dsutton@sbc.vic.edu.au at your earliest convenience. It should also be noted that preference for this experience will be given to ‘Years 10 and 11 students’.

This is a wonderful opportunity where we expose these young men to the indigenous culture of our land and their unique connection to this country we share.

David Sutton

St Bernard’s Junior Hockey Club Tryouts and Information Night

If you are interested in playing hockey for St Bernard’s, tryouts are being held for Year 7s on the Soccer pitch on February 22 and 23 at 3:15pm. If you have not played before or just want to see what it’s like feel free to attend. If you do not have your own hockey stick there will be some available for you to use.

If you or your son/s are a current player or contemplating playing hockey this year for St Bernard’s we urge you to attend the Information Nights for Players and Parents. Here you will find out about teams, training times, coaches, umpires, team managers and other general information as well as an opportunity to ask questions. The Year 7 night will be held on Tuesday February 22 with all other teams meeting on Tuesday March 1. Both meetings will be begin at 7pm in O’Brien Hall.

For more information email secretary@sbchc.com.au

St Bernard’s Junior Football Club Registration

The St Bernard’s Junior Football Club will be holding their Registration Days on Sunday February 13 from 11am – 1pm and Friday February 25 from 4:30pm – 6:00pm at the St Bernard’s College Oval. NEW players need a COPY of their birth certificate. Fees – 1 child $200; additional children $120. EFT is the preferred payment method with banking details as follows:

BSB 083 346 Acc 625970242

Please be sure to insert your surname so we know who the payment is from and bring your internet banking receipt on the day.

For further information or queries please contact Paul Dervan on 0418141272.

Apprentices Needed

Tony’s Pies is looking to employ 2 apprentices to work in their Buckley Street store. If you are interested or require further information please contact Tony Gavaghan on 0412 351 169.

Just Cycle Yarra Valley - Sunday March 20, Rochford Wines Yarra Valley

A fantastic family cycling event and day out, Just Cycle Yarra Valley offers a choice of 12km, 65km, or 120km rides as well as gourmet food and live music amongst the vines at Rochford Wines. All funds raised will support Jesuit Social Services in their work with disadvantaged young people, families and communities. For further information please contact Allana May on 9427 7388 or allana.may.jss.org.au. Details can also be found at www.justcycle.com.au

Treehouse Secrets Theatrical Experience

Treehouse Secrets Theatrical Experience is a unique drama program specifically designed for ages 10 – 15 to create self awareness and stage skills, culminating in a fully staged production. The program runs for 2 terms on Thursday nights from 6:15pm - 7:45pm at 89-91 Rose Street Essendon. For further information please contact Tracey Smythe on 0427 664 862 or visit www.treehousesecrets.com

Ace Fun Tennis School

Get fit for summer in one of our programs for all ages and standards. Classes start from $10 and free tryouts are available throughout February. For further information please contact 1300 223 386 or admin@acefuntennisschool.com. Website: www.acefuntennisschool.com