From The Principal

Last year I wrote about conversation I had with a prospective parent. She wanted to enrol her son at St Bernard’s on the basis of a discussion with a group of students on their way home from school. She detailed their enthusiasm for the College and positive reports of their day, the standard of their uniform, their politeness and the way they treated each other. I pointed out at the time that our students are the best advertisement for the College.

In recent weeks we have been made aware of a number of instances where students have behaved unacceptably, impacting not only on the safety of themselves and others but on the positive public image of the College. I spoke to all students this week about these matters and I request the support of families in reinforcing:

• correct uniform is to be worn at all times travelling to and from school
• banned areas including Essendon Station are to be avoided on the way home from school
• students will be prohibited from bus travel should they behave in dangerous or antisocial ways
• students crossing Buckley St in the morning do so at pedestrian lights or through the underpass West of Lily St
• the use of language that is offensive to others is to be avoided in public.

Illegal or antisocial behaviour also has the potential to damage the reputation of the College when it occurs on weekends and weeknights. Whether we like it or not, boys, particularly in groups, are often identified by where they attend school. Where a student has behaved in a manner that brings the reputation of the College into disrepute it may be dealt with as disciplinary matter by the College. I ask for your understanding in this matter and thank families in anticipation for your support.

Parking / pick up / courtesy.

At about 3pm each day many parents drive into the College grounds to collect boys. Inevitably this causes some congestion. Please consider picking your son up off site or picking him up after the peak has passed. If you are collecting boys inside the grounds please abide by all signage, including speed restrictions and no standing signs and remain conscious of traffic courtesy to other drivers.

Funding for Catholic Schools and the Myschool website

In the last fortnight there has been a great deal of press concerning levels of funding for Catholic and independent schools. Some of the reporting has been accurate and informed whilst some has been highly selective and, in my view, dishonest.

You may have noted the page one story in the Age on February 28, ‘Catholic schools’ $39m bonanza’. The article made a number of erroneous claims about Catholic school funding, based on an interview with Australian Education Union (AEU) lobbyist Trevor Cobbold. Unfortunately the claims ignore the fact that, like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to Catholic schools according to need.

Much of the funding attributed to the Catholic schools in the article is re-allocated to support schools with disadvantaged students; students with a disability; indigenous students; refugees as well as rural and regional schools.

This analysis appears to be part of an orchestrated campaign by the AEU and others to influence the Australian Government’s review of school funding and secure more funding for government schools at the expense of Catholic schools. A number of organisations are likely to continue spreading misinformation during the funding review. It is therefore important that Catholic school parents understand the facts on Catholic school funding. These include:

• The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd estimate that total government funding to Catholic schools is less than 80% of the per student cost in government schools, although this percentage varies between schools.

• In the most thorough reconciliation available Ernst & Young reported that education costs in Catholic schools are 93% of per student costs in government schools in Victoria.

• 93% includes the fees paid by parents and any other sources of income that schools access such as fundraising.

Further information on school funding will be available in coming months. If you have any questions relating to school funding please contact the Catholic Education Office Melbourne via email at: director@ceomeb.catholic.edu.au

The Myschool 2 website was released earlier this week and sets out the performance of St Bernard’s in a number of key areas. I encourage families to access the site and request further information from the College should you wish. Information published includes details of our funding. It shows that in 2009 we received approximately $7500 government funding per student ($5800 Federal and $1700 State) and $4500 from parent fees. This demonstrates the substantial savings to the public purse made by families when you choose to educate your son at St Bernard’s.

Please keep in your prayers our Director of Mission Dennis Hobson and his family following the recent death of his father Lyle.

Best Wishes

Tony Paatsch
Upcoming Events

14 March – Labour Day – NO SCHOOL
15 March at 7:30pm – Parents and Friends Association – Board Room
15 March at 7:30pm – Year 7/2013 Enrolment Night Families A-L – Auditorium
16 March at 7:30pm – Year 7/2013 Enrolment Night Families M-Z – Auditorium
16 March at 7:30pm - Information Night for Host Families of Italians – Board Room
17 March at 1:30pm – Classes conclude for Years 10 - 12 at 1.30pm
17 March at 2:30pm – Unit 3/4 Parent Teacher Interviews – Building 7
20 March at 9:30am – Friends of Music Winery Trip
21 March at 5:00pm – Board Advisory Forum – Principal’s Office
21 March at 6:00pm – Board Finance Committee – Board Room
25 March at 9:30am – Year 7 and Year 10 Immunisations – O’Brien Hall
28 March at 5:30pm – Board Meeting – Board Room

General News

From The Clairvaux Campus Director

Unit 3/4 Parent Teacher Interviews
There is an opportunity to discuss your son’s progress at the Unit 3/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews on Thursday 17 March between 2.30pm and 5.30pm and 6.15pm until 8.00pm. The interviews will be held in the Year 12 Building.

As most Clairvaux staff are involved in these interviews, Year 10 – 12 classes conclude at 1.30pm on this day. Ryan’s buses will leave at this time. Tullamarine Bus Lines will depart at their normal time.

Interview times will be arranged via the Parent Portal this year. Instructions on how to do this will be posted to you this week with your son’s Interim Report. Your son has also been taught how to make these appointment times.

Some points to note in regard to these interviews:

• Your attendance and support is vital. While we appreciate the many phone calls parents make to us at the school in regard to their son’s progress, they don’t replace the face-to-face interview, which is the preferred method for feedback.
• Families who make appointments with their son’s subject teachers will take precedence over those who “walk up” on the day without appointment.
• Students must attend the interview with their parents. They may wear casual clothes, but if they do wear the school uniform they should be correctly attired.

From The Strand Campus Director

Strand Student Leaders
At our Campus Assembly conducted on Wednesday our Strand Student Leaders were invested and presented with their blazer pockets in the presence of their very proud parents and grandparents.

The Strand Captain: Jack Stephens
Captain of Ministry: Pat Sawaya
Captain of Sport: Jack Lynch
Captain of Arts: James Tait

I would like to congratulate these young men and wish them luck in their challenging role this year. As was mentioned at the assembly, it is not always easy to lead. Sometimes unpopular choices have to be made where a leader may have to stand up for the good of others. Having met the boys and discussed their roles I am confident that these boys will be fine examples to their fellow students.

Father/Son Games Night:
Our annual games night was held last Wednesday night, March 2 with the evening providing an opportunity for Dads and sons to enjoy each other’s company. There were over 300 boys and their Dads/influential males in attendance, which is testimony to the incredible sense of community here at SBC.

Activities involved cricket, bat tennis, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, table tennis, cards, chess, board games, novelty games, a general knowledge quiz, rock climbing, darts and carpet bowls.

Thank you to the 34 staff involved on the night in the running of activities, the cooking of sausages and generally supporting the running of the evening. Thank you also to the Senior Student Leaders and two ‘Old Boys’ (Tom Caven & Joe Pignataro) and to the President of the Old Collegians Football club for their help on the night.

It was great to be able to have an evening when the focus was on gathering together and having a bit of fun.

Santa Monica:
This week sees the changing of the guard at Santa Monica with 9D having returned last week and 9E taking over the camp. On Monday night I was fortunate to attend the 9D presentation night and I was pleasantly surprised by the standard and breadth of the presentations. Congratulations to Mark Smith (Director), Mic Stapleton and Peter Morgan on their incredible contributions to the development of our young men.
The Santa Monica staff have their requalification course for the Bronze Medallion next Friday, March 18. Therefore the 9E boys will be returning to Melbourne on Thursday March 17 before 3pm. This means that they boys have a short first week from Tuesday to Thursday. The boys ARE NOT REQUIRED at school on Friday March 18. Boys will make this ‘lost’ day up when they return from camp on Thursday April 7 and not the published return of Wednesday April 6.

**Homework Help:**
All students are welcome to attend our homework help scheduled on the following afternoons:
- **English:** Mondays in 9D 3:05pm - 4:05pm
- **Mathematics:** Thursdays in 9C 3:05pm – 4:05pm
- **Science:** Thursday afternoons in Discere from 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Assistance with homework or assignments is provided.

**Secret Men’s Business: An Evening of Boys and Books**
On Wednesday evening over 40 Year Seven students and their fathers or male role models attended an evening with author Tim Pegler. The evening was designed to further encourage our boys to read and share this gift with others. Thank you to Mrs. Kate Torpy for organising the evening.

**Dates to remember on The Strand:**
- **Monday March 14** - 9E begins Santa Monica
- **Friday March 25** – Year 7 Immunisations.
- **Monday April 4** – Year 8 Sovereign Hill Excursion
- **Wednesday April 6** – Last day of term for students and The Strand PST Interviews

**Tips for Computer use at home (continued from previous newsletter)**
These are suggested guidelines for computer use at home. More information can be obtained from http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

- **Tip #3 Set the rules**
  Set the rules about hours of usage (for example: at 10pm, turn off the wireless internet). Be clear about how much time on the computer can be used for gaming or social networking as opposed to schoolwork.

- **Tip #4 Keep it personal**
  Remind your child that personal information is just that – personal – and should be kept restricted. Read the terms and conditions of websites that ask you to ‘sign up’ to enter contests - make sure they will keep it private and not redistribute it. Once that information is on the internet it is there forever.

**Year 7 2013 Enrolment**
Parents who currently have a son enrolled at St Bernard’s are reminded to attend the Parent Information evening to be held on March 15 or 16. Attendance at this meeting is essential if you wish to proceed with enrolment. Families have been placed on waiting lists in the past because they have missed out on attending these nights and have subsequently not submitted an application. Any enrolment enquiries can be directed to the College Registrar – Mr John Nocci via email jnocci@sbc.vic.edu.au or on 9289 1103.

**Santa Monica**
For parents and students who missed the presentation night, all relevant information can be found on the school website.
http://sbc/curriculum/programs/santa_monica_info.php

**Get ready for Term 2**
Year 12’s are urged to get in early and purchase the Year 12 tie from the Uniform Shop before it is due to be worn in Term 2. Further to this all students are reminded that full school winter uniform is to be worn in Term 2 so if you require a new tie, jacket, jumper or blazer the Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays 3pm-7pm and Thursdays 8:30am-11:45am for the remainder of the term.

**SBC Writers Camp 2011**
A meeting for students regarding Writers Camp will be held on Wednesday March 16 at lunchtime in room 432. If students are unable to attend the meeting they can see Ms Torpy to express interest in attending. Michael Hyde is confirmed as the visiting author for the camp, which will be at Santa Monica on Friday May 6 - Saturday May 7.

**St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon**
St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon is to be held on Wednesday June 8 at Ascot House, Ascot Vale. Invitations and Ticket Order Forms will be mailed home in the April Accounts or are available online at the Ladies Auxiliary website http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/groups/la/la.php

**Enrolment Information Night**
- **for Family Surnames A-L**
  - **Tuesday, MARCH 15, 2011**
  - **College Auditorium**
  - **7.30pm**
- **for Family Surnames M-Z**
  - **Wednesday, MARCH 16, 2011**
  - **College Auditorium**
  - **7.30pm**

**Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning**

**Jacq Wade, Year 9 Coordinator**

**Kate Torpy, The Strand English Coordinator**

**Lisa Edwards, President St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary**
Music News
As usual, the Music department is off to a flying start with lessons and bands all in full operation. For your information, ensembles are currently running at the following times:

- **Shaboom!** – Monday 3:00 – 4:00pm with Mr Steward
- **Sync!** – Tuesday 12:40 – 1:20pm with Mr Barrasso
- **Junior Guitar Ensemble** – Tuesday 3:00 – 4:00pm with Mr Watt
- **Big Band** – Tuesday 3:00 – 4:00pm with Mr Felstead
- **Shout!** – Wednesday 7:45 – 8:30am with Mr Steward
- **Honours Band** – Wednesday 8:00 – 8:45am with Mr Smith (from 30/3)
- **Intermediate Concert Band** – 7:30 – 8:30am with Mr Smith
- **Show Band** – Thursday 3:00 – 4:00pm with Mr Felstead
- **Senior Guitar Ensemble** – Thursday 3:00 – 4:00pm with Mr Mills
- **Senior Concert Band** – Friday 7:30 – 8:30am with Mr Smith

Forthcoming Concerts
- **Soiree** - Thursday May 19th @ 7:30pm
- **Autumn Concert** - Thursday June 9th @ 7:30pm
- **Piano Performance Evening** - Tuesday 21st @ 7:30pm
- **Year 7 Concert** - Thursday 23rd June @ 7:30pm

As students are slowly being given email, instrumental music teachers will start to send out their timetables via email as well as posting them on the wall on the music area. A reminder that it is THE STUDENT’S responsibility to notify their teachers of clashes with instrumental lessons ie. Excursions, camps, tests etc. Students are able to email their teachers directly or they can leave a message with the music office, at least 2 days in advance.

A reminder to parents that if your child is absent, the music office needs to be notified. The official policy for a cancelled lesson requires that 48 hours notification is given, either by phone or email.

There are still lesson time available for most instruments, so if you’ve ever considered learning an instrument – now is the time to do it!

Luke Steward & Amy Crawford, Co-Music Directors

Italian Students Visit: March 28 – April 9
A group of 21 students from the Istituto Mazzotti, Treviso, will be visiting our school towards the end of Term 1. 20 St. Bernard’s students were hosted by the Mazzotti Institute last September, so it’s our turn to host our friends from the beautiful town of Treviso. An information night for those families who will be hosting our visitors has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30pm in the College Boardroom. An email regarding the proposed program has been sent to our host families. More information will be presented at the Information evening. We look forward to an exciting experience!

Southern Italy/Sicily Tour – September 25 – October 7 (Term 3 holidays)
A 13-day tour of the Amalfi Coast and Sicily is being organised. Cost of the tour is $2,200.00 pp (based on 20 participants) and includes B&B twin-share accommodation in quality hotels; bi-lingual guide; transport in private coach, ferry transfers and some dinners. NB. Does not include airfare. For further information, please contact me at the College.

Western Front Tour Fundraising Raffle
A group of 28 students and 4 staff are travelling to France in April of 2011 in order to retrace the footsteps of Australians soldiers who were in England, Belgium and France during both WW1 and WW2. Among places to be visited are Fromelles, Messine Ridge, the Menin Gate at Ypres and at Villers-Bretonneux at which wreaths will be laid at formal ceremonies. In order to fund the cost of these wreaths and help alleviate the cost to students attending these ceremonies a raffle is being held with the prizes as follows:

- **First Prize:** Autographed cricket bat T20 Australia v South Africa, 2009
- **Second Prize:** $100 voucher from Brumby’s
- **Third Prize:** $20 iTunes Voucher
- **Fourth Prize:** $20 iTunes Voucher

Tickets are $2 and can be purchased from any of the students going on the trip. The raffle will be drawn at SBC on Friday April 1 at 7:30pm

Alex Cometti, Tour Organiser and Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning

College Foundation Hall of Fame Dinner - Request for Assistance
The annual Hall of Fame dinner will be held this year at The Australian Club, 110 William St, Melbourne, on Friday 8 April. This is a fundraising event for the College Foundation and if anyone has items that would be suitable for a raffle prize please contact Michael Perrett at the College 9289 1106 or mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au

Melbourne Magistrate’s Court Visit
On Monday February 28 Year 10 Commerce Students attended the Melbourne Magistrate’s Court to experience the law in action. Currently in class we are studying how laws are made and the Court Hierarchy. Some students were lucky to have the Chief Magistrate of Victoria adjourn his courtroom to speak to them about his role and what they were observing in the courtroom. The students, upon returning to SBC, completed a workbook on what they saw. It was great to be able to witness the court in action as well as many other things that they had been learning about in class.

Bronwyn Glenny
Secret Men’s Business: An evening of boys and books with author Tim Pegler

A serious contest, a tight deadline and a possible love interest.

These are the essential elements of a story to “get boys reading” according to Melbourne author Tim Pegler. He shared these insights with over forty Year Seven students and their fathers on Tuesday evening in the St Bernard’s College library in an evening of Secret Men’s Business.

Tim detailed several books that set him on the road to becoming an author, these included To The Wild Sky by Ivan Southall as well as Tolkien’s The Lord of The Rings and The Adventures of Tin Tin and Asterix. While these books were a starting point, he said they led him to reading more broadly into science-fiction and fantasy as well as historical based fiction.

Tim highlighted to the fathers present that it did not matter so much what the books were reading, be it the sports pages of the paper, a graphic novel such as Tin Tin or Matthew Lloyd’s biography, as long as they were reading; that’s a starting point.

He then shared his collection of good books for boys to read. If parents are interested in the details of this list, they can access it on his blog www.timpegler.com.au.

Kate Torpy, The Strand English Coordinator

SBC/AFL Victoria Umpiring Academy

For the last four years, St Bernard’s College, in association with the Essendon District Football League and AFL Victoria, have run an “Umpiring Academy” after school at the College on a Wednesday afternoon. Once again, we are inviting first year umpires to attend training sessions in which two coaches from the EDFL teach the basics of field umpiring. The program has been an enormous success, with twenty four students participating in the program in 2010 and then umpiring in the local Essendon District Football League on Sundays. The program is open to students at Year 7 – 10 level.

The SBC / AFL Victoria Umpiring Academy will start on Wednesday, 16th March in room 647 which is located opposite the Clairvaux Staffroom.

The plan is to start umpiring students in the EDFL junior grades under a “mentoring” system (where a SBC student will umpire with a more experienced EDFL umpire). Students are paid for the games they umpire (starts from about $40 at under 10 level – 9.30am to 10.45am on Sundays and increases with age groups). Some students earned well over $400 in 2010.

If there are any questions, I can be contacted on 92891155.

Mr Hayden Kennedy

St Bernard’s Old Collegian’s Basketball Club - Request for Coaches

Recently we have had indications from three of our coaches that they will not be able to assist next season, starting in late April. The teams affected are in the Under 14 girls and Under 16 boys and are already established. The commitment required is a training session for an hour during the week and a game on Saturday – probably morning but maybe early afternoon. We have an excellent coaching mentor Andrew Feltham (‘06) who is prepared to work closely with any boy who is prepared to step up and assist and the club would provide any other support required.

This is a great developmental opportunity for someone with an interest in coaching whilst, at the same time, helping out the Club and College. If there are any boys (preferably at least a year older than the team members they will be coaching) please contact Kerin Moloney on 0400 789 547 or at kg66@optusnet.com.au

National Close the Gap Day - March 24

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are still dying 10 to 17 years younger than other Australians. That’s why Australia needs more Indigenous doctors, nurses, health workers, dentists and allied health professionals if we’re to achieve health equality by 2030. National Close the Gap Day (NCTGD) is a way for all Australians to join together and remind our political leaders of their commitments to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation. NCTGD will be held on 24 March 2011. Our focus this year is on the need to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. For further information go to http://www.oxfam.org.au/ac1/events/close-the-gap-day

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Married couples, make 2011 the year that you prioritise your relationship and join us for a Marriage Encounter weekend this year. Our weekends helps you to remember why you married and gives you skills to maintain your love for each other. Coupies and a priest will present on the weekend and, although it is based around catholic values, you don’t need to be Catholic to attend. The next weekends will be held on 8-10 April, 3-5 June and 19-21 August. For further information and bookings contact Peter & Erika Smith (03) 9899 0824 or email vicbookings@wwme.org.au. Checkout the website for more information on www.wwme.org.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 in one of our programs for all ages and standards with classes starting from $10. For further information please contact 1300 223 386 or admin@acefuntennisschool.com. Website: www.acefuntennisschool.com
Careers News
March 2011

MARINE DISCOVER DAYS
will be run during the 2011 school holidays – Friday April 15th, Friday 8th July at the Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre. Presenters include biologists, managers, chemists, tourism operators, education officers and fisheries officers. Students will tour behind the scenes and participate in a fish dissection. Call Pam Haebich 52580238 or email pam.haebich@dpi.vic.au

THE FUTURE OF MEDIA...
Swinburne University has created a suite of videos for secondary school students. Watch and learn while media academics speak openly about the future of digital media, journalism, media and communications, the transformation of the industry and why Swinburne is at the forefront of media courses. View on www.swinburne.edu.au/lss/areas/mediaVideo.html

MEET MELBOURNE is an opportunity for you to take a closer look at study options at the university. Find out about courses, explore ‘Access Melbourne’, scholarships, entry requirements and much more. To book a suitable upcoming session see: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne

ENGINEERING CAREERS –
at the 2011 Engineering Careers Expo. Engineers Australia, Victoria Division invites you to attend the Engineering Expo. Attend seminars, 70+ exhibitors, careers and professional advice. When: 2-7pm, Thurs 31 March; Where: Etihad Stadium, Melbourne; Cost: Free; Register: www.engineeringexpo.org.au; Enquiries: Noel Dos Santos, 9321 1726.

agIDEAS – If you have a passion for design and want to listen to international leaders in the field, make sure to attend the agIDEAS form in May. Details from the careers board or www.agideas.net

David Rosel
Careers Adviser
9289 1159
drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au
Dear Parents and Guardians

As a fundraising initiative, the Friends of Music at St Bernard’s College has organised a winery tour. The scheduled plan is as follows

11am: A guided tour of Domain Chandon
12:30pm: Lunch at Killara Estate
2:30pm: Wine tasting at Five Oaks winery

The trip is scheduled for Sunday March 20th 2011 and will cost $60 per person

Attendees will meet at St Bernard’s College for a 9.30am departure and be driven by College bus. We expect to return to St Bernard’s College by 4.30pm

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and friends to meet and socialise while contributing to and supporting the College Music program. The trip is limited to 32 guests so it is important to complete the reply slip below and return it with full payment to the school office as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr Carmelo Puglisi
Director of Music
St Bernard's College

______________________________________

Friends of Music Winery Trip 2011

Attendees: ____________________________ ____________________________

                                   ____________________________ ____________________________

Phone number: ________________________ email: ____________________________

Payment of $60 x ____________________ = $ included_____________________

More than four names? Please provide names on the back of this slip