From The Principal

Living a long way from work is a mixed blessing. On one hand it provides lots of think time and ensures that one is well and truly versed in current affairs and news. On the other hand the longer time away from home each day reduces ones discretionary leisure time. For me this means the amount of non-professional reading I get to indulge in is limited.

Last weekend however, I started reading “The Happiest Refugee” by Anh Do. It is an entertaining and moving story of the author’s risky childhood migration to Australia by boat as a refugee. The book tells of years of family sacrifice, and hard work leading to the extraordinary success of family members, Anh as a comedian and his brother Khoa as a Film Maker, teacher and 2005 Young Australian of the Year.

On the same weekend the Age contained an article on a Burmese family who had just received the news that they would be allowed to resettle in Australia having spent time in a refugee camp in Malaysia. This was part of the refugee “swap” deal between the Australian and Malaysian Governments. The article was headed: “We were so happy we danced with our children.” It is hard for me to imagine what it must mean to the family in terms of their personal safety, security and the chance for a better life afforded their children. The father was reported as saying; “We feel like we are going to a little heaven.”

On Monday morning the news and current affairs on my car radio reported the arrival on Christmas Island, and imminent deportation to Malaysia, of the most recent arrivals to Australia by boat. This is the flipside to the family who had been given the chance to make Australia home. The following day a High Court interim injunction delayed the relocation to Malaysia. Refugee advocates fervently hope for this to be permanent.

The refugee issue is a complex one. We hear much about Economic considerations, human rights obligations, United Nations expectations, political leadership, opinion polls, jobs, security, safety, along with phrases like “message to people smugglers”, “queue jumping”, and international obligations. Certainly all of these issues need to be considered.

I wonder whether we see our Christianity as influential in the view we take on the issue. There is some pertinent material in Matthew’s Gospel:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:35-45

Our charism as an Edmund Rice school brings this imperative into particular focus. It requires a commitment to a peaceful and just society with a particular focus on meeting the needs of the poor and marginalised.

The experience and contribution of the Do family suggests that welcoming those who seek asylum might not be exclusively an exercise in altruism or Christian charity. In addition to the Gospel imperative and the intrinsic benefit felt from helping another human being in need, it suggests that we and the Australian community might benefit in much more tangible ways from welcoming “strangers”.

ST BERNARD’S DAY - GO CASUAL FOR KENYA

Recently our first student immersion group returned from Br Beausang School at Embulbul and saw firsthand the difference our contributions are making there. The new primary school is partially complete however a funding shortfall means it will not be finished this year unless additional financial support can be obtained. The main problem with this scenario is the Church have earmarked the current Primary School building for use by Parish groups and a feeding program, thereby leaving the primary students without a learning space.

On Wednesday August 24 we celebrate St Bernard’s Day, one of the most important events in the life of our College each year. In 2011 we intend to mark this occasion with a very real demonstration of the spirit of Edmund Rice and St Bernard as we help out our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Students are encouraged to wear casual clothes and make a donation in homeroom to help complete these unfinished classrooms. It is customary on such days to ask for a gold coin donation, however we ask that on this occasion students make a “paper note” donation due to the seriousness of the situation.

In true St Bernard’s spirit, please help our Kenyan brothers and sisters receive the gift of learning, something many of us take for granted.
Congratulations to the VCE students who received their midyear exam results this week. The results were generally of high quality reflecting excellent teaching along with hard work and commitment from students. They suggest that the current Year 12’s are on track to produce another excellent set of VCE results at the end of the year.

The annual musical production concludes this weekend. Once again this year it was outstanding. Congratulations to Director, Damian Bernardo and musical Director Stephen Hutton along with the staff and the performers from St Bernard’s and St Columba’s.

At the end of this term Mr Nick Scully will finish in his role as Deputy Principal at St Bernard’s and take up the position of Principal at St Bernard’s Yeppoon. I’m pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Geoff Caulfield as acting Deputy Principal and Director of the Clairvaux Campus for Term Four. Edmund Rice Education Australia hopes to announce a permanent appointment by the end of Term Three.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

General News

IMPORTANT: Friday 19 August 2011 is a student-free day for Years 7-12. The College will be closed on this day.

From The Strand Campus Director

On Monday evening at the Parents and Friends meeting a parent shared with me her reservations about our plans for issuing a laptop for all students by 2014. I’m sure she would not mind me describing her comment as a ‘flippant’ one as her story was based around how much time her son spends in front of his College issued laptop. It appears to her that he is constantly ‘attached’ to the device. The comment prompted me to reflect on the amount of time our own children spend in front of screens at home.

Studies conducted by Dr David Greenfield of the Centre of Internet Behaviour USA indicate that the Internet appears to be capable of altering the mood, motivation, concentration, and producing a “dissociating experience for users; for some individuals, patterns of use can transform to abuse, taking on a compulsive quality.” Dr Greenfield suggests that the Internet may have psychological properties that are capable of altering mood and behaviour, often with little or no awareness. The study found that problematic internet use is:-

• More common in adolescent males than females
• Often connected to online gaming sites
• Takes over their life of the young person to the exclusion of all else; school, family, eating and sleeping
• Leads to many other mental and physical health issues
• Needs to be addressed as a serious mental health issue and suitable treatment obtained from either your GP or through an adolescent psychologist.

As parents we all need to be aware of this and ensure that we monitor and set time restrictions on our son’s access to electronic devices, not just on laptops. I am certainly not the perfect parent, but our family agrees to three ‘screen free nights’ during the early part of the week. It’s a balancing act that is continuing to be a challenging one.

Subject Selections
Our Year 9 students are in the process of selecting their Year 10 subjects for next year. The students have taken part in presentations and discussions with various teachers from KLA groups to assist them in this important process.

Dante Awards
Congratulations to Michael Climent (9D), Chris Galle (9H) and Jack Stephens (9H) who finished 3rd in the Dante Awards State Final. The Dante awards involve students reciting poetry in Italian.

Author Visits
Author Robert Newton visited The Strand on Monday morning and spoke to all Year 8 students and then conducted workshops with smaller groups. Thanks to Ms Katherine Barresi for organising this opportunity. Next Tuesday Author Paul Mitchell will work with our Year 9 students.

ACC Debating Competition
Congratulations to Jack Stephens, Jarrod Grech, John Sorrentino and William Harris (all of 9H) on their second place in ACC debating on Wednesday.

Dates to remember on The Strand
Monday August 15 – Year 10 2012 Subject selection information for students period 4.
Monday August 15 – 9A Santa Monica Presentation Night.
Tuesday August 16 – Year 9 Author Visit periods 1 & 2.
Friday August 19 – Pupil Free Day.
Monday August 22 – 9B begin at Santa Monica.
Wednesday August 24 – St Bernard’s Day.

The ‘Mothers of Old Boys’ Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2011 in The Pavilion commencing with pre lunch sherries at 11.30am. Letters to Mothers of Old Boys will be sent out shortly.
Dates (cont.)
Tuesday September 13 – Strand class captains leadership day.
Friday September 16 – Year 9 Sovereign Hill excursion for 9D, 9E, 9F, 9G.
Monday September 19 – Off Campus week for Year 9D, 9E, 9F, 9G.
Tuesday September 20 – 8H Santa Monica Day.
Thursday September 22 – Last day of term three for students.

Subject Selection
Subject selection at St Bernard’s involves some input about subjects available and the structure of a course of study. 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 subject selection is completed on line via the school website. Students will receive confirmation of course of study for 2012 in November of this year.

Subject selection for Year 9 students going into Year 10, 2012 will commence with a subject information session in period 1 Monday 1st August followed by a student information session about the structure of Year 10 on the morning of Monday 15th August. The parent (and student) information session is at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16th August in the Auditorium. Information is available on the school website.

Subject selection for Year 11 students going into Year 12, 2012 begins with a student information session on the morning of Wednesday 17th August. Year 11 students are strongly recommended to meet with Mr Rosel to discuss subjects and future career paths. Information is available on the school website.

The VCAL and Agere information sessions will be held on Tuesday 23rd August (venues tbc). All subject selection for 2012 is to be completed by Friday 2nd September.

Year 10 Student Interchange Programme
A great opportunity has arisen for two of our Year 10 students to take part in a student exchange with other schools in the Edmund Rice Network. Our students would spend a few days at St Patrick’s College in Strathfield, NSW and be hosted by two families from that school community. Then in November two of our families will host two students from St Edward’s College in Gosford, NSW.

This opportunity is ideally suited to students with a strong interest in developing their leadership potential. Expressions of interest from students and families should be directed to Mr. Chris Knauf, Year 10 Coordinator, Student Leadership Coordinator. 9289 1088 or cknauf@sbc.vic.edu.au.

ABCD Parenting Young Adolescents
The ABCD program aims to equip parents with the communication skills, parenting practices, information and strategies to help build positive, trusting relationships with your sons. The program is targeted for parents of Year 7 and 8 students. The program consists of four sessions run over four consecutive weeks on Monday nights starting from 22nd August until 12th September. The program will be run in groups between the sizes of 8 to 15. There is a small cost of $20 per family to cover costs for supper. If you are interested in doing this program please download the registration form by going to the school website where a link has been created on the home page. All registrations and payment must be in by Friday 19th August. For more information please contact John Samanna on 9289 1112.

Hiking Boots For Sale
Two pairs of 2nd hand hiking boots are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop. The size 9.5 and 12 boots have only been used for 3 days and previously cost $300 but can be snapped up for $100. First in, first served.

Renee Buhagiar, Uniform Shop
**SBC Annual Dinner - Friday August 19, 7pm, College Pavilion**

The SBC Annual Dinner is taking place again with this year's guest speaker being Former Australian cricketer and current Channel 9 and horse racing personality Simon O'Donnell. Tickets for the evening are $35 which includes a 2 course meal with drinks at bar prices. Dress is neat casual. For catering purposes, an RSVP, with a cheque made out to St. Bernard's, or credit card details should be forwarded to the Development Office at SBC 41 Rosehill Road, Essendon 3040 before August 16. Fax: 9337 1741. Alternatively, call Michael Perrett on 9289 1106 or email mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au.

**Year 12 Business Studies Competition**

Over the past 3 years, St Bernard's has competed in the Chartered Accountants Australian Business Competition this year has proved to be the most successful. The competition is divided into 2 categories – Senior for the Year 12s and Junior for the Year 11s.

Congratulations to Joel Testa (Year 11) who won the National Junior Business Competition and to Martin Charchar (Year 12) who won the State Senior Business Competition. Both students were presented with a glass pendant and a substantial monetary prize at the presentation ceremony in the city.

Below are the names of the other students who were also successful, achieving High Distinctions and being awarded smaller monetary prizes:

- Michael Motta – Junior Business
- Kieran O’Connor – Senior Business
- Nicholas Quinn – Junior Business
- Brandon Thomas – Senior Business
- James Delzoppo – Senior Business
- James Kollaris – Senior Business.

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**Music News**

A reminder from the Friends of Music that the SBC Guitar Raffle is still in operation, with the draw to be held on the evening of the Spring Concert, September 20 2011. Students who currently have raffle books are urged to sell remaining tickets quickly so that ticket butts can be returned, accounted for and stored prior to the draw. Those interested in purchasing tickets or wanting more information on prizes are invited to check [http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/sbc-guitar-raffle.html](http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/sbc-guitar-raffle.html) for further information. The Friends of Music have been, and will continue to be, particularly active with fundraising in the second semester. Between now and the end of the year there will be an auction of a signed Essendon Bombers players guernsey and a Music Trivia Night. More information to follow in future newsletters.

Monday August 15 sees the launch of the Year 7 Junior Band for 2011. The majority of students participating have only discovered their musical interest this year through the Year 7 compulsory instrument program in Semester 1. Students from relevant Year 7 classes who would be interested in joining in are encouraged to speak to myself or Mr Smith.

Finally, we were fortunate to have Mr Michael Griffin attend SBC last week to speak to the music students about excelling in, and getting the most out of, their music participation. A world renown presenter on educational matters with a specialty in music, Mr Griffin explained to our students how certain practice strategies would help them to achieve better results than they have had to this point. We look forward to the implementation of these strategies leading us to an engaging and successful Spring Concert at the end of the term.

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**January 2012 Classic Italy Tour:**

There is an opportunity for members of the St. Bernard’s community to be part of an 18-day tour of Italy (5/01/12 – 23/01/12). The tour is open to anybody interested in visiting such wonderful places as Venice, The Dolomites, Trento, Torino, Cinque Terre, Siena, Pisa, Florence & Rome. Cost is only $2,600 pp (does not include airfare). Please contact me at the College, for further details.

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**Congratulations...**

to all the boys who took part in the 2011 Victorian Volleyball Schools Cup and achieved the fantastic result of 11th in the state. The Seniors team won Bronze in Division 1, the Under 17’s took out Silver in Division 1 while the Under 14’s brought home the gold. On a personal level, congratulations to Year 10’s Alex Ielo who was voted Under 17 Tournament MVP, receiving not only the accolades but also a mobile phone and plaque for his efforts. Just as importantly many people commented on the teams sportsmanship and behaviour as well as their Volleyball skills.

Congratulations also to the following boys who were named in the ACC Team of the Year for Football and Soccer -

**1st XVIII Football** - Jake Brown (Centre Half Forward), Jordan Angus (1st Ruck) and Rhys Moylan (Interchange)

**1st XI Soccer** - Dean Campelj (Defender) and Albert Zorzanello (Interchange Bench)

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**Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music**

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**Bruno Spiller, Senior Teacher of Italian**

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**Craig Osborne, Director of Sport**
ST COLUMBA’S COLLEGE &
ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE
2011 PRODUCTION OF
DISNEY’S
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
ON STAGE

Book by David Simatico
Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by Peter Barsocchini
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International

Performance Dates: 4 - 6 & 11 - 13th August at 7.30pm
St Bernard’s College Auditorium
41 Rosehill Road, Essendon
Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.trybooking.com/QPE
Give yourself the edge and take your skills to new levels

- Understand what European Clubs look for in players
- Develop the mindset of a football professional
- Enhance your skills to new levels
- Find out the real secrets of mastering your position
- Understand your weaknesses & turn them into strengths

Why you should do the program

- If you are serious about football or even just a beginner, this is your opportunity to receive instruction from an ex AC Milan youth and U21 player and learn the skills and techniques junior players are introduced to at one of the world’s greatest teams.
- Improve your performance on the critical football skills European clubs look for when selecting players.
- Learn what it takes to make it in the top football leagues.
- Assess yourself against standards set at AC Milan Youth teams.

Your Instructor

PIERCARLO BIGNAMINI  Dott.

- AC Milan Youth Academy Team member from age 14 to 19.
- Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Sports Science
- FIGC (Italian Football Federation) Coaching Qualifications
- Currently completing AFC (Asian Football Confederation) C License
- Coaching experience in Italy and Australia
- Coached by Italian World Cup legends and AC Milan Champions Franco Baresi and Mauro Tassotti.
- Trained and played with World Cup Winners and Champions League Winners: Andrea Pirlo, Gennaro Gatuso, Filippo Inzaghi as well as other world class players such as Clarence Seedorf, Andriy Shevchenko and Kaka.

Program Includes

- Pre-testing to establish base point data in:
  - Juggling, passing, shooting
  - Soccer specific fitness testing Speed, Power, Agility, Reaction
- Post-testing to gauge players progress
- Each participant will receive a report providing feedback

Program Includes

- 5 week program
- 2 sessions per week
  - TUES & THURS
- 1.5 hrs per session
- Times 3:15 - 4.45pm
- Dates from 23/8/2011 to 22/9/2011
- Fee: $100.00 per player
  - THAT’S ONLY $10 per session

DON’T MISS OUT
ENROL NOW!

Enrolments close 18th Aug 2011

Enrol by visiting www.fit2b.com.au

Select St. Bernard’s College After School Soccer Program.

Fill in the online Survey & Paypal available for easy payment

For further information contact:
  Piercarlo Bignami- 0415 694 144
  OR
  Piero Sacchetta - 0416 201 733
HOMICIDE
AN INVESTIGATOR’S INSIGHT

What happens behind the scenes as police build their cases to bring criminals to trial?

An insight will be provided by our guest speaker:

John Silvester – alias Sly of the Underworld

Wednesday 7th September 2011
and
Thursday 8th September 2011

Venue: St Bernards College (Theatrette)
41 Rosehill Road, Essendon
Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets $25 per person including light refreshments

Seating is limited so book early!

Proceeds go to the Victoria Police Blue 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.

Investigator’s Insight ticket request

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
Suburb/Town ______________________ Postcode ________________
Number of tickets required @ $25 each __________________ = Total ______________
Date: (please tick) ❑ Wednesday 7th September or ❑ Thursday 8th September

Please make cheques (no cash) payable to Team Homicide Cycling
and send to Elly Anderson at 53a Peate Avenue, Glen Iris, Vic 3146
Enquiries to Nigel Howard on 0407 565 154