From The Principal

The Internet is a wonderful technological innovation that has changed the way many of us communicate. Most of you reading this newsletter will have received it online. Social networking sites offer instant communication whenever and wherever we are in ways unimaginable a generation ago. Facebook is probably the site most used by our students. However, in recent weeks there have been a number of instances of our students communicating online in ways that they would understand not to be acceptable in “real life” communication.

A former Principal used to remind staff that discussions with parents were best held face to face rather than over the phone. He was fond of reminding us that “people are very brave over the phone”. Online written communication is even less personal and people will “say” things in online conversation that they would never say on the phone or face to face.

In the course of investigating student online communication we were reminded of the following, some of which you are probably already aware:

- Much of the “conversation” between students on Facebook is littered with profanities.
- Many students are online during the night when I am certain most parents believe them to be sleeping.
- Students believe that their “conversations” online are private.

There is a great deal of advice available to help parents guide young people in the appropriate use of technology. I hope that reading this article will be the catalyst for a conversation with your son. I also offer the following suggestions:

- Set limits to the time spent online
- Reiterate to boys that online nothing is private and that every computer stroke leaves a record.
- Turn the modem off at an agreed time each night
- Insist that mobiles and laptops be left in the living room at bedtime and remain there overnight
- Discuss the content of conversations and threads that your son is engaging in
- Join the social networking site your son uses and be his friend
- Sit and read the College “Appropriate Use of ICT” policy document with your son

It was suggested to me this week that the “problem” was that students have laptops. I disagreed and pointed out that we don’t remove pens from students in case they graffiti, rather we teach them how to use the pens appropriately. Computers are powerful learning tools... even better than pens! The ability to use technology appropriately to communicate is something we should encourage and cultivate in our children.

In the most recent newsletter I reminded families of the impending peer relations survey which asks students to identify and reflect on any bullying of which they are aware. Cyberbullying is another way in which online communication can be misused and has the potential to impact on the safety of students.

We aim to eliminate bullying in all its manifestations. Some of you may have seen a recent “Insight” television program that examined the issue of homophobic bullying in schools. One of the guests was Mr Paul Tobias, Principal of St Joseph’s, Geelong. St Joseph’s has had great success in naming, challenging and reducing homophobia within the community. Addressing this form of bullying is important because of the impact that it has on the safety and wellbeing of students.

Adolescence is a turbulent, confusing and challenging time during which we all ask ourselves “What am I really like?” For young men asking this question of themselves in relation to their sexual orientation, homophobic bullying can be catastrophic and destructive. There are clear links between institutionalised homophobic bullying and self harm in young people. Like all forms of bullying it is an affront to the dignity of the human person formed in the image of God. It is important to remember that all forms of bullying fly in the face of Gospel values and diminish not only the victims but all of us.

For many years a Furphy Watercart had stood at the entrance to O’Brien Hall. It is a relic of the early days at West Essendon when it was used to water the trees that became part of the College grounds. Mr Colin Devereaux has agreed to coordinate the refurbishment of the watercart and has recruited an enthusiastic group of materials technology students to work with him. We look forward to the completion of the project and the reinstatement of the watercart to a prominent position in the College.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Fundraising Sausage Sizzle for the Japan Trip - Saturday May 21

A sausage sizzle will be held THIS SATURDAY May 21 outside Bunnings Highpoint, Maribmong to raise money for the upcoming Japan trip. Our BBQ experts will be there from 9am - 4pm so if you are in the area please stop by and have a sausage or two for a great cause. A big thankyou to LaManna Direct, Essendon Fields (a new kind of supermarket) and Baker’s Delight, Keilor Village for their overwhelming support of our fundraising effort.

Judy Sultana
General News

From The Strand Campus Director

Founder’s Day Walkathon
Since our last edition of the newsletter more boys have presented money raised for Project Africa. Thank you to the following boys for their contributions:

$320 Joshua Rasquinha 9G
$142 Nick Hales 7E
$120 Jack Noonan 7D Jarrad Mezzadra 7G

Investig8:
On Thursday May 12, two members of our local Police gave a presentation to our Year 8 students on the topic of harassment from a legal perspective. The presentation proved to be yet another step towards manhood and our boys taking responsibility for their actions. In talking to some of the boys following the presentation it highlighted just how much we need to continue to raise awareness of these issues and keep them at the front our consciousness.

Some helpful hints for Internet usage:
• Computers and other internet enabled devices (Ipod, Iphones, Xbox) should not be in a common area of the house. Certainly not in the bedrooms!
• Parental monitoring of your son/daughter is vital whilst they are online. Walk past and see what your child is doing, who they are talking to and what sites they are on. Be aware if their mood changes.
• Consider a family internet contract and set house rules about what information your child can put onto websites or share with others, where they go online and what they do. Parents need to be in charge, not the child.
• Be aware the majority of children will not tell a parent/teacher if they are bullied or harassed online for fear that they will lose their internet access. Never threaten total disconnection.
• Parents must learn about the internet with their child – get students to share their knowledge of the internet with their parents in a fun environment
• Learn the lingo so that you can decipher some of the content if required.

Bullybusters:
On Friday May 13 and Monday May 16 all Year 7 students viewed an entertaining drama presentation on a very important topic, harassment. The presentation explored the various forms of harassment as well as the motives and consequences involved from both perspectives. Following the presentation classes participated in a discussion with the main topics being:

• How can we understand bullying without being rally bullied?
• The difference between physical and verbal bullying.
• The concept of reporting bullies.
• How does the media encourage bullying?
• What can we do to make SBC a bully free zone?

Thanks to Mr Samanna who organised the presentation.

Dates to remember on The Strand
Friday May 20 - Year 7C and 7D retreat day.
Wednesday May 25 – Year 8 TATs begin.
Friday May 27 – Year 9 TATs begin.
Monday May 30 – 8E Santa Monica Day.
Tuesday May 31 – 8F Santa Monica Day.
Friday June 3rd - Year 7E and 7F retreat day.
Wednesday July 20 - Year 7G and 7H retreat day.
Friday July 22 – Year 7 Grandparent’s Day.
Wednesday July 27 - 7J retreat day.

TAT weeks Years 8 & 9
Timed Assessment Tasks for Year 8 & 9 begin soon. Students complete assessment tasks in a timed manner – similar to exams. For Year 8 students these begin on May 25 and end on June 3. For Year 9 students they begin on the May 27 and end on June 3. We would ask that you make every effort to ensure your son is present for these TAT and avoid any appointments or other interruptions. All absence during this time will require a doctor’s certificate.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

Ms Caroline Sheehan, Director of Learning
VCAA Mid-Year Exams
All VCE Year 11 and 12 students are required to attend an important preparation session for the upcoming mid-year exams in the auditorium on Monday May 30 at 1.45pm. Students must bring their Navigator booklet and a pen/highlighter.

Timetable of VCAA Mid-Year Written Exams
Tuesday June 14 Biology Exam 1 - 9:00 – 10:45am
Tuesday June 14 Physics Exam 1 - 11:45am – 1:30pm
Tuesday June 14 Accounting Exam 1 - 2:45 – 4:30pm
Wednesday June 15 Psychology 9:00 – 10:45am
Wednesday June 15 Chemistry 11:45am – 1:30pm
Thursday June 16 GAT 10:00am – 1:15pm

The General Achievement Test (GAT) is compulsory for all students enrolled in a Unit 3/4 sequence in 2011 ie. All Year 12 VCE students, and all accelerating Year 11 students.

Mr Geoff Caulfield, VCE Co-ordinator

2011 Italian Language Assistant
We have been fortunate once again to secure the services of an Italian Language Assistant. A very warm welcome, therefore, to Mr. Lorenzo Pilieci, from Rome. Lorenzo will be with us for the remainder of the academic year. Lorenzo recently graduated from La Sapienza University, Rome, with an Arts Degree, specialising in Italian Cinema. Lorenzo has already begun working with our Clairvaux classes of Italian and is already proving himself to be a wonderful support to Prot. Spiller’s classes. He will also be assisting some of The Strand classes as well. Benvenuto Lorenzo!!

Southern Italy/Sicily Tour – September 25 – October 7 (Term 3 holidays)
There has been considerable interest in the proposed tour of Southern Italy, Rome, Amalfi Coast & Sicily. It is open to families and friends of St. Bernard’s and a refundable deposit is due by May 30. Please contact me for further details.

Professore Bruno Spiller, Senior Teacher of Italian

Music News
The College has had a busy few weeks, hosting both the ACC Bands and Strings Workshop and Dr Mark Fonder as Conductor in Residence. Dr Fonder contributed wonderfully to our Year 7 instrumental music classes, bands and elective music classes during the week. Dr Fonder spoke highly of the students and staff of the College and it was wonderful to have had his international influence on our music program.

Concerts coming up this term are:
Semester 1 Concert: June 9, combined with Aquinas College, Ringwood
Year 7 Concert (7A,B,C,D & H): June 23
Both these concerts will be at 7:30pm in the College Auditorium.

Friends of Music - The Friends of Music are currently seeking small donations and gifts to be used for fundraising and raffles prizes at concerts. We would be appreciative of parents and community members who can contribute in this capacity. Those who can are asked to contact me at the music department office, 9289 1121.

In further activity, the Friends of Music are soon to launch a major fundraising initiative. The group has received some wonderful donations for the ‘Guitar Raffle’ with the prizes as follows:
1st Prize: Cort X-1 electric guitar and ‘Line 6’ spider ill 30 watt amplifier valued at over $450.
2nd Prize: GL acoustic steel string guitar with in-built electric tuner. Custom painted by ‘Grafix by Mik’. Valued at $250
3rd Prize: Suzuki nylon string acoustic guitar valued at $99.

It is the intention of The Friends of Music to sell 6000 tickets at $1 each with the raffle being drawn at the Spring Concert, September 20, 2011. Everyone is encouraged to support this initiative once tickets go on sale in June.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to purchase a 2nd-hand Bernstein Baby Grand Piano. The piano itself is in excellent condition, walnut in colour with a glass finish and comes with stool and floor coasters. Last tuned to concert pitch in May 2011. Asking price is $10000 (negotiable) and all interested parties are asked to contact Anna Walker at babygrand2011@hotmail.com.

St Columba’s College and St Bernard’s College 2011 production - DISNEY’S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
Performance dates:
Thursdays 4 & 11 August
Fridays 5 & 12 August
Saturdays 6 & 13 August
All performances are held in the St Bernard’s College Auditorium (41 Rosehill Road, Essendon) and commence at 7:30pm. Ticket details to be released soon. Stay tuned
VCE Geography Excursion
As part of VCE Geography, students study natural environments and the impacts of human activities on them. Recently the Year 11 Geography class ventured to Toolangi State Forest to investigate the management of logging as well as the provision and management of recreational facilities. The class also contrasted the characteristics of a mountain ash forest with a cool temperate rainforest, though ‘cool’ is an understatement, with snow covering parts of the forest floor. Rather than add to the discomfort of what was a cold and wet day, the snow provided a welcome distraction and a rare opportunity to throw a snowball. Now if I could only find out who it was that hit me in the back of the head....

Michael McIntyre

Congratulations!
The ACC Team of the Year has been announced for Senior Sports completed in Term 1 (Cricket, Tennis & Volleyball) and congratulations to the following students who have been selected in their respective teams:

Cricket - Bernard Kelly – Opening Batsman & Wicketkeeper
Tennis - Brandon Thomas – Seeded 7
Volleyball - Francesco Spanti – Starting 6
   Patrick Kirley – Interchange
   Zachary Bye – Interchange

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

SBOCArts Presents URINETOWN! The Musical
Following the success of our 2009 debut, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, SBOCArts is excited to announce its new show: the Broadway hit, Urinetown!

Don’t be put off by its unusual title, Urinetown is a hilarious musical that takes a serious and all-too-familiar inconvenient truth and turns it on its head: If all the water ran out, would you pay a tax to use the toilet? Urinetown sets itself up in a parallel not-too-distant future, where drought has seen a questionable tax on toilet use making the poor poorer and the rich richer, and everyone just busting! You don’t pay, you go to Urinetown! But when one young man decides to take a stand against corruption, the wheels of revolution begin to turn.

Location: St Bernard’s College Auditorium, 41 Rosehill Road, Essendon 3040
Show Dates (all beginning at 8pm):
Fridays May 27 and June 3
Saturdays May 28 and June 4
Thursday June 2
Ticket prices are Adults: $25; Concession: $20; Four Pass (4 Tickets) $75 and for all bookings please go to http://www.webticketing.com.au/DisplayEvent.aspx?eventid=157

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop is now taking both email and phone orders, if you know what size your son requires phone or email it through, along with the item details, and the order can then be picked up by the student when ready. Parents are encouraged to contact me on 92891176 or at RBuhagiar@sbc.vic.edu.au to take advantage of this service.

Renee Buhagiar, Uniform Shop

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

Ace Fun Tennis School
Get fit in one of our programs for all ages and standards with classes starting from $10. Singles and doubles competition available with free tryouts every Friday during April. For further information please contact 1300 223 386 or admin@acefuntennisschool.com. Website: www.acefuntennisschool.com

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
1. AVIATION CAREERS EXPO
This Expo will provide an insight into careers in the aviation and airline management industry and will be held in the new state-of-the-art Advanced Technologies Centre. Students will have the chance to meet representatives from key aviation organisations, including Thales and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), plus major airlines and airports. Info sessions will also be held throughout the Expo, giving students the chance to tailor the evening to their interests and preferred speakers.

Date: Monday 20 June
Time: 6.45pm start
Location: Lecture Theatre, Advanced Technologies Centre, Hawthorn
For more information and to register please visit www.swinburne.edu.au/aviation-career-expo

2. BACHELOR OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION – Swinburne Uni has a new degree in professional communication for 2012. The Bachelor of Professional Communication focuses on the areas of media, advertising and public relations. The course is designed to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills to use communication as a strategic tool to help businesses achieve their objectives. The degree provides graduates with employment opportunities in corporate communication and marketing.

3. EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY? Love the glamour of the catwalk or the exciting world of DJs and promoters? With the William Angliss TAFE course in Entertainment Operations you can learn how to produce, coordinate and promote live gigs like fashion parades, music festivals and club DJ events – working hands-on with industry professionals. The course takes 6 months, with course applications in February and July. Apply direct on 9606 2599, www.angliss.edu.au.

4. CHECK OUT LA TROBE – La Trobe University invites Year 10-12 students/parents to ‘Experience La Trobe’. This is an opportunity to visit La Trobe campuses and explore what is on offer. Careers, pathways and life at La Trobe will all be covered.

When/where: Tues 5 July at Bundoora, Thurs 7 July at Bendigo; Cost: Free, lunch included;


David Rosel
Careers Adviser
9289 1159
drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au
Kokoda 2011 Fundraiser

Auction Day

Venue: St Bernard’s College Gym

Date: Sunday 19th June 2011

Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
(Carvery Lunch Provided)
Ticket Price: $50

For ticket enquiries contact Scott Driscoll
Email: sdriscoll@sbc.vic.edu.au
Phone No: 9289 1058

This fundraiser supports the 2011 Kokoda participants from St Bernard’s College and Debney Park Secondary College to raise money for the Dave Cavell School in Papua New Guinea.

Drinks for the event will be at bar prices and throughout the afternoon there will be guest speakers, auction items and entertainment.

Ticket purchase includes the chance to win $2000