From The Principal

Since the inception of the Victorian Certificate of Education in the late 1980’s girls’ results have been better boys on most statistical measures. Theories on the cause of this abound. The course has been suggested as better suited to girls’ learning style due to the high levels of organisation and application required. Assessment methodology and the curriculum in many subjects has been suggested as more suited to girls’ interests and abilities.

More recently “literacy” has been touted as the key element in this performance differential. Boys’ literacy levels are generally lower than those of girls and they increase at a slower rate during secondary school. We know that literacy is critical for success in all subjects, in fact it has been suggested that success in Specialist Maths requires a higher level of literacy than success in English Literacy. Such a comparison is spurious and probably unhelpful, but there is little doubt that literacy is critical for academic success across the board.

Three years ago the College engaged Dr John Munroe from Melbourne University to work with staff in imbedding literacy strategies within the curriculum of all subjects. This has been the central element of our attempts to improve our students’ literacy. The recently published Naplan results for our Year 9 students suggest that the initiatives are having some impact.

The mean scores of our current Year 9 group are above the state mean in the areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. They are also significantly above the means for ‘boys only’. The ‘value add’ from Year 7 to Year 9 shows that students on average have improved 36 pts in Reading, 52 pts in Writing, 43 pts in Spelling, 38 pts in Grammar and 53 pts in Numeracy. (A suggested target benchmark is 40 pts).

A key element in improving boys’ literacy is encouraging them to read. Parents have an important role to play. The boys are expected to read at home when they are at primary school but parents often stop insisting on it when they move beyond Grade 6. The St Bernard’s library encourages students to visit to borrow, research, study or simply visit and read for pleasure.

On Tuesday October 11 recently retired AFL superstar Barry Hall will visit the library (further details below) to promote reading and literacy (along with his recently released book!) I hope that many boys and families will take to opportunity to visit the library and become more aware of what it has to offer.

Mr Nick Scully and Canteen Manager Mrs Sharon Grass both leave St Bernard’s at the end of this term. We thank them for their significant contribution and wish them well in their new roles. This week we welcomed to the staff Carolyn Holland as Canteen Manager and Sean Miller who commenced as an ICT Technician.

Last week St Bernard’s strong tradition of sporting and athletic excellence continued with victory in the ACC Cross Country event. Congratulations to all the students, head coach Michael McIntyre and assistants Gerard Brown, Xavier Cox, Helen Roberts and Katherine Barresi on this outstanding achievement.

In recent weeks the senior student leaders have been voted onto the Student Council for 2012. Congratulations to Adam Catoggio, Riccardo Centofanti, Patrick Comerford, Keenan Gatens, Matthew Lauricella, Michael Marinelli, William Ngu, Luke Rocca, Timothy Rose and Sam Woods from Year 11 (2012) and David Arena, Michael Dillion, Frazer Gatens, Patrick Hibbert, James Lynch, Liam McBean, Joshua Monaghan, Daniel Mostovac, Adrian Smith and Francis Tait from Year 12 (2012) who have been elected by their peers. Following a period of student voting and interviews with senior staff I am proud to announce Frazer Gatens as College Captain. Frazer will be supported by Deputy Captains, Patrick Hibbert (Ministry), Josh Monaghan, (Arts) and Liam McBean (Sport). I thank all leaders for their generosity in accepting their appointments and remind them that with office comes responsibility and obligation. I am confident that our leaders understand this and will lead the College with distinction.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Please remember in your prayers
George Tamraz, father of Shaun-Tristan Tamraz (10D) and Antonio Mondio, grandfather of Joseph (12A), Anthony (‘04) and father-in-law of current staff member Rosa Mondio.

May They Rest in Peace

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**Year 12 Information for Parents**

**Final Assembly and Awards**
Monday, 24 October 2011

Parents are welcome to attend Final Assembly in the Gym at 9:15am. Please contact Ms Felicity Cronin by email only at fcronin@sbc.vic.edu.au for tickets.

**Graduation Mass**
Monday, 24 October 2011
6:00pm – St Monica’s Church
(No Tickets Required)

**Valete Dinner**
Monday, 24 October 2011
8:00pm – 11:30pm – Celebrity Room, Moonee Valley Racecourse
Gate 1, McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds

Each family will be allocated a maximum of 6 tickets. The cost will be $95 per person to be paid at the Accounts office. Please note that Year 12 students are required to purchase a ticket.

Payment required by Friday, 16 September 2011.
General News

Farewell rom The Clairvaux Campus Director

The following is an excerpt from a speech I delivered at the Yr 12 Parent Son evening last Wednesday night. It is a brief reflection on my time at St Bernard’s. Thank you all!

“Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been an honour and a privilege to be able to work with you at St Bernard’s College for the past 6 and 3 quarter years. I will be leaving in about a week to move to Central Coastal Queensland. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Paatsch for his constant support in the last few years. Thank you to the wonderful staff of SBC, whom I cannot rate highly enough as educators, colleagues and friends. Thank you to yourselves as parents for your support over the years. Your support has been crucial when I have wanted to implement change within the school. To all the boys, I have been fairly hardline with you at times gentlemen, and I could apologise, but I won’t. I have generally known what I have wanted for you over the years and if I have been hard on you, it hasn’t been personal and I have tried to be consistent. To the Yr 12 class of 2011: we are leaving a very good school and I hope you have enjoyed your time here as much as I have. Congratulations on your achievements so far and good luck in the future.

My final thoughts come from Kahlil Gibran’s poetic imagery:

When God threw me, a pebble, into this wondrous lake
I disturbed its surface with countless circles.
But when I reached the depths I became very still.

As a Deputy Principal, I know I have disturbed the surface of this wondrous lake, we call St Bernard’s, a few times. I also know that this place is so much, much bigger than I am, and when I contemplate these depths founded in Edmund Rice, I become very still.

Thank you and good bye”

Nick Scully, The Clairvaux Campus Director

From The Strand Campus Director

Last week in my Yr 9 Religious Education class we discussed the sacrament of reconciliation. In our discussions the concept of restorative practices was discussed and how it fits beautifully with the gospel values of forgiveness.

It was timely for our class that a recent Sunday gospel reading touched on the concept of reconciliation and forgiveness as well. In the reading we heard of God’s forgiveness:

“Then Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” (Matt 18:21-23)

This is a challenging concept for our boys. They protest that societal expectations are based on retribution and at times, violent ‘pay back’. Unfortunately, they have a point as many of our leaders often seek a solution with violence rather than a resolution through peaceful means.

As Christians we all have a responsibility to reconcile, forgive and move on. After all, we are all far from perfect. We can teach our young men to be better Christians and good young men by resolving differences through restorative means. I am heartened by the responsiveness of our students to resolve issues this way at St Bernard’s College.

Campus Assembly

At our recent Strand Assembly the following boys were recognised for their service and contributions to the College with The Strand awards:

Year 7: Nathaniel Doody (Sport), Patrick Matthews (Academic), Shea Wellington (Service) and Liam Mcwhinney (Culture)

Year 8: James Leaney (Sport), Jason Luburic (Academic), Damian Fratangelo (Service) and Luis Shu (Culture)

Congratulations to Kevin Mai (8A) who was awarded the most Strand points for the term. Alex Sykes (7G) was second and Jack Gleeson (9D) was third.

James Worth from 7A was awarded the ‘Deputy Principal’s Award’ for term three for his attempt to intervene in a peer group pressure situation. James’ behaviour was courageous and the group acknowledged his maturity. It makes one think of the saying ‘leaders are not appointed, they emerge’. Well done James!

Timed Assessment Tasks

A reminder to all that Year 7, 8 & 9 students will undertake their TATs from Monday October 24 to Friday November 4.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

Tracksuit T ops

There are a number of boys who are choosing to wear the old tracksuit top that have been phased out on The Strand over the last year. Many students are choosing to wear the old tops even though they have the new ones. All parents should ensure that their sons wear the new tops or, if not possible, provide a note explaining a timeframe that outlines when the new top will be purchased and worn. Uniform detentions will be issued to all boys caught wearing the old tops without written consent.

Canteen Volunteers

Could all volunteers please be sure to double-check rosters of attendance. If you are unavailable on your rostered day please contact Sharon, Carolyn or Many in the canteen on 9289 1136.
**SBC EVENTS**

**Breakfast with Barry - Tuesday October 11 at 7:30am, Mitchell Hall Library**

Recently retired AFL superstar Barry Hall is coming to SBC to talk to students and their families about his career, his new book and life after football. Tickets will be $35 per family of 3 which includes breakfast as well as a copy of Barry’s book “Pulling No Punches”. Tickets are now on sale from the accounts office or you can contact them via phone and pick your tickets up at the door on the morning of the event or have them given to your son beforehand. Tickets are limited so be sure not to miss out.

**Foundation Sports Night - Thursday October 13, College Sports Pavilion**

The St Bernard’s College Foundation Board cordially invites you to attend our Annual Fundraising Sports Night. All funds raised through ticket sales will go to assist the work of the board which includes the upgrading of College facilities, the purchasing of teaching and learning tools as well as increasing student opportunities. This year’s event celebrates the achievements of 495 game AFL Hall of Fame umpire, current staff member and former SBC student Hayden Kennedy. Accompanied by some of the AFL stars who Hayden both coached and umpired over his illustrious career it is a night not to be missed. Tickets are $50 for a 2 course meal with drinks at bar prices and can be purchased by contacting Michael Perrett on 9289 1106 or at mperrett@sbc.com.au.

**Art Exhibition and Film Premiere Night - Tuesday October 18**

The Visual Arts Department and students of St Bernard’s extend an invitation to the parents, students and staff to the celebration the creative talents of the graduating Studio art, Visual Communication, Design and Media students. Works of excellence from all levels will also be represented. Awards will be presented for outstanding art works on the opening night.

The opening starts at 6.30 finishing at 8.30 in the gallery (O’Brien hall.) Films will be screened from 7.30 in the auditorium. Refreshments provided.

The Gallery will be open to the public from 3:00 to 4:00 pm Wednesday and Thursday.

**Dark Wonderland**

For the last three months, thirty students from St. Bernard’s and St. Columba’s have worked in collaboration on the 2011 junior production, Dark Wonderland.

Set ten years after the original tale by Lewis Carroll, Dark Wonderland is a bleak and funny sequel of sorts. Opening in an asylum where Alice has been committed, the play explores themes of broken alliances, solid friendships and sheer madness – an experience not for the faint-hearted!

The students have been busily rehearsing and refining the performance to ensure that your time in ‘wonderland’ will not be forgotten!

The students will perform three evening performances at 7.30pm in the St Bernard’s College auditorium on: **Thursday 20th October, Friday 21st October, Saturday 22nd October**

For ticket bookings, please call 9289 1049. Ticket prices are a steal at $14 (adult) and $10 (student/concession). Be quick to avoid disappointment!

While we are presenting a sensitive interpretation suitable for secondary students, please be advised that Dark Wonderland has some mature themes that might not be appropriate for very young children.

**Complimenti...**

To Michael Climent (9D) and Jack Stephens (9H) who finished in second and third place respectively in this year’s Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition Non-Italian Section.

David Selva
VCAL News

Last week of term three means the final classes for Year 12 VCAL students. 12V (pictured left) finished up with a visit from Mr Paatsch who came to hear their plans for the future and to wish them the best in their endeavours. Some students have an immediate fulltime apprenticeship or employment, whilst others will continue with their current TAFE studies, work placements and part-time employment hoping to successfully transition to work before the year end. Others plan to do further study at TAFE and have been working with Mr Rosel to finalise applications and VTAC requirements for 2012. (VCAL students in Year 12 will be returning for the Year 12 Final Assembly, Mass and Valete Dinner on October 24)

Year 11s are finishing up the term by completing their Life Skills program. The final sessions have our boys running a series of training sessions for Grade 5 students at St Christopher’s School in Airport West. All is going very well.

VCAL 2012 Applications should all be in now. Further details will be provided in Term 4.

Chris Mannix

Music News

At the end of Term 3 it is timely to remind music students to start considering their intentions for 2012. As students enrolled in private music lessons would be aware, a full term’s notice is required for the cancellation of music lessons. This means that students wishing to cease lessons at the end of the year are to submit notification by the end of week 1, Term 4. Parents can officially offer notice of lesson cessation by submitting an on-line notification at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com.

Music excursion permission forms are now available online at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/excursion-notices.html. Students of the intermediate concert band, blues band and SYNC will be presenting a concert at QLN Primary School early in Term 4 and are advised to return permission forms by the end of the first week.

We are currently taking registrations from students wishing to perform at our Semester 2 Music Soiree, to be held in the auditorium on Thursday October 13. This is an opportunity for any student of the College to perform solo or in a small, self-directed group. Students may register their interest via the music website mentioned above by the beginning of Term 4.

Recently we advised that the Friends of Music Trivia Night had been postponed. Thank you again to those who registered and we encourage all to re-register for the event once a new date can be established. The Friends of Music will next meet on Monday November 7 in the music department, room 301 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to support and offer input in regards to the future direction of our music program.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Congratulations to...

• the SBC Cross Country Team (pictured above) that comfortably took out the ACC Cross Country Competition by over last years winner St Bede’s. After SBC’s 5 year reign at the top was ended the boys from Mentone the team worked tirelessly to regain the crown with their hard work and dedication paying off in spades.

• Chris Williams (9D) who, through his umpiring, has been selected to participate in the AFL Grand Final Week celebrations. He will attend the AFL dinner on Thursday night, lead the Grand Final Parade on Friday and then attend the Grand Final on Saturday where he will umpire the Auskick game in the middle at half time.

• James Lew (8D) who selected to represent Victoria in the U15 table tennis team in the upcoming Junior National Table Tennis Championships. James will fly to Sydney during the first week of the holidays to take on Australia’s best.

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

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. For further information please contact 1300 223 386 or admin@acefuntennisschool.com. Website: www.acefuntennisschool.com

Loreto Mandeville Hall Tours - Sunday October 23 and Sunday November 27, 2-4pm

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak is opening the front door of Mandeville Hall for guided tours by Architectural Historian – Steve Stefanopoulos. Come and experience the lavish interiors and learn about the history and architecture of one of Melbourne’s most significant nineteenth century mansions. For further information and to book please contact Steve Stefanopoulos on 9823 8157 or via email at steve.stefanopoulos@loretotoorak.vic.edu.au or click here.

Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre First Birthday - Saturday October 8

Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre is turning one and to celebrate they are having a community fun day. At the fun day there will be activities for the whole family including a jumping castle, animal farm and face painting for the kids as well as a sausage sizzle supported by East Keilor Rotary. Children’s author Andy Griffiths will be signing copies of his new book at 11am, and there will also be an expo of training and education providers. For further information please click here.