From The Principal

I write this penultimate newsletter for the year on a laptop, occasionally distracted by the “bing!” of an email, a text on the mobile or a very old fashioned phone call. I have not yet braved the “twitterverse” although being moderately tech savvy, I have dipped a toe in the “Facebook” world. I found that having my request to be “friends” rejected by two of my three children was slightly deflating!

My parents’ generation probably had mixed feelings when the “landline” entered their homes and lives. It provided fantastic opportunities for communication and at the same time caused annoyance due to the expectation that one would be available and would drop everything to answer the phone. The occasional abusive or prank phone call was not the fault of the phone, rather the poor behaviour of the caller. This is one thing that has not changed, technology is neither inherently good nor bad… it just is.

Next year the College embarks on a laptop program from Year 7. Some parents are anxious that the provision of computers to students will lead to increased issues like cyber bullying, online abuse through social media increased access to inappropriate material.

I think it is important to remember that the technology is not the cause of these (potential) problems. We expect and insist on high standards of behaviour and respectful treatment from boys in their face-to-face dealings with others. We monitor this and respond if expectations are not met. We all must insist on the same expectations of students in their online lives.

A colleague was at a race meeting when a fistfight erupted between two young women. His first reaction was to step in and separate the combatants. He realized as he did so that almost everyone else watching was videoing the “action”. No doubt the footage is on Youtube somewhere! A video record of illegal behavior can be useful if its purpose is to identify those responsible and ensure people are accountable for their behaviour. I suspect however that such footage is often recorded and circulated to embarrass, disgust, titillate and target our most base human instincts. Again in this situation, the “problem” lies with the individual and their use of the technology rather than the technology itself.

Last month the front page of the newspapers were filled with violent images of the death of Muammar Gaddafi. I was somewhat taken aback by the graphic nature of the images. The television news was even more graphic, and online video of Gaddafi’s torture and death freely available. I suspect many young viewers did not find the images as confronting as I did.

There is great power and value in having immediate almost real time video access to events across the world. However, we often no longer have a judicious editor between an event and what we see of the event. Young people need our help to make good critical judgments in what they access in the same way that we expect them to exercise good judgment in the way they treat others.

As laptops become a critical tool in the education of our boys we will continue to emphasize good critical decision-making and respectful treatment of others as an integral part of their education.

At this time of the year some families will make the decision that their son will not be returning to St Bernard’s in 2012. If this is the case it is important ensure that an exit form is completed. We also hope that any senior student not returning will have discussed their prospective course of study or work with our Careers and Pathways advisor, Mr David Rosel.

I ask that the St Bernard’s community remember in our prayers the extended community of Emmanuel College Warnambool following the death of 5 past students in a tragic accident last week.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

2011 VCE Results and ATAR Service

VCE results and the ATAR will be available on the 2011 VCE Results and ATAR Service from 7am Friday 16 December

Only 2011 results are recorded on this service and can be accessed by SMS or from the Internet. You will need your VCAA student number and your PIN. If you are a VTAC applicant use your VTAC PIN. If you are not a VTAC applicant use the first four digits of your birthdate (e.g. 17 July = 1707)

INTERNET (resultsandatar.vic.edu.au) - The Internet service is free and is available 24 hours a day from 7am Friday 16 December until 5pm Tuesday 20 December

SMS (19787888 SMS cost $1.10max incl.GST) - To pre-register to get your results by SMS send a text message as follows; Student number (eight digits only not the letter) followed by a space then your PIN (4 digits) before sending to 19 787888. You can do this until midnight Thursday 15 December with results received at 7am Friday 16 December. Requests sent after midnight Thursday 15 December may be delayed.

MAIL - VCE and VCAL results and ATAR Statements will arrive in the mail from Monday 19 December. VCE certificates will be distributed by schools and colleges, not mailed with the results

If you have questions after receiving your results and ATAR contact the Post Results and ATAR Service (PRAS) on (03) 96514640 (metropolitan callers), 1800 633 080 (freecall) or at pras@educmail.vic.gov.au (7am - 5pm Friday 16 December, 9am - 5pm Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December.)
General News

From The Strand Campus Director

Santa Monica

Recently the boys from 9C hosted a group of young asylum seekers who are in community detention with McKillop Family Services in Geelong.

Prior to the arrival of the group, our Director of Santa Monica, Mark Smith, conducted a briefing session with the boys discussing what they knew about asylum seekers.

The 9C boys were very welcoming and enthusiastic when the McKillop group arrived and the two groups organised a game of soccer.

A lunch was shared together in the dining room then all the boys headed to Urquhart’s Bluff for a surf session. The 9C boys divided up into small groups and ‘adopted’ one of our guests to teach them how to surf. Mark commented on how our boys were particularly caring and patient with our guests, encouraging them by spending an hour and a half in the water, pushing their boards off and encouraging them to stand up and surf. Our boys put aside their own enjoyment of the surf to help the McKillop group who had never surfed before.

What an amazing experience for our young men. What a great way for our students to follow in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice and put service into action by helping the marginalised that in normal circumstances would not have experienced surfing before.

It is impossible to attempt to quantify the learning that would have occurred on that day, the prejudices that would have been laid to rest.

We look forward to hosting the McKillop Family Services for many more experiences in the future.

Year 8 Invest8 ILEAP Presentation Day

Last Thursday parents of our Year 8 students were invited to view the outstanding work of our Invest8 ILEAP classes. We all enjoyed strolling around and viewing each student’s project work and identifying the vast differences in the way boys have completed these tasks. The ILEAP project allows our boys to explore their areas of interest utilising their own preferred learning style.

Congratulations to the Yr 8 Invest8 staff and in particular Ms Shelley Beecham.

Year 7 2012 Orientation Day

A reminder to all parents of Year 7 (2011) students that there will be no classes for your son on Friday December 2. Normal classes will be conducted for Year 8 & 9 students.

Final Student Days

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Dates to Remember on The Strand

Thursday December 1 – Year 7E,F,G,& J Music Concert. 7.30pm in the Auditorium.
Friday December 2 – Yr 7 2012 Orientation Day.
Monday December 5 – Yr 8 Activity Day.
Tuesday December 6 – 2nd hand book sales from 6.00pm in the gym.
Thursday December 8 – Yr 7 – 9 swimming carnival.
Friday December 9 – Final day for Yr 7 – 9 students.
Thursday December 15 – Strand Awards in gymnasium (Yr 7 at 7.00pm, Yr 8 at 7.45pm, Yr 9 at 8.30pm)

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director
Notice to all Year 12 families 2012
The Year 12 program will commence on Monday 28th November till Wednesday 7th December. It is expected that students attend all classes and will be in correct full school uniform and have necessary textbooks and materials on the first day.

A Year 12 Parent information Evening will be held on Tuesday 2nd February. This is a compulsory attendance event for all students and their families. The evening will commence at 7:30pm in the College Auditorium.

Vittoria Alcorace

Booklists and Secondhand Book Sale
Parents are advised that booklists and second hand book sale flyers for students in Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 in 2012 have already been distributed. Students currently in Year 7 and Year 8 will receive their booklists and second hand book flyers on Monday, November 28th.

Important Dates to remember are as follows:-
Tuesday, December 6 – Second Hand Book Sale (6pm 7pm) in the College Gymnasium
Wednesday, December 7 – Booklist Order Forms due date – Please forward to College Reception
Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 – Pre Pack Orders (Collection Day). Details are on the Booklist.

John Nocci, Registrar

Uniform Shop Special Opening Hours
For one week only (Monday 30 January, 2012, - Friday 3 February, 2012) the Uniform Shop will be open from 9.30am to 4pm.

Renee Buhagier, Uniform Shop

Parents and Friends Association
At the Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting which was held on Monday, 14 November the Executive Committee was nominated and elected as follows: Kerina Germani (President), Eileen Figliola (Vice President), Rod Spicer (Treasurer), Michele Hedley (Secretary), Kaylene Beil-Biffin (Advisory Forum Representative).

The first meeting for 2012 will be on Monday 13 February at 7:30pm in the Board Room at 7:30pm. Everyone’s welcome!!

Ladies Auxiliary
The Ladies Auxiliary Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 December in the Pavilion at 9am (for a 9:30am start.)

If you wish to nominate yourself OR another person to be part of the Ladies Auxiliary 2012 Committee please complete the attached Nomination Form. You can lodge you vote by posting the slip below to:

Pauline Zammit
PA to the Principal
41 Rosehill Road
ESSENDON VIC 3040

Nominations close 30 November 2011

Music News
Students in 7E,F,G,& J are preparing for their concert on December 1st, commencing at 7:30pm in the SBC Auditorium. Families are encouraged to attend and tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are $5 per individual and $15 for families. Further information is available on the Music Department website.

A reminder that the Intermediate Concert Band continues to rehearse. All students in Years 7-9 who primarily played in the Senior Concert Band are asked to attend the Intermediate Concert Band on Thursday mornings to support the upcoming performance on December 1.

With the final weeks of school remaining, students are advised that those borrowing or using school-owned musical instruments are asked to return their musical instruments by Friday December 2nd for inventory and maintenance.

The Friends of Music have planned a range of initiatives for 2012. The first of these will be a winery bus trip to the Yarra Valley for parents and friends on Sunday March 25, 2012. All are welcome to attend this day which will include lunch at Killara Estate along with a number of wine tasting stops. As per the previous two winery tours, this will be a great social occasion which raises substantial funds for Friends of Music. More information is available at www.sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/winery-tour-and-luncheon.html.

Further to this, the Friends of Music is currently seeking donations of any description for raffle prizes. If you are able to assist, please contact the Friends of Music Donations Co-ordinator, Arthur Busuttil at archiebus@optusnet.com.au.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Business Directory
For the past fourteen years the College has circulated a Business Directory to all current students, current families, all on our enrolment register and all on our Old Boy Register - approximately 10,000. Response to the Directory has been very enthusiastic and many businesses have reported good results from their advertisements.

The Directory includes useful College information for parents and thus is a worthwhile reference for the entire year.

The 2012 Directory will be forwarded in late January and if you are interested in having your business associated with the larger St. Bernard’s community please contact the Development Office on 9289 1106, or at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au by December 10.

The Directory is open to all friends of the College.

Michael Perrett, Director of Development
UPCOMING Events

Come along to Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre on...

SuppressWarnings(156, 73, 156, 73)

☞ Saturday 26th November
  10am - 4pm
  MMHC Open Day

☞ Saturday 26th November
  2pm - 4pm
  MacYac Pilgrimage Walk

☞ Thursday 1st December
  3pm - 8pm
  “Peruvian Christmas” market night

For more information please call MMHC on (03) 9926 9300.

Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE

362 Albert Street, EAST MELBOURNE  VIC 3002
P: (03) 9926 9300  F: (03) 9926 9330  W: www.mmhc.org.au
5th KEILOR SCOUT GROUP XMAS TREE DRIVE

10AM – 3PM
SATURDAY 3rd, 10th & 17th
SUNDAY 4th, 11th, & 18th DECEMBER

PICK UP AT
AJ DAVIS RESERVE
FULLARTON RD AIRPORT WEST
MAP 15 G9

ALISON- 0418 141 127
PAUL- 0401 484 826
Gather your family and friends, pack a picnic, warm up your singing voices and prepare to be enchanted by the festive atmosphere of this year’s Carols in Queens Park.

Candles, songbooks, food and beverages available for purchase from 6pm. Don’t forget your blanket!

Master of Ceremonies: Richard Thomas
Special guests: The Nymphs
Performances by: Moonee Valley Brass Band, Essendon Choral Society, Ascot Vale Primary School, Lowther Hall Festival Singers, Melbourne Abruzzo Choir and the Moonee Valley Community Choir

Enquiries: 9243 8888