From The Principal

St Bernard’s is a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Within this tradition, the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice gives structure and action to the Gospel. Charism is often described as a “lens” through which one interprets the Gospel. Our Ricean tradition dictates a particular emphasis on our obligation to the poor and the marginalized.

The opening line of the College Mission Statement reminds us “We value Justice, Service, Hope, Love, Reconciliation, Honesty, Peace and the Acceptance of Others”. The College Social Justice program in which students are challenged to work with refugees, interact with and understand indigenous people and issues, and support poor communities, particularly the young, gives life to this statement.

Almost a decade ago the College undertook to support the establishment of Br Beausang School in Embulbul, Kenya. The first student immersion group (right) will visit Br Beausang this holidays with Mr Bruce Wallace and Mrs Chanette Glynn. The students will spend time in the school and visit families in the community. They will have the chance to experience life immersed in a foreign culture and contribute to the education of the young poor and marginalised of Embulbul. I thank all those involved in this authentic expression of the Gospel in action and of our Mission Statement.

Like many schools we are experiencing an increase in families withdrawing students from school to take family holidays. While there are undoubted benefits to the individual student and the family, including off-season accommodation rates make such trips attractive, there is an inevitable impact on the boy’s academic progress. Notification of such trips are often accompanied by requests that teachers set work for the student to complete during the time away from school. Our teachers are generous and accommodating but it is unreasonable to expect a detailed work schedule for boys. It is also not always possible to deal with work submitted after the due date. Assessment tasks, tests and exams will not be rescheduled to accommodate holidays. While the decision to take a holiday is a family decision, I ask for your understanding in this matter.

At the end of this term we say farewell to Lucy Vasallo, Emorfia Kupraiou and Sarah Quinn. We thank them for their contribution to St Bernard’s and wish them well. Lucy is taking extended leave, Emorfia takes up a position in the library at Scotch College and Sarah commences teaching at Genazzano College.

In recent weeks Sharon Grass announced that she would be stepping down from her role as Canteen Manager at the end of Term 3. Sharon has made a wonderful contribution to St Bernard’s and has been integral in building community through the network of parents involved in the canteen. More broadly she has been highly influential in the Victorian Schools Canteen Association and was named the Canteen Manager of the Year in 2010. I look forward to the opportunity to farewell Sharon formally at the volunteer’s dinner later in the year. The position of Canteen Manager will be advertised in the Newsletter and on the College Website early next term.

At the start of this year I spoke to families about the importance of the “trinity” of student, parent and teacher all working hard together and supporting each other in pursuit of educational excellence. As we finish first semester I would like to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff, the conspicuous support and encouragement of parents and the hard work of students. I wish VCE students a productive and energising non-instructional period and all families a renewing semester break. I look forward to our safe return, rested and refreshed, for the second half of 2011.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

General News

IMPORTANT: Monday 18 July 2011 is a Staff Professional Development Day. There will be no classes on this day. The College will be closed as all staff will be attending the professional development activities.

PLEASE NOTE: Honour Pockets
Boys who have been awarded Gold and Silver Honour Pockets this term are asked to deposit their blazers at the Uniform Shop, if they have not done so already, to enable the embroidery to be completed during the break. The Uniform Shop is open this Thursday from 8:30am until 11:45am.
Educating Bystanders

There have been a number of occasions this term that we have been faced with the opportunity to ask our students to reflect on their behaviour as a bystander to incidents. Unfortunately these bystander situations occur when boys are ‘silent witnesses’ to acts of harassment.

I am sure we have all been a ‘bystander’ at some time. We have justified this by saying that it’s natural to be curious, and that we are not doing any harm by simply watching. Bystanders are individuals who do not act, they just watch.

As a school there is much time spent educating our young men about how they can be a positive influence over others and their mates. We ask the students to acknowledge the role they have taken on as a bystander in certain situations.

Were they an assistant who joined in and helped the bully? Were they an active supporter who didn’t actively attack the victim but gave positive feedback to the bully, providing an audience by laughing and making other encouraging gestures? Were they an outsider who stayed away, not taking sides with anyone or becoming involved, but allowing the bullying to continue by their ‘silent approval’ simply by being there? Or were they a defender? Who took the side of the victim and tried to stop the bullying?

It is worthwhile considering the motivations behind why young men don’t intervene and be a ‘Defender’. Many reasons given are similar to why adults don’t intervene; fear, lack of skill etc. etc.

Our focus is on what our students can do to help the situations. Some solutions that are discussed are:

• Talk to the person that is being bullied? Help them through the hard time. Let them know that you care about them and their welfare. He doesn’t have to be a friend.
• Stick up for them without being aggressive. Violence will never solve anything, in fact it may make things worse.
• Speak to someone about the bullying. Report it. Speaking up is not ‘dobbing’.
• Take away the audience. Don’t stand there and watch.
• ‘Scoop the victim up’ and take him away from the danger. Include him in your group to save him from the bully.

Addressing bystander situations is one of the most important things that we can do to make our school a safer place to learn. Being positive bystanders and promoting this behaviour is what we encourage here at SBC. With this in mind I would like to congratulate Rory Mullins (7D) as the Term 2 recipient of the Deputy Principal’s Award, an award that acknowledges the positive bystander. In this case, Rory placed himself in a playground situation where he was able to diffuse a ‘difficult scenario’. Congratulations Rory.

The Strand Awards

Year 7 Sport: Andrew Bernyk 7E; Academic: Luke Santomartino 7C; Service: Joseph Esmaquel 7B; Culture: Callum Trainor 7C
Year 8 Sport: Anthony Koloforis 8F; Academic: Julian Borg 8G; Service: Ethan Liberman 8G; Culture: Declan Knights 8H
Year 9 Sport: Thomas Howard 9E; Academic: William Harris 9H; Service: Brendan Butler 9A; Culture: Jed Carey 9H
Overall Awards: 1st - Robert Santomartino 7C; 2nd - Joel Saliba 8F; 3rd - Tim Flamuri 9B

Staff

I would like to wish Ms Lucy Vassallo, our Year 7 coordinator, all the best as she takes extended leave without pay from the beginning of Term 3. Since joining the team at the beginning of the year, Lucy has demonstrated an incredible work ethic as well great skill and knowledge in the classroom. Ms Rebecca Cracknell will replace Lucy as Year Level Coordinator for the remainder of the year. Ms Anna Rabusin, who is very well known to our students as an emergency teacher, will replace Lucy’s teaching load.

I would also like to wish Ms Sarah Quinn all the best on her new role at Genazzano FCJ College in Kew. Sarah has been with us at SBC for just over a year and we wish her well.

Santa Monica

We are always hearing good news and great stories from our students as they return each week from Santa Monica. The link below will take you to the 14/06/11 edition of the Surf Coast Times for more good news.


Dates to remember on The Strand

Tuesday July 19 – First student day of Term Three.
Wednesday 20 July - Year 7G and 7H retreat day.
Friday 22 July – Year 7 Grandparent’s Day.
Wednesday 27 July - 7J retreat day.
Monday August 1 - Year 10 2012 Subject selection information for students period 1.
Monday August 8 – Year 8 Author Visit periods 1 & 2.
Monday August 15 – Year 10 2012 Subject selection information for students period 4.
Tuesday August 16 – Year 9 Author Visit periods 1 & 2.
Tuesday August 16 – Year 10 Subject selection parent information night 7.30pm.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director
Notice to parents of students in years 10 & 11

Formal work in Unit 3/4 subjects begins on 28th November 2011 for students who will be doing 3/4 subjects in 2012. It is intended that this will assist students to optimise all learning opportunities in their senior classes. Classes will operate with input, homework and introduction of assessment tasks. Attendance at these classes is compulsory and is part of the 2011 academic year. Classes will run from the 28th November till 7th December. It is hoped this will assist with planning for end of year family activities and holiday employment options.

Subject Selection

Term 3 sees the beginning of the Subject Selection process for students going into Year 10, 11 or 12 in 2012. 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 10 students going into Year 11, 2012 will commence with a subject information session in period 3 Monday 25th July followed by a student information session about the structure of Year 11 on the morning of Monday 8th August. The parent (and student) information session is at 7:30 on Tuesday 9th August in the Auditorium. Information about subjects and the structure of a course of study will be available on the school website from Friday 29th July.

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 7:30 on Tuesday 16th August in the Auditorium. Information will be available on the school website from Friday 29th July.

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

Yr 12 English

There is a COMPULSORY English practice exam on Tuesday 26th July from 1:00 – 4:15 pm in the Gym. Students are encouraged to prepare for this exam as the first major step towards the final THREE HOUR exam on November 3rd.

Yr 10 English

All Year 10 students will be attending a performance by The Complete Works Theatre Company of “Macbeth” on Wednesday July 20th in the Auditorium from 1:15 until 2:45pm. The actors engage some of the students in the performance and there is a question/answer session at the end of the performance.

Music News

We congratulate 7A,B,C,D and H on their recent concert. We also acknowledge the work of the piano students after their Semester 1 concert last Tuesday. After a very short break, 52 students will be travelling to Queensland as part of the 2011 music tour. Our students will be performing at Dreamworld and undertaking a range of concerts and workshops with schools and guest presenters/educators. It promises to be a musically rewarding trip.

A further reminder to students of 7A,B,C,D and H that your compulsory musical instrument learning experience is now over. As stated at the concert however, this doesn’t have to be the end, but in fact can be the beginning, of a wonderful adjunct to your academic studies at SBC. Students and parents are encouraged to consider the music lesson details accessible via the ‘music’ link located in the ‘other SBC sites’ section of the SBC homepage. All lesson applications should be in by the end of the term to ensure a clean start to further lessons in Term 3. Parents are encouraged to contact me at cpuglisi@sbc.vic.edu.au with any questions.

Clothing Donations Wanted

Both the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project and Hope Street Youth Refuge in Brunswick are looking for donations of clothes for teenage boys, 16 years and older. If you are able to help please contact Mary Doyle on 0400 541 532 who will organise to have the clothes picked up.

Notebook Insurance Premium Due

This is a reminder to all families in Year 10 & 11 who are yet to pay for their notebook insurance, it is now overdue. This payment meets your obligation under the Notebook Program Agreement. The insurance charge is a “one-off” cost of $250 covering you for 3 years.
Year 12 Business Management Visit to CUB
On Monday June 20 all students studying Year 12 Business Management went on a tour of the CUB Brewery in Abbotsford to help them prepare for their Operations Management SAC and November Exam. The students watched the beer being brewed and then saw CUB’s automated bottling plant. They were also able to witness many of the Operations Management Strategies being used at the plant. At the end of the tour the students were not allowed to sample the products being produced at the brewery and instead were given soft drink!

Bronwyn Glenny

Madden-Bedford Shield
Those in attendance at the recent Madden-Bedford Shield game at Parade’s Garvey Oval were privileged to attend both a wonderful pre-game luncheon and a spirited game of football. The shield, which is played on an annual basis between St Bernard’s and Parade College’s 1st XV111, is named after Simon Madden (Essendon great and Norm Smith Medalist) and Peter Bedford (South Melbourne champion and Brownlow medalist) as past students of their respective Colleges. Simon himself was on hand to talk at the luncheon and also to present the Shield to the winning coach and captain at the end of the game.

The game itself saw St Bernard’s kick some early majors then solidly build on their advantage all day to finally run out victors over a brave Parade side 12.10.82 to 7.4.46. Overall, it was a great team performance but it was Jordan Iudica who was voted best afield in the win that ensured the Madden-Bedford shield stays with SBC for another year.

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. Tickets on sale from 19 June 2011 at 1:00am.

Ticket prices:
Adults: $28.00
Student/ Pensioner Concession: $20.00
Family (includes 2 adults and 2 children): $88.00

Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.trybooking.com/QPE

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Children’s Performing Company of Australia
Beginners to advanced classes in dance, drama and song are available for boys and girls aged 5-18 years. For free tryouts ring 9384 1644 or for further information visit our website at www.cPCA.com.au

Bubble Dome School Holiday Programs
Have you ever wondered how 3D movies like Toy Story and computer games are made? Learn the latest in 3D Computer Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop these holidays. Other courses in Ultra App Building, Robotics, Architecture, Movie Making, Fashion, Writing and Science are on offer this July. For students aged 6 to 18 years. Tel: 1800 11 55 62 or Email: info@bubbledome.com or Book online at: www.bubbledome.com

Kickin’ Goals
Kickin’ Goals is a 10 week Soccer program for 5-12 year old boys and girls.

When & Where: Saturday 23rd July – 24th September 2011 from 9am - 10:30am at Fairbairn Park, Ascot Vale (Mel Ref#: 28 C9)
Existing Participants - $150 (Inc. Certificate)

To register visit: www.kickinggoals.com.au and complete online registration form to reserve a spot in the program.

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