From The Principal

Edmund Rice Education Australia last week announced the appointment of Mr Nick Scully as Principal of St Brendan’s College Yeppoon. Nick is currently director of the Clairvaux campus and has made an enormous contribution to St Bernards during his two stints here and he will be missed greatly. I congratulate Nick on his appointment that will commence at the start of Term 4 this year.

During the latter part of this term the College will be engaged in the formal review phase of the School Improvement Framework. The School Improvement Framework (SIF) has the dual purpose of satisfying expectations of government and sector authorities about accountability for the outcomes of schooling and assisting the College and teachers to improve student learning outcomes.

In the SIF process so far a random sample of families, students and all staff were surveyed and data collated. This data will form the starting point for the review. Other sources of information including interviews with staff, student exit surveys, strategic plan, policy documents will also be reviewed and used to provide recommendations on areas for improvement.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Carmel Saade in coordinating the SIF process and Mrs Tina Davis, Mr John Samanna, Mr John Nocci, Ms Caroline Sheehan and Mr Dennis Hobson who have chaired groups of staff as part of this process. I look forward to providing the community with feedback at the conclusion of this phase of the SIF.

As we move into the latter half of Term 2 cold mornings, early nightfall, seasonal illnesses and impending assessments can lead to students losing motivation. Sometimes the result is a haphazard approach to study, reduced dedication to the completion of work and non-attendance at school commitments like music rehearsals and sports team training. I encourage parents to emphasise to students the importance of sustaining motivation and focus at this time and maintaining commitment. It is important that students understand that keeping commitments is an integral part of adulthood, particularly in relation to employment. Not keeping a commitment lets others down. I hope that you will also affirm with students the importance of communicating with staff well in advance should they be legitimately unable to fulfil a school commitment.

In speaking with new families to the College during the last 3 years, I have reminded them of the expectation that all families “buy the package”: that is that boys don’t pick and choose which parts of the total St Bernard’s educational offering they engage with. We have a clear expectation that talented musicians will represent the College; that excellent sportsmen will do likewise. Where outside commitments make this difficult we will certainly do our best to accommodate boys but we maintain a clear and strong expectation that all boys will be available to represent the College.

As I worked on this newsletter I became aware of two reports in the media relating to the Christian Brothers. One reported a retired Christian Brother had pleaded guilty to sexual offences against students during his career as teacher and principal. As I read this report I experienced the revulsion that such behaviour rightly elicits. No doubt there will be more to read in coming weeks as he is sentenced. About a week prior to this an article appeared in the Brisbane Courier Mail recognising the outstanding work of Br Damien Price.* Br Damian worked in Melbourne in recent years and visited us regularly at St Bernard’s. He is currently working with the group of students who will be undertaking the immersion experience to Kenya later this year. I was pleased to be able to read this article as I think it provides important perspective on the positive contribution of most brothers and teachers in EREA schools and the Edmund Rice Network.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

* Please click here to read the full article

General News

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.

Tina Davis, Finance Manager

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.
From The Strand Campus Director

What can I do if my son is being cyber bullied?

• Do not be angry with your son – remember that he is the victim and it is someone else doing the wrong thing.
• Praise him for coming to you – this is a big step as most children are frightened to tell a parent about cyber bullying.
• Save and store the emails, chat logs or SMS’s in case of Police investigation.
• Help your son to block and delete the bully from all contact lists.
• Do not respond to nasty emails, chats, SMS or comments – this is what the bully wants so ignore them. (They will need your help to do this).
• Use the ‘report abuse’ button which all websites/applications have. Tell them the problems you are having and they are obligated to investigate.
• Have some “down time” without computers or mobile phones (do not do this as punishment, rather as some peaceful time where they are not being bothered) If unwanted contact continues, consider deleting email, msn, hotmail etc and start a new account. Only give your new details to a small list of trusted friends.
• Get a new phone number if being harassed on your phone. Report the problem to your phone company and insist on a new number for free.
• Inform us here at St Bernard’s College. It is important that we know what is going on so that we can monitor any issues at school.

Dates to remember on The Strand

Thursday June 16 – Discere ILP presentation night.
Thursday June 30 – Last day of classes. Student finish at 12.40pm.
Friday July 1 – PST Interviews 9.00am – 12.00pm.
Wednesday July 20th - Year 7G and 7H retreat day.
Friday July 22nd – Year 7 Grandparent’s Day.
Wednesday July 27the - 7J retreat day.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

Library News

We are proud to say that the library is a popular place at the moment with so many new fiction and non-fiction books, as well as games, added to the collection.

As the weather cools outside, the library heats up with all the extra bodies venturing in at recess and lunchtime. On average between 250 boys are in the library at any one time during the day, and, although it is hectic, we couldn’t be happier to see them all.

The plasma screen has been a new addition to the library and is tuned into sport during recess and lunchtimes with basketball being the flavour of the month with the NBA Finals in full swing. It is also used to show trailers on recent novels and the showcasing of staff and students work. We recently ran a loop of pictures on Ancient Egypt produced by Ms. Gleeson to tie in with the current Humanities assignment that the Year 7’s were working on and this was a hit all round.

Year 7 Co-ordinator Lucy Vassallo and I discussed ideas about teaching and learning and how our boys can take the learning they have acquired beyond the classroom. We discussed ideas about authentic learning and avoiding plagiarism. Ms. Vassallo broached these ideas with her boys and a group of them came up with fantastic work, which I screened on the plasma in the library. The boys took on the Don’t call me Ishmael and Cyber bullying project like ducks to water and all in their own time (yes their own time!) demonstrating what teaching and learning and inspiration is all about. Well done – Owen Humphrey, Matthew Paxman, Austin Reeves and Tom Groenewegen; keep up the great work boys!!.

The reading room is also being used again during the Strand lunch times on a Monday [manic Monday ] and Friday [frantic Friday]. Ms. Norton and I have been enticing the boys to play with us through such activities as paper aeroplane making and Word Association games.

Feel free to pop into the library at any time or give us a call as we are always happy to speak with parents about their boys. We thank those of you that have already made contact with us.

Ms. Emorbia Kupraiou, Head of Library

Attention All Parents - Year 10 Mock Interview Day

If you would like to assist us as a Mock Interviewer on Thursday the 1st September please email me at fmuscara@sbc.vic.edu.au or give me a call on 9289 1128. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Fran Muscara
Senior VCAL Student Profiles

ALAN PAJTAK
TAFE: RMIT/ Certificate III Electrotechnology

Alan is doing an Australian School Based Apprenticeship and is at school three days a week, at work one day a week and also at RMIT currently studying ‘Magnetism’ and ‘Wiring Layouts’.

Alan describes a typical day at TAFE:

“‘Magnetism’ involves transposing formulas to find different things to do with motors and generators and the way magnets work. ‘Wiring Layouts’ is all about the rules and the way electricians ‘lay wires’. There are certain rules, regulations and restrictions to electrical cable installation.”

A typical day on the job one day a week:

“Being a Domestic Electrician we work on mostly single and double story houses where we run mains from the pit, underground to the switchboard. After the frame is put up the ‘rough in’ is the next stage of the electrician’s job. Cables are everywhere they will be needed for future use such as brackets of switches and power points. ‘Fit off’ is the last stage of work where things like power points, switches, externals and the switchboard are connected.”

Next Year:

“I’ll be working full time as a domestic apprentice electrician and also at TAFE once a week. After four years of work, I would like to start my own business and continue on and hopefully take on a few apprentices/employees.”

CHRIS SCAVO
TAFE: RMIT/ Certificate IV Building and Construction

Chris is working towards a career in the Building Industry with a view more towards a Project Management role. A typical day at TAFE consists of subjects in ‘OHS on Worksites’, ‘Contracts and Laws’, ‘Plans and House Structures’.

On the job:

“When I work on the tools, I get to do many different jobs throughout the day: tiling, grouting, laying floorboards. When I do the administration work, I look at plans, talk to many different trades people: carpenters, plasterers, and organise jobs that have to be done around a job site”

Next Year:

“I would like to get a job on the project management side of the building industry. Later I would like to open my own building company, or buy into a share of a big building company.”

Music News

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 III 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.

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 College Newsletter
“Achieving Excellence by Learning and Doing”

Acknowledgement from Keilor East RSL
The Keilor East RSL would like to thank all in the St Bernard’s Community involved with the 2011 ANZAC appeal. This year the appeal raised a record $53,500 which will go directly to providing assistance to all returned and ex service personnel and their dependants.

Southern Italy/Sicily Tour – September 25 – October 7 (Term 3 holidays)
There are still a few places remaining for the Southern Italy tour, which will take place over the Term 3 holiday period (25/09/11 – 7/10/11). The tour is open to friends, families, adults and includes Rome, Amalfi Coast & Sicily. Please contact me via email or phone for further details.

Professore Bruno Spiller, Senior Teacher of Italian

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!

Congratulations!
The 2011 U16 Victoria Metropolitan Men’s team that will contest this year’s Under 16 Australian Junior Championships has now been selected. Fourteen of the top U16 men’s teams from across Australia and New Zealand will compete for the Robert Young shield, over the week-long national tournament at Kilsyth Basketball Stadium in Victoria from 9 to 16 July, 2011. Congratulations to St. Bernard's College student Marcus De Leur who has been selected to represent Victoria at the Championships. We wish Marcus and the team all the best.

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

St Bernard’s Vs Parade Football Luncheon - June 22
A luncheon will be held at Parade College from 11:30am (for a noon start) as the precursor to the match between two of the ACC’s most fierce rivals. The match itself (beginning around 1:45pm) will be played for the Madden Bedford trophy, named after Simon Madden and Peter Bedford, 2 greats of their respective Colleges whose achievements both on and off the football field are well known.

The cost for the day will be $25 per head which includes a two-course luncheon with drinks at bar prices. Dress will be smart casual. For catering arrangements we would appreciate a reply by Monday 20 June. Bookings or any other queries can be made by contacting Michael Perrett on 9289 1106 or mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au

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):
Friday June 3, Saturday June 4
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

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. Ticket Order Forms are available online at the Ladies Auxiliary website http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/groups/la/la.php

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

STS Young Endeavour Seeks Student Crew
Australia’s national sail training ship Young Endeavour is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between September and December 2011. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can get further information or apply for the ballot at www.youngendeavour.gov.au until 05 June 2011. No sailing experience is required.
1. PARENTS - HOSPITALITY JOBS!!!!!
A leading hospitality recruitment firm is keen to speak with ex SBC students looking for 5 star employment in CBD locations. Ideally suited to current tertiary students who are after casual shifts. Starts at $20 p/h. Not suited to current year 12 VCE students. Call David Rosel immediately, if interested.

2. VU OPEN DAY
Take the opportunity to see why you might want to include VU in future study considerations. Tours available. When: 10am-3pm, Sun 26 June; Where: Footscray. Don’t forget previous newsletter, which outlined all 2011 open days!

3. WHAT ABOUT A CAREER IN NURSING?
Deakin University is holding information evenings on courses offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Courses on offer:
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion
- Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)
When/where: 6-8pm, 12 July, Lecture Theatre 13, Building Hc2.005, Melbourne Burwood campus; 6-8 pm, 14 July, Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre, Building d2.193 Geelong Waterfront;

7.30-9.30pm, Fri 15 July, Building g1.01, Warrnambool; Information: 9251 7777, hmnbs-support@deakin.edu.au.
NOTE: Division 1 Nursing is also offered at ACU, Ballarat, La Trobe, Monash, RMIT and Victoria uni’s; Division 2 Nursing is offered at many TAFE’s and private providers.

4. BACHELOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION, LA TROBE
- This degree is industry accredited and includes majors in public relations, advertising and marketing. Subjects will address the role of social media and emerging platforms such as mobile media, as well as emphasising writing for broadcast and print. It is structured around internships and opportunities allowing students to engage with industry. The degree is designed to prepare students for careers in public relations and advertising, providing them with skills to develop and implement overall communication objectives, strategies and tactics with ethics and integrity. The Faculty has an exchange relationship with the Strategic Communications Program at the University of Missouri (USA). This is the oldest Journalism and Strategic Communications Program in the world, considered to be among the best, renowned for real world experience offered in its programs, and available to exchange students. Students will undertake an internship placement and may be required to undertake a voluntary placement with a not for profit NGO or government agency.

5. EXPERIENCE NURSING & PARAMEDICINE AT ACU
- Year 10-12’s are invited to enter a day in the life of a student nurse or paramedic, participating in hands-on workshops, talking to students and staff and discovering what these careers are all about. When: Fri 8 July (Melbourne campus); Register: www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience.

6. ENGINEERING EXPO AT MELBOURNE UNI
- Find out more about the Melbourne engineering and IT graduate courses. Speak to staff/students. When: 6-7.30pm, 29 June; Where: Master Seminar Room 2, Level 1, Old Metallurgy Building; Details: www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/events.

David Rosel, Careers Adviser
9289 1159 drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au
ST COLUMBA’S COLLEGE EXTENDS
AN INVITATION TO YEAR 12 PARENTS

Dealing with Year 12 stress – The Parent’s Role

Parents play a valuable role in helping their children navigate the complexities and pressures of school life and, this is particularly important during Year 12. During Year 12, parents often struggle to strike the balance between being ‘involved’ but not ‘too involved’, wanting their daughter to succeed and do well without putting extra pressure on her. St Columba’s College have organised this information evening to support parents in this challenging but important role.

Psychologist Sally-Anne McCormack will present some ideas on how to deal with the behaviours, cope with the moods, and maintain relationships during these stressful final years of school.

Sally-Anne McCormack is a Clinical Psychologist, Media Consultant, former Teacher, and a mother of four and currently has her 3rd child in Year 12! She is also the author of "Stomp Out The ANTs (Automatic Negative Thoughts. As well as working with adults, she has a special interest in working with children and adolescents. She has extensive experience dealing with a broad range of mental health disorders especially depression, anxiety and sleep as well as parenting and educational issues. Her websites are www.StompOutTheANTs.com.au and www.ParentsOnline.com.au.

Sally-Anne will attempt to address some of the following questions and concerns:

- How do I know if my daughter is ‘doing enough’?
- How do I know if my daughter is not ‘doing enough’?
- How do I ask questions or become more involved without affecting our relationship?
- How do I help my daughter deal with the stress of Year 12?
- What can I say to help my daughter cope with exam pressure?
- What level of stress is ‘normal’ or ‘to be expected’ in Year 12?

The evening will be held in the St Columba’s College Mezzanine on Thursday 9 June, starting at 7:30pm. There will be a nominal fee of $5 per family for the information evening – registration and a light supper will be provided from 7:00pm.

If you are interested or require more information please RSVP to Ms Donna Kellett at kellettd@columba.vic.edu.au by Friday 3 June 2011.