From The Principal

In this final newsletter of 2011 I congratulate all students on their achievements this year. Your efforts will be acknowledged in your academic reports and, in some cases, with awards at our end of year awards nights. In exams and assessments, as in most undertakings in life, you usually get what you deserve. I hope that you are pleased with your performance but at the same time that you use it as a catalyst for reflection to identify areas in which you can improve in 2012.

At the end of this year we will farewell a number of staff from the College, many of whom have made a significant contribution to the College. I would like to thank Caroline Sheehan, Dallas Simpson, John Felstead, and Tim Grant who will complete their time at St Bernard’s at the end of this year. I also thank and extend best wishes to our Gap Year students, Jorden Nichols (Santa Monica), Tom Chrystie (sport), who move on to the next stage of their careers in 2012. Mrs Michelle Puglisi, and Mrs Sally Newton will leave us on maternity leave as will Mrs Emma Robinson, Hayden Kennedy, and Arancha Joulian will also be taking leave for the duration of 2012 whilst Nick Smith will be on leave during Term 1.

Late next week the VCE results will be published. I congratulate in advance our VCE high achievers who will be invited to gather with their families in the pavilion and celebrate their success together, on Monday December 19. We look forward to welcoming Mr Nick Scully back to the College for this event to join us in congratulating the award winners.

Last week I was at Santa Monica inspecting the almost complete building works. Walking through the site, the builder’s radio was broadcasting test cricket, a certain harbinger of summer. Of course along with test cricket and summer the Church season of Advent has also arrived.

Advent is a time of preparation for the Christmas season during which we recall the coming of Christ into our world and our lives. It strikes me that there is a synergy with the impact of Christ’s arrival and the arrival of summer. In our hemisphere the hours of daylight lengthen and we bask in the emerging light and warmth. So it should be with the arrival of Christ in our lives. The prophet Isaiah writes of this as “the coming of the light that shines in our midst”.

I thank all contributors to the College this year. I wish you a restful, rejuvenating and safe holiday break and the peace and joy of the Christ child to you and your families this Christmas.

Best Wishes

Tony Paatsch

From The Strand Campus Director

As this is the final newsletter for the year I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a safe, relaxing and Holy Christmas. Reports will be available to families via the parent portal from Friday December 16. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of all our families in providing over 750 gifts for St Vincent de Paul to distribute to families in need this Christmas. Thank you to Mr Dennis Hobson for coordinating this project.

Orientation Day

Last Friday our 2012 Year 7s enjoyed their first day at the College on what is known as ‘Orientation day’. It was an exciting day for all involved, including the parents. The transition process from Year 6 to Year 7 can often be a stressful one for student and parent and is actually considered a major ‘change’ event in an individual’s life. I would like to draw your attention to the Year 7 St Bernard’s College Weebly (http://year7sbc.weebly.com/) that was developed by our Year 7 Coordinators Mrs Charlene Landvogt and Ms Rebecca Cracknell. This is an outstanding resource for parents of junior students and I would like to commend Charlene and Rebecca for this initiative.

Parent Condoned Absences

Whilst the vast majority of students have been working right up to the final day of school on assessment there have been a number of students who have made themselves absent with parent permission. Some boys attended a music concert and were “sick” the following day. Some boys took the day off to enjoy the day release of the video game ‘Call of Duty’. Our final two days this week was marred, in some way, by high absenteeism. On Thursday there were 12% of our year seven absent; 32% of our year eights absent; and 20% of our year nines. The boys missed out on a great community event where our boys shared a beautiful Christmas liturgy, participated in an energetic swimming carnival as well as engaged in processes that related to their schooling next year. A considerable amount of preparation went into the two days.

From a broader perspective attendance at school is an important indicator to not only academic performance but also social responsibility in the wider community. A recent survey conducted in Victorian Secondary Schools found that Year 9 students displayed the highest rate (61%) of ‘parent condoned absences’ out of all of the year levels. As a father of two adolescent boys and a young adult son, I can certainly understand what it is like to be challenged in the morning when I have tried to “crow bar” them out of their beds. However, the education of our young men is a partnership between the school and parents. This partnership is based on trust and commitment. I would hope that all parents could consider these two very important values next time when the easy decision might be to grant your son ‘the day off’.
Dates to Remember on The Strand

Thursday December 15 – Strand Awards in gymnasium (Yr 7 at 7.00pm, Yr 8 at 7.45pm, Yr 9 at 8.30pm)
Monday January 23, 2012 - College Office opens
Monday January 30, 2012 - Uniform Shop opens 9.30am – 4.00pm
Thursday February 2, 2012 - Classes for Year 7 students begin. Homeroom will be at 8.45am.
Friday February 3, 2012 - Classes for Year 8 & 9 begin.
Wednesday February 15, 2012 - Year 8 & 9 Information Evening 7.30pm.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

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 birhdate (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 653 080 (freecall) or at pras@edumail.vic.gov.au (7am - 5pm Friday 16 December, 9am - 5pm Saturday 17, Saturday 18, Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December).

Bernadette Kirkwood, VCE Coordinator

Notice to all Year 12 families 2012

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

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

World Skills Challenge 2012

World Skills is an event in which representatives from TAFE colleges throughout Victoria compete in a carpentry competition for the opportunity of representing Victoria in the national version of the competition. To select the Kangan Institute representatives a “Regional Challenge” was conducted where selected students from each TAFE College were invited to participate. Amongst the 21 competitors were St Bernard’s own Paul Markesich (pictured), Michael Farrent and Adrian Jones.

The competition was very exciting and approached by all competitors with concentration and enthusiasm. The students were required to construct a saw stool and were provided with all materials, tools and a copy of the plans and judges mark sheets.

Judging was difficult as the standard was extremely high but ultimately Adrian Jones was declared the winner with Paul Markesich taking out second prize. This meant that both boys would progress through to the state finals held at Victoria University on October 25th.

Again both Paul and Adrian acquitted themselves extremely well with the latter ultimately 2nd in Victoria and earning a berth in the National final in Sydney next year. We wish him the very best for this and congratulate all three boys on their outstanding achievements.

St Bernard’s and Friends Community Carols

7:00pm on the 22nd December

In the plaza, under the sails outside the arts and recreation building. (If you would like to perform please contact Jeff Mifsud 0433 848 708)
This is the first of what we hope will become an annual event.
Come and join in the Christmas cheer.
Bring a blanket, deck chairs, snacks and drinks (alcohol free!)
Seasons Greetings!
Happy Christmas to you all and god bless all our wonderful families that makes our community so kind. Thank you keep safe and look forward to seeing all next year.

Carolyn and Mandy, Canteen

Congratulations...
to all our volleyballers who were so successful again this year but especially:

Luke Fletcher - U16 School Sports Australia Victorian Team, U17 Victorian Beach Team, Scholarship GMVA (Greater Melbourne Volleyball Academy)
Alex Ielo - U17 Victorian Blue Team, U17 Victorian Beach Team, MVP U17 Victorian Schools Cup, Aus Camp training squad, Scholarship GMVA (Greater Melbourne Volleyball Academy)
Daniel Allison - U17 Victorian East Development Team, U17 Victorian Beach Team, Scholarship GMVA (Greater Melbourne Volleyball Academy)
Tony Williams – U17 Victorian East Development Team
Mark Sampson – U17 Victorian East Development Team
Trent O’Dea - Representing Uni Blues

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

Football Players Wanted
St. Bernard’s Junior Football Club cordially invites all current St. Bernard’s students and friends to join our ever growing and successful sporting club. We are particularly eager to recruit players who are eligible to play U14 football next year and welcome players of all ability levels to our family orientated club. If you are interested in playing please see our website www.stbernardstfc.com.au for details or contact Glen Thorogood 0448 557 818 or Peter Holland 0423 024 890.

Ace Fun Tennis School
Programs for all ages and standards from adults to children.
Get fit for summer with classes starting from $10 per class. Singles and doubles competition available with free tryouts every Friday during February. For bookings or further details please contact 1300 ACE FUN or 1300 223 386 or www.acefuntennisschool.com

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

Careers News

RMIT University

2012 Certificate of Education Integration Aide Courses
Designed for those already employed or seeking work in schools as Integration Aides, or for parents or carers of children with special needs

8 Saturday classes (9:30 – 4:30)

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<th>Finish Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick 1</td>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>5 May</td>
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<td>Pakenham</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>28 July</td>
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<td>Brunswick 2</td>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>13 October</td>
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<td>Bundoora</td>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>15 December</td>
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15 Thursday evenings (6:30 – 9:30)

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<th>Finish Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Waverley 1</td>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>31 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt Waverley 2</td>
<td>19 July</td>
<td>8 November</td>
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For further information contact us on 9925 6617
Email: cd@rmit.edu.au
Or go to our website
www.rmit.edu.au/education/integration-aide
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