Reflections on St. Bernard’s
Paul Shannon, Deputy Principal - Clairvaux Campus

The past couple of years have been ones of significant change in the life of St. Bernard’s College. There has been a restructure at Leadership level due to the retirement of two experienced and well-respected educators in Frank FitzGerald and John McKenna. Nick Scully and Caroline Sheehan have also moved to other phases of their careers after long and dedicated service. Tony Paatcsh (Principal), Damian McKee (Deputy Principal – The Strand) and Pauline Thompson (Director of Learning & Teaching) formulate a new Leadership Team. I feel privileged to be a part of this dynamic team who will play a role in envisioning a new history of St. Bernard’s.

The “charism” of Edmund Rice, as discerned by his Brothers, was an empowering recognition that life to the full for him lay in giving his whole life to the deprived, dispossessed, marginalised and disempowered persons in his society. The primary response to this “charism” by Edmund was to reach out to the young people of his city and country who were desperately deprived and disempowered. It is upon this backdrop, along with the recent Touchstones of the EREA Charter, that the success of St. Bernard’s should be measured.

Gospel Spirituality
It is clear that the story of Jesus permeates the school day and that His messages of compassion, justice, peace and forgiveness are evident. Celebration of the Eucharist, Religious Education programs, liturgy, prayer and opportunities for personal development and social justice are alive and well. Students are encouraged to put faith into action, especially through the many community service activities on offer. We continue to support many charitable causes locally and in Edmund Rice schools and ministries in Africa. There is a comprehensive retreat program across all year levels and we are blessed with committed leaders, Brendan Douglas and Dennis Hobson.

Liberating Education
The first thing that struck me about St. Bernard’s was the grounds and the state of the art facilities on our site. We know that boys learn best in pleasant surroundings, and the recent development of an Arts precinct is testimony to the commitment of all to the notion of outstanding physical resources. These facilities allow our boys to seize every opportunity to develop themselves fully as human beings and to identify and develop their talents as fully and broadly as possible. Above all, we continue to encourage and support students in the pursuit of excellence across all facets of education including the spiritual, social, emotional, academic and physical. The Discere and Agere parallel programs provide learning in many forms both for the talented and for those who need increased skill in core subjects. A special Year 9 program at Santa Monica, VCAL and VET programs offer a rich curriculum for our boys in the broadest possible sense.

Inclusive Community
Co-curricular activity continues to flourish as students take up the opportunities to discover their passion & talents. We maintain teams in all sports across all year levels in the ACC competition and are the current holders of the Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Division 1 Premierships. The students have enthusiastically embraced and enjoyed the many traditional cultural pursuits on offer, and we have celebrated significant individual and team successes in public speaking, debating, drama, music and visual arts. Rehearsals for our College musical, Jekyll & Hyde, continue to be of the highest possible standard led by an enthusiastic and creative staff. These offerings are celebrated equally at numerous assemblies and public occasions to ensure all boys feel a sense of self-worth and inclusiveness. New members of our community are welcomed as evidenced by the large number of boys, mentors and fathers present in Term 1 at the annual games night.

Justice and Solidarity
Our boys are encouraged to grow into people of good heart who have healthy self-respect, who value right relationships with other people, and who can offer themselves in service to the needy and marginalised in our society. The recent Walkathon was an act of solidarity and the funds contributed to the Br Beausang school in Africa are testimony to this. The College has a strong pastoral care program which aims to support students in making good educational decisions to achieve to their best potential and become resilient, wholesome young men as they move through adolescence making significant life choices.

Conclusion
I acknowledge the hard work and efforts of an extraordinarily dedicated teaching staff and those of a highly diligent support staff that are passionate about the community of which they are a part. I have consistently witnessed the compassion and thoughtfulness directed towards the boys in our care. There is a genuine partnership with parents and guardians that manifests in a rich and ‘tight’ community. All decisions are made on behalf of the boys and this is our most endearing quality.

Paul Shannon

Vale
The SBC community was saddened to hear of the death of Pat Tuck, who passed away peacefully on 29 April. She was the wife of long serving SBC teacher, the late Vin Tuck. The College public speaking award is named in memory of Vin. Pat was also the mother of past students Mark ‘77 and Paul ‘78 and grandmother of Ciaran ‘10 and Year 12’s Sean. Beryl Hinkley also recently passed away suddenly at the age of 84. She was the mother of past students Robert ‘67 and Michael ‘78 and the grandmother of Year 9’s Benjamin.

May They Rest in Peace
Edmund Rice Day Walkathon

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the College community has raised in excess of $60,000 for Project Africa. We would like to thank all of our families for their support of this very important cause. With this money the Embulbul community in Kenya will be able to complete the building of their Junior school campus and bring the junior students into a modern building, leaving behind the corrugated iron buildings and earth floors that the students have had to endure since the school began in 2001.

As a Catholic school in the tradition of Edmund Rice we are very proud to be able to assist this community in providing an education to the students who would normally be deprived of this basic human right. Edmund Rice’s life was one of sacrifice for others and service to those in need. We are certain that these values are alive and well in the lives and actions of our boys.

We would like to acknowledge the boys for their efforts, especially those who raised in excess of $100. Their names can be found at the conclusion of this newsletter, along with the inspirational speech given by College Captain Frazer Gatens (pictured left) at the Founders Day Mass.

Paul Shannon and Damian McKee, Campus Directors

From The Strand Campus Director

Year 8 Investi8 Programme

The Investi8 program is in its fifth year and operating at its best yet after a review and feedback from students, staff and parents at the end of 2011. The Rel8 program deals with examining socio-emotional issues relevant to the year eight boys with this semester’s focus being ‘Risk-Taking and Decision-Making.’ It is our hope that these classes and the ensuing discussions at home assist the boys in making decisions that are informed and considered. In the ILEAP (Independent Learning Adventure Project) component of the day the boys are researching a vast array of areas of interest to them. Next semester they will choose a method by which to present these and all year 8 parents are invited and most welcome to attend the showcase of these during the school day on Thursday November 15th.

With a third of the Year 8 boys heading out to ACC sport on the afternoon of Investi8 day the remainder enjoy the Options on offer at school. It is fantastic to wander around the campus and see them engaged in Cartooning, Cooking, Street Art, Calligraphy, Music in Sport and Film, Illustrating Children’s Books, Robotics, the relaxing Chill Me, Claymation and hear reports of the positive contribution made by the boys that head out to a local aged care home for Community Service.

World’s Greatest Shave

I would like to acknowledge William Kiss 8J who raised $118 for the Leukemia Foundation. A great effort William!

Dates to Remember on The Strand

Monday May 14 - 8A Santa Monica Camp.
- 9F Santa Monica Presentation Night at 7.30pm.
Tuesday May 15 - NAPLAN Testing begins for Yr 7 & 9 students.
- 8B Santa Monica Camp
- Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN Testing
Wednesday May 16 - Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN Testing
Thursday May 17 - Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN Testing
Friday May 18 - Year 7 Grandparents Day.
Monday May 21 - 8F Santa Monica Camp
Tuesday May 22 - 8G Santa Monica Camp
Wednesday May 23 - 8H Santa Monica Camp
Thursday May 24 - 8E Santa Monica Camp

Walk to the ‘G’

Michael Long, in his role as ambassador for the ‘Close the Gap’ campaign, continues to perform great work for the indigenous people of our country. The campaign is a justice issue that won’t go away, highlighting the fact that the life expectancy of an indigenous person in our country is so much less than our own. At St. Bernard’s we feel strongly about this issue and as an indicator of our support we are hoping to rally as many St. Bernard’s people, staff, students and parents to our banner as we can to walk to the MCG on May 19th before the ‘Dreamtime at the G’ game between traditional rivals Essendon and Richmond.

If you’re not going to the game you could just drop in beforehand to show your support. The wearing of the College colours would also be a powerful statement of our support. Our Banner will be proudly standing next to the information centre, so come along and join the school in a great cause and support the native people of our country. For further information please contact me on 9289 1113 or at bdouglas@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Parent Social Justice Support Group at St Bernard’s

St Bernard’s Social Justice Network had it’s inaugural meeting on Monday May 7th. A small but energetic group of parents met with me to look at possibilities for how such a network might work alongside the school enabling families to be involved more in the St. Bernard’s community.

The next meeting will be in the college PAVILION on Tuesday May 22nd at 7.30 pm. For more information please contact me on 9289-1113 or at bdouglas@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Brendan Douglas, Director of Mission
Social Justice Conference
On the seventh of May, a group of ten students (pictured left) received the opportunity to attend a social justice conference at St. Columba’s College. The event was held by an organisation called Bahay Tuluyan, which provides shelter, support and protection to children in the Philippines. St. Bernard’s, along with many other schools, were present on this day.

The conference started at 9:30, where Catherine (the development manager of Bahay Tuluyan) introduced herself, along with the many volunteers helping out. Catherine told us about what the children in the Philippines do to survive in poverty, and the conditions they had to live in.

After the introduction, every student had to stand in a circle, and Catherine scattered some lollies on the floor. She said that these lollies represented wealth (about $10,000 each). We then had to grab as many as we can in a frantic rush. Those who scored above seven were grouped together as the “rich”. If you had between six and three, you were put in the “middle-class” group. If you had two, one or no lollies, you were “poor”. Approximately three quarters were “poor”.

Those in the “poor” category were handed purple cards with a person and their profile. The same were done with the “middle-class” and “rich” groups, but with yellow and green cards respectively. These were our “I.D. cards” for the day.

Students were divided up into eight groups, each doing two of four activities relating to the daily life of our “I.D.”. These activities included food (students had a particular amount of money depending on the colour of their card and had to buy food for a day) and education (students had to buy school supplies with what money they had left and use these supplies in a test).

After lunch, volunteers Abi and Saudi who have experienced poverty, staged a performance called the “Wheel of Fortune Poverty”. In this play, the differences between our lives and the lives of children living in poverty were shown to us in a “game show” setting.

The conference ended after two short videos: “Living Below the Line” and “The Girl Effect”. They showed the way we can greatly influence the lives of others, especially those living in poverty.

Aaron Myszka, 9B

Year 8 Santa Monica Experience
Best wishes to 8A and 8B as they head off to Santa Monica next week with great thanks to Ms Stapleton (Santa Monica staff) and Ms Sullivan (Humanities), Ms Chambers (Science) and Ms Fleming (Art)

Year 8 shall embark on an educational experience to support their learning as well as introduce them to the Santa Monica campsite. They will be fossicking for fossils with Eco-Logic, sketching the beautiful environment, learning mapping and contour lines, telling creative stories by a campfire with a few marshmallows to cap off the fun.

We hope the boys have a wonderful time next week and homeroom staff of the remaining Year 8 groups look forward to taking their groups down later in the term.

Departure dates to note:
8A depart SBC Mon May 14th at 8:00am at the Pavilion.
8B depart SBC Tues May 15th at 8:00am at the Pavilion.
8F Mon May 21 Departure time tba.
8G Tues May 22
8H Wed May 23
8E Thurs May 24
8C Mon June 25
8J Tues June 26
8D Wed June 27

Arrival time back at the College is expected to be 3pm the following day.

Mock Interview - Looking for Volunteers
On Thursday 14th June all our Year 10s will be Mock Interviewed. If you would like to be an ‘Interviewer’ please call me on 9289 1151 or email fmuscara@sbc.vic.edu.au. No experience is necessary.

Fran Muscara

Lost Property
We have a bundle of lost property ranging from school uniforms to random bits of clothing (left behind from the Walk-A-Thon), i.e. Hats, boots and even socks! We will be keeping these items until the end of May, and then donating them to charity and the Uniform Shop.

If you are looking for any lost clothing items, please contact Front Reception.

Georgia Bozikis, Reception

St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon
St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Annual Ladies Luncheon is to be held on Wednesday 6 June at Ascot House, Ascot Vale. Invitations and Order Forms are available online at the Ladies Auxiliary website http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/groups/la/la.php

Sharon Dodoro, President St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary
Music News

We congratulate the students and staff associated with our Show Band and Shazam vocal quartet for their efforts at the Generations In Jazz festival in Mount Gambier. Our students (pictured left) joined another 2600 staff and students from around the country to compete and take part. Students participated in the Division 3 Big Band competition and the Division 2 Vocal competition with both groups finishing in respectable positions.

Our Semester 1 College Concert will be held in the Auditorium on May 29 starting at 7:30pm. This concert will feature guest artists Robert Simone (SBC 2006) and his professional Big Band, along with an array of College bands and ensembles.

Other events include:
• Hosting the ACC Vocal and Percussion Workshops, May 14.
• Semester 1 Soiree will be held in the Auditorium, 7:30pm May 15.
• VCE Performance Night, June 19.
• Year 7 Concert for 7A,B,C,D and H, Thursday June 21, College Auditorium 7:30pm.

We encourage all College community members – staff, students, parents, family and friends to attend where possible to support the musical efforts of our students.

A roster is currently being developed for FOM members and other helpers to assist at our concerts. We seek helpers for supper preparation, tickets sales and backstage help. Assisting in any of these capacities requires no prior knowledge and new helpers will be roster on with parents who are familiar to the role. If you feel you can assist, please contact Renee Buhagiar at rbuhagiar@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Registrations will be open soon via the Music Department website.

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Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Generations in Jazz Festival, Mt Gambier

At the beginning of May, twenty valiant St. Bernard’s Musicians traveled across the harsh badlands into the mystical village of Mt. Gambier, to do battle in the art of Jazz!

We were combined with the capacity 2500 strong chorus of competitors, filling the vast valley of South Australia’s usually serene farming community. The competition was intense, with Stage Band stunning audiences in the over 40 strong Division 3 Stage Band Contest. Our highly acclaimed vocal quartet, Shazam!, aiming to conquer in the Division 2 Choir Division. On the whole, this experience was overwhelmingly mind-blowing. The sheer talent of young Australian musicians, all gathered together to play their absolute hearts out, striving for the accolade of the resident professionals. Brass royalty, James Morrison and Ross Irwin oversaw the competition, giving invaluable insight into the development of works and the nuance of performance.

Due to our competitors infallible experience and performance, neither ensemble ranked to win one of the major prizes, but the performances on the day were one of our best, scoring very highly.

On a final note, I’d like to acknowledge the decorum and maturity of all the boys participating in this trip. The school’s wonderful reputation was upheld and I don’t think we could be prouder.

Benjamin Borelli 12H

St Bernard’s College Foundation Sports Night - “A Night with Kekka”

Come down to the College Pavilion on Friday June 1 from 6:30pm (for a 7pm start) to see “Slammin” Sam Kekovich and hear his opinions on everything from sport to lambchops. Tickets are extremely limited so be sure to get in fast. For full details please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

Michael Perrett, Director of Development

De La Salle College Centenary Book for Sale

To celebrate 100 years of De La Salle College, Malvern, a 120 page book in full colour, hardback coffee table style (A4 landscape) pictorial history of the College has been published. The beautifully illustrated book, co-authored by Nicholas Quin (DLS 1963) and Steve Stefanopoulos (DLS 1992) entitled With Faith and Zeal Resplendent, showcases the many people, places and events that have made their mark throughout the one hundred year journey of the College, from the time the first three pioneering Brothers opened the School in 1912, to the present day. The book features photographs, documents and objects from the College Archives and lists of all College, Vice, House, Football and Cricket Captains and Dux, and full staff and student lists for 2012 as well as all the Brothers who ever taught at the College and the list of the first students to enrol in 1912.

This family memento will be enjoyed by many generations of Old Collegians now and in the years to come. The book will be available following the launch on 18 May. To secure your copy of this limited release publication, contact the College on 9508 2100 or download an order form from: http://www.delasalle.vic.edu.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/DeLaSalleOrderForm_EMAIL2.pdf

Steve Stefanopoulos – co-author
1. BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY AT MONASH –
Prospective students and parents are invited to an information session on the admission process to this undergraduate degree. When: 6.30-8pm, Wed 30 May; Where: Building 63, Lecture Theatre C1, Clayton campus.

2. DEAKIN MEDICINE AND OPTOMETRY INFORMATION EVENINGS – Explore courses, entry requirements, pathways and study options. The B. Medicine B. Surgery is a four-year graduate-entry program. Applicants must have completed as undergraduate degree, however, there are no prerequisites within the undergraduate degree for entry. The B. Vision Science and Masters of Optometry can be completed in three and a half years due to Deakin’s trimester system. Medicine and Optometry information evenings: (all 6-8.30pm) Tues 15 May, Peter Thwaites Lecture Theatre, Building ia1.006, Geelong Waurn Ponds; Wed 16 May, LT Education Resource Centre, Ballarat Hospital; Thurs 17 May Lecture Theatre 13, Building hc2.005, Burwood. Info: 9251 7777, health-enquire@deakin.edu.au.

3. FOCUS ON MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY – Why not join the evening information seminar series at Melbourne? Look at options for pursuing university study and your dream career. When: (all 7-8.30pm) Tues 15 May – Focus on Arts; Tues 22 May – Focus on IT and Engineering; Thurs 24 May, Focus on Biomedicine; Tues 29 May – Focus on Agriculture; Thurs 31 May, focus on Commerce;

4. FUTURE LAW: EVENTS FOR FUTURE LAWYERS – Are you interested in studying law at Melbourne University? Then Future Law is for you. Registration to Future Law entitles you to quarterly newsletters, invitations to Law School events and activities and information related to key dates for admission. For more details and registration go to the Melbourne JD Future Law website at: www.law.unimelb.edu.au/jd/future-students/future-law/.

Can you picture yourself as a law student? If you want to learn more, then the Melbourne JD Student Panel is for you. Hear about student experiences of the Melbourne JD, the amount of reading required, the LSAT exam and so on. When: 6-7pm, Wed 2 May; Find out more: http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5ic.

Courts Open Day
On Saturday 19 May from 10am to 3pm the Magistrates’ and Supreme Courts of Victoria will be open to the public. For full program go to www.victorialawfoundation.org.au/lawweek or for further information please ring 9628 7962 or email Lisa.Eldridge@magistratescourt.vic.gov.au

5. FIND OUT ABOUT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY – La Trobe has a new Year 10 resource at www.latrobe.edu.au/year10. By watching the videos you can find out about where subjects lead, prerequisites, the ATAR, pathways, and so on. You can also follow the La Trobe student bloggers for a real life account of what happens at uni at www.latrobe.edu/studentblogs. You can also sign up for the upcoming Experience La Trobe events at www.latrobe.edu.au/experience.

David Rosel, Careers Advisor
9289 1159, drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au
St Bernard’s College Foundation along with Sungold Milk proudly presents

A NIGHT WITH KEKKA

When: Friday June 1, 2012
Time: 6:30pm for 7pm start
Venue: St Bernard’s College Pavilion
Cost: $50 per head
(2-course meal with drinks at bar prices)

Come along to see former North Melbourne great, Lamb Ambassador and star of ESPN’s “Pardon the Interruption Australia” “Slammin” Sam Kekovich, take an irreverent look at all things sport.

ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE!!
ALL WELCOME

For all bookings and enquiries please contact Michael Perrett by Monday May 28 on 9289 1106 or at mperrett@sbc.vic.edu.au

As the great man himself says “You know it makes sense”!

Proudly supported by Sungold Milk and Warrnambool Cheese and Butter
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ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE EDMUND RICE DAY ADDRESS

Father Tony, Mr Paatsch, members of the College Board, members of the executive, honoured guests, parents, teachers and students.

I want to begin by acknowledging everyone involved in some way in the social justice efforts of our school. As we’ve just seen, there is some wonderful work being done by our Year 10 community service group at St Albans, the Eddie and Bernie team, and those promoting our ongoing involvement in Kenya, to name just a few.

It is truly a privilege to be involved in a school community that, along with its obvious commitment to academic, artistic and sporting excellence, gives us such meaningful opportunities to make a difference in our world.

I think we pull together pretty well here at St Bernard’s. I was part of our victorious ACC swim team. I was also there to see the amazing 10th straight win for our ACC athletics team. It feels great to win. It doesn’t always happen that we win, but it’s nice when it does.

There’s something that beats winning, though. It’s the feeling you get from being part of the team, from working together with a bunch of mates toward the common good. The feeling that you’ve done your bit, you’ve made a contribution to something bigger than yourself. The feeling that others have also benefited from your efforts.

Those of you who got involved in the World’s Greatest Shave experienced that feeling – the 50 who did the shave and the hundreds who donated. Guys, in the end we raised a massive $17,000 for leukaemia. What a great team effort. Thank you to everyone.

Today 1300 of us are pulling together to do something special for a bunch of kids in Africa. What an incredible privilege.

Of course, there are those who think it would be easier if we could just throw our forty or fifty dollars into the bucket and forget the walk around the Maribyrnong.

They’re right of course. It would be easier. But when did anything worth having ever come easy?

It would have been easier for Marcus De Leur to just walk off the track when he tripped and fell 20 meters from the finish in the senior 400 metres at last month’s ACC Aths carnival. I’m sure it wasn’t easy to get back up and finish the race second to last for one lousy point. But if Marcus had taken the easy way the team would not have won the championship by half a point. It gives new meaning to the old saying, ‘Every little bit counts.’

Founder’s Day and Project Kenya has two aspects. First, and obviously, we’re raising money. We’re contributing to a great cause. We’re making a difference.

But the money is only part of it. There’s also the walk. What does the walk do for the kids in Kenya? Well. Nothing really. You see; the walk is not for them. It’s for us. The money we raise is for them. The walk is for us.

The walk reminds us that for the kids we’re supporting in Kenya, life is actually pretty tough. The walk reminds us that to support someone else you sometimes need to put yourself out a bit. The walk puts the question to us; How can we be happy and content in our own easy life when other kids have so little?

In African culture there is a wonderful word. UBUNTU. Here’s what it means.

A story is told of an anthropologist who invited a bunch of tribal African kids to take part in a game. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first would win the sweet fruits.

When he told them to run they all took each other’s hands and ran together, then sat together under the tree enjoying their treats.

When the anthropologist asked them why they had run together like that when one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?

Let’s do this walk in the spirit of Ubuntu. Thank you all.

Frazer Gatens, College Captain. Founders Day 2012