From The Principal

During the holidays I had the privilege of travelling to Italy with a group of St Bernard’s students and staff. The group was predominantly boys studying the Italian language. They attended classes at Institutti Mazotti, our sister school in Treviso, and were billeted with students and their families. Our boys will return the hospitality when our Italian counterparts visit Australia in 2013. From a personal perspective it was rewarding to spend time with students, something that I miss.

As part of the tour we visited Rome and attended Sunday Mass at St Peter’s Basilica. During Mass we had ample opportunity to absorb the beauty and history of the basilica built on the burial site of the Apostle Peter, the first Pope. It was a wonderful opportunity for reflection. However, while it was easy to follow the order of the Mass, because it was in Italian, I found full participation impossible.

I reflected that while Essendon is a long way from Rome and while the College is only 70 years old, we are no less authentic in our local community as a visible representation of the Church. Like St Peter’s, St Bernard’s facilitates engagement with Church and provides each of us with the opportunity to be part of “church” and to engage with our God and the Jesus story in our own way.

In Rome I spoke with members of a number of Religious Orders who work with young people in education in different countries. As we spoke about our work it struck me that while the context and charism differs, our work is essentially the same. It is the work of our Church, in our case understood through the lens of the life of Blessed Edmund Rice and its emphasis on caring for those in need. The work of the Christian Brothers in supporting the needy and building the capacity in students to do the same continues through EREA today.

Religious entities, like EREA that are part of the work of the Church are only able to own land and conduct activity in the name of the Church if they are accorded the “Canon Law” title of “Public Juristic Person (PJP). The congregation of Christian Brothers is a PJP. Last week we received formal notification that Edmund Rice Education Australia has been granted the same status. In reality this makes no difference to the day to day operation of the College but reminds us that the work of St Bernard’s is the work of the Church and that is the nurturing of young people to fullness of life through a love of God and neighbour.

It was with great sadness that we recently received news of the death of Pauline Clayton. Pauline worked as “artist in residence” at the College and was responsible for the sculpture that stands under the Oak tree inside the Hampton Road pedestrian entrance close to the administration area (pictured above). While officially untitled it is often referred to as “Eddie and Bernie”. We have conveyed our sympathy to Pauline’s family.

The publication of this newsletter coincides with the final formal classes and graduation ceremony of our Year 12 students. The class of 2012 have been fine contributors to the College. At the Graduation Mass tonight, I will thank them on behalf of the St Bernard’s community for their contribution, wish them well in their future undertakings and assure them they will always remain St Bernard’s boys.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Important Message from the Catholic Education Office Regarding ‘Sexting’

The Catholic Education Office Melbourne is aware that schools may have experienced instances of ‘sexting’ by students from both primary and secondary settings. ‘Sexting’ means sending explicit photos or videos electronically (eg. by phone, app, chat, social networking or email). With modern technology this can be done instantly, but it can have serious and lasting consequences.

For people under 18, sexting is illegal. It is a criminal offence to take, possess, or transmit a naked image of a person under the age of 18 years. It doesn’t matter if your child took their own photo and willingly sent or published it. You cannot ‘give someone permission’ to break the law. Penalties for these offences are serious and can result in your child being placed on the sex offenders’ register.

It is important that you regularly talk to your child about their experiences with communications technology. Make sure that you continually reinforce that your child should come to you if they have any problems, if they see something that they know is wrong or anything that upsets them.

If you require further support, please speak to your son’s Year Level Coordinator or College counselling staff.

2012 VCE Results and ATAR Service

Information for students and parent regarding the accessing of VCE results on December 17, 2012 is contained in the link below. It contains important details of what is available, internet, mail delivery and SMS access to final Unit 3&4 VCE results.

http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/correspondence/bulletins/2012/October/notices.aspx#1

We wish all our students the very best as they dedicate themselves in their final preparations for these exams, commencing on November 1 this year.

Geoff Caulfield, VCE Coordinator
From the Campus Directors

Pathways at St. Bernard’s

A key component to the educational philosophy at St. Bernard’s is for all students to achieve success, follow their passion and use their gifts to the best of their ability. We have a number of alternative pathways designed to cater for individual needs and we endeavor to celebrate these, equally, with all programs on offer at the College.

This philosophy is entrenched in our culture and stems from our founder, Edmund Rice. 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.

At times students may become disengaged with the curriculum at St. Bernard’s College because of various factors. These students can become the disempowered and marginalised persons in our community and leave school early if the curriculum is not broad enough to meet various career choices of students. St. Bernard’s College offers two genuine pathway choices for those entering Year 11 and 12. One is for further specialised study beyond Unit 3 and 4 that would require an ATAR. The second is a workforce pathway with two discreet choices of either VCAL or the Edmund Rice Pathways Program.

Objectives of VCAL & Edmund Rice Pathways Programs:

- To select a cohort of VCE students to participate in a vocationally based alternative VCE program.
- To develop an alternative vocationally based curriculum for VCE students who are marginalised.
- To develop a program for students to be exposed to a number of career pathways.
- To offer a range of VET Certificate II modules
- To build a partnership between TAFE and Employers
- To build a partnership between students and Old Boy network
- To empower students to choose their career pathway
- To build student self esteem

Year 9 2013 Subject Selection

A reminder to all parents that the Year 9 2013 subject selection process will begin on Thursday November 1. Students will participate in a process during the day and parents are encouraged to attend the subject selection evening in the Auditorium from 7.30pm on the same day. More information is available at: http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/sub_select/guide/Year9/index.php

Investig8 ILeAP

All parents of Year 8 students are welcome to attend our annual ILeAP presentation day on Thursday November 15. 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H and 8J work will be available from 9.30am – 10.30am in the library, boardroom and Year 8 homerooms. 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D work will be available from 11.30am – 12.30pm in the boardroom and Year 8 homerooms.

Mother-Son Evening

The inaugural St Bernard’s College Year 8 Mother and Son night will be held on Thursday 25 October, in the College Gymnasium. Mothers and female mentors of our Year 8 boys are invited to take part in what promises to be a special evening. The purpose of the night is to stop and acknowledge the journey both you and your son are taking as he has moved into his teenage years. With the assistance of the St Bernard’s College community, mothers will be led through an engaging evening which involves both discussion groups and a significant ‘one on one’ time with your son. Our facilitator is Bill Jennings, who is a published researcher in boys’ education and his findings show that programs like this strengthen relationships between boys and their parent/mentor. This stronger sense of connection in important relationships, improves the conditions for boys to excel as students.

Summer Uniform

A reminder to parents that the boys will be allowed to wear their summer uniform from Wednesday November 7, the day after Melbourne Cup day.

MYKI Cards

Unfortunately it appears that a number of our students are not ‘touching on’ with their MYKI cards when getting on the bus travelling to school in the morning. We have informed our students that this is a concern as it is a form of theft. Any boy found to have not utilised the MYKI facility on the bus will be passed onto the appropriate authority.

Paul Shannon, Deputy Principal - Clairvaux  Damian McKee, Deputy Principal - The Strand

Santa Monica Open Day

St. Bernard’s Santa Monica Campus, located on the Great Ocean Rd near Lorne, is holding its first Open Day for parents and students on Sunday November 11th, from Midday to 4pm. Significant redevelopments have taken place at the campus over the past two years and we will be officially opening the new buildings. There will also be a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony conducted by David Tournier from the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. Parents and families are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the beautiful surroundings at Santa Monica. We particularly encourage parents of Year 7 & 8 boys to come and see the campus your sons will be visiting next year – though all members of the St Bernard’s community are welcome. Keep an eye on the College website for further updates.

Mark Smith, Santa Monica Campus Director
World Skills Challenge
Year 12 student, Adrian Jones, recently represented Victoria in the National Championships of the World Skills Australia Challenge in Sydney. Simply making the National Final was a huge achievement, as it placed him at the national pinnacle of his chosen trade – Carpentry - and is a telling addition to the quality of his emerging CV. It involved many hours of preparation on weekends - and in his own time during the week - in a process that took over a year. He had constant, dedicated support from his teachers at Kangan TAFE, especially Phillip Love (pictured with Adrian left), who also put in many hours helping him prepare and also generously arranged for Adrian to be presented with a full kit of new tools at a ceremony on Campus in front of his fellow students prior to the Final (pictured below).

That long journey began last year (2011), when three of our Year 11 students - Adrian Jones, Paul Markesich and Michael Farrant – were chosen with 18 others from among 100 Building and Construction students from eight different schools that attend that course at Kangan TAFE to compete in a Regional Final of the WorldSkills Australia Championships. Adrian won and Paul was runner-up, and both progressed to the State-wide Championship, which was held at Victoria University on October 25th, 2011. Adrian placed second and Paul eighth, which was an outstanding result. Adrian then progressed to the National Championship, where he was again outstanding, placing fourth and missing third place by the absolutely narrowest of margins: half of one mark. Both St. Bernard’s College and the Kangan TAFE College are immensely proud of him, and all he has achieved.

Peter Wilson

St Bernard’s Social Justice Network News
Last Tuesday, Sam Woods and Keenan Gatens (pictured above), in company with parents Catherine Pallott and Teresa Darmody assisted the St Vincent De Paul Soup Van running out of Maidstone. The boys helped get the food prepared and then went out in the van with Catherine and Teresa to serve the needy in our community. The facilitators of the van were very impressed with the manner in which the boys volunteered and engaged with the people they served.

St Bernard’s are committed to helping on a Tuesday on a fortnightly basis with volunteers being sourced from the St Bernard’s Social Justice Network. Should you be interested in being involved in the soup van or other justice initiatives at the College contact me (bdouglas@sbc.vic.edu.au) or parent soup van roster organiser, Nikki Deighton at nikki@dk2.com.au

Brendan Douglas, Director of Mission

Year 8 Parents and Sons - A date for your diary
Thursday November 1st is an important date for all Year 8s. That day, during Investig8, the boys shall be exposed to the various different electives which are to be made available for their choice in Year 9. That evening, the focus continues on Year 9 subject selection but also will address the Santa Monica experience.

At 7:30pm, in the College Auditorium, Mr Mark Reedy will explain to parents and students the new subject options available to the boys in the Year 9 subject selection process for 2013. (For the boys with older brothers, the process has been changed slightly this year so it is really important that at least one parent and their son attend.) In addition Mr Mark Smith, Director of Santa Monica, shall speak about all things Santa Monica.

Brian Hall and Siobhan Loukomitis, Year 8 Coordinators

Mathematics Pathways
The Mathematics Faculty at St. Bernard’s has made a change to the Mathematics Pathways at the college. Current Year 8 students will next year remain in homeroom groups for Mathematics. In 2013 we will be offering two Mathematics electives. One elective has been designed to extend the students who are seeking a challenge and another elective for students to support and build their basic maths skills. The new Mathematics pathways flowchart will be available on the College website in the coming days. I will be explaining the changes to the current year 8 students at an assembly on 1st November.

If you have any questions please contact me at bmoloney@sbc.vic.edu.au

Brian Moloney, Mathematics Co-ordinator

Nauiyu Nambiyu, Daly River Northern Territory Experience 2013
Nauiyu Nambiyu is a remote Northern Territory community of approximately 500 people located 220 km’s south of Darwin on the Daly River. Each year the College takes a group of 12 students and 2 staff to this Aboriginal community for an experience of culture, the land and to meet and interact with other Australians living a very different life to the city context of Essendon/Keilor. Priority is given to students in Year 11, 2013. All Year 10 homerooms have been spoken to in recent weeks about this unique opportunity and your son should have received an introductory letter, itinerary and expression of interest form. Those intending to apply, or unsure, should attend the Information Session in the College Boardroom 6.30-7.30pm Tuesday October 23. No need to RSVP. If you and your son cannot attend the information session further enquiries can be made to David Sutton at dsutton@sbc.vic.edu.au. Expressions of interest close Friday November 9.

Annual Volunteers Dinner - November 14, 7pm at the College Pavilion
This is an opportunity for SBC to say thank you to the many helpers who assist the College in the canteen, library, reading, uniform shop, sporting groups etc. We hope you can join us. If you wish to attend please contact Canteen Manager, Carolyn Holland at CHolland@sbc.vic.edu.au
Music News

Term 4 sees all our senior music students undertake their VCE performance examinations. Several of our VCE students are engaged in two streams of music and are to execute two performances in as many weeks. We wish them all the very best in these assessments.

As for the rest of Term 4, the music program continues to work towards the Year 7 concert for 7E, F, G and J. This concert will be held in the College Auditorium on Thursday November 29, 2012. This is a compulsory event for students in these classes. The SBC Friends of Music continue to offer their music scholarship to the value of music lessons in Year 8. This will be awarded at the concert to a current Year 7 student.

Older students involved in the bands program are reminded that deposits are now overdue for the proposed Sydney Music Tour in 2013. We ask that these are returned ASAP to facilitate planning.

Applications for the Music Bursaries for 2013 are now closed. Those who have registered will receive notification soon regarding the audition process. Thank you to those students who have taken up this opportunity.

Thanks also to those parents, students and friends who participated in the recent Friends of Music Trivia Night. Comedian and Quiz Master Rusty Berther was very much the life of the party and a great time was had by all.

The Friends of Music have recently decided upon another ‘winery tour and luncheon’ day to the Yarra Valley on Sunday March 17 2013. Details and registration will be available soon on the Music Department Website. They would also like to remind all who have outstanding raffle tickets for the Rotary International Raffle that all sold and unsold tickets are due by Friday November 9.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

St Bernard’s College Senior Production - We Have Issues

SBC’s senior production of “We Have Issues” is approaching fast so get in quick for ticket sales. It is an original show filled with satire, that explores group meetings and self help centers in the modern age. It follows the lives of five teenagers in need of a little help and one overly eccentric professor who brings them all together. The show will be performed for one night only on Friday November 2nd at 7:30 in the College auditorium. For tickets contact Lachlan Brown at lbrown@sbc.vic.edu.au. Hope to see you there!

Lachlan Brown

Sports News

Team of the Year

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected into the ACC Team of the Year for Term 3 sports; Basketball, Hockey & Table Tennis.

Tom Donoghue (Year 11) - Basketball (Bench)
Lachlan Wade (Year 12) - Hockey (Back)
James Riley (Year 12) - Hockey (Half Back)
Weston Howell (Year 12) - Hockey (Centre Half)
Jacob Moors (Year 11) - Hockey (Interchange)
Edward Dugdale (Year 11) - Table Tennis
Peter Di Medio (Year 11) - Table Tennis
Tan Pham (Year 11) - Table Tennis

ACC Junior Golf

The ACC Junior Golf Tournament was held last Friday at Werribee Park Golf Course. In terrible conditions, players endured rain and strong winds, only for St Bernard’s to fall agonisingly short, defeated by a single stroke. To their credit, the St Bernard’s boys never gave in to the elements, playing their hearts out the entire day, ultimately leaving with their heads held high, despite losing by the barest of margins.

Congratulations to Tristan Britt (Yr 8), whose score of 80 was equal best in division 1, and 2nd best overall.

St Bernard’s players scores were as follows:
1. Tristan Britt 80
2. Ted Donoghue 87
3. Nicholas Sheedy 89
4. Ivan Grgic 98
5. Jack Chrystie 99
6. Harrison Kennedy 102
7. Nathan Blackmore 104

Full results for the day can be found by clicking the following link:
The St Bernard’s football club has great pleasure inviting you to be a part of the 2012/13 Football Academy Pre Season training program.

The Football Academy Pre Season training program is a football club initiative designed to provide a tailored training and football development program for young men wanting to develop their personal fitness and football skills in preparation for playing senior football.

The Football Academy Pre Season training program will provide a semi-professional training environment for ANY young man who is keen to be challenged physically, who is keen to develop his football skills and who enjoys being part of a larger group in an inclusive and supportive environment.

STARTS Monday, 19 November 2012 – Wednesday, 19 December 2012

RE-COMMENCES IN 2013 Monday, 28 January 2013 – Friday, 28 February 2012

TRAINING DAYS Monday and Friday

TIME 4.30 pm to 6.20 pm

WHERE St. Bernard’s Oval #2

COST $76.50

FOOTBALL ACADEMY CO-ORDINATOR: Shane Denahy. (shaned@denahyelectrics.com.au)

REGISTRATION Can be made on-line – http://www.stbernardsfc.com.au (go to Football Academy link on home page) Upon registration, you will receive a team singlet.

www.stbernardsfc.com.au