From The Principal

I wish to provide advance notice to the community that early in Term 2 we will be undertaking a cyclical “School Renewal” conducted by Edmund Rice Education Australia. This process will lead to our ongoing formal accreditation as a “Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition”. More detail of the process will be made available in coming newsletters and all members of the St Bernard’s community are encouraged to be involved.

The last two weeks have seen a number of significant events involving most year levels in the College. These events support the pre-eminence of “community” as one of St Bernard’s strongest values as identified in our current strategic plan.

Following the successful Year 12 parent gathering on the first day of the school year, events have included; Year 7 parent information night (with hospitality provided by the Parents and Friends Committee), Year 8, 9 and 10 parent information nights and Year 11 Retreats with parents joining their sons for dinner at the end of the day.

Daytime events have included the Opening School Mass and the Academic Assembly, after which guests gathered for morning tea provided by the Ladies Auxiliary. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Fr Michael Twigg, Principal of Mazenod College, for celebrating our opening Mass with us. On this occasion it was fitting to bless and induct the 2012 Senior Student Council and hear an outstanding address from 2012 College Captain, Frazer Gatens.

The Academic Assembly provided the opportunity to recognise the academic achievement of our Year 11 and 12 students of 2011. On this occasion our guest was E.R.E.A National Director of Identity, Mr Chris Smith, who challenged our high achieving students about building bridges to link us to those less fortunate. Students moved to the Assembly from home room where, in Ash Wednesday ceremonies, they were challenged to “Turn back to God”. Chris’s address challenged us all to use Lent to focus on the needs of others, which is where we see the face of God.

Three weeks into Term 1 and we have achieved a great deal. I am confident that for most students and families the commencement of the school year has been smooth and productive. I am aware however, that some families have experienced issues with the availability of books ordered from our suppliers. We will meet with the company shortly to discuss these issues. I encourage any families who have feedback regarding the service provided by our book suppliers to email Mr John Nocci at jnocci@sbc.vic.edu.au

When a family enrolls their son at St Bernard’s they do so committing to the student remaining at the College until the end of Year 12. To this end we ask families to commit to the Advance Payment Scheme (APS), whereby approximately half each student’s Year 12 fees are paid in advance during the previous five years. This effectively provides a fund from which we are able to support the College building program. Formerly, this was achieved through a “family loan scheme” whereby each family “loaned” a sum to the College for the duration of a student’s enrolment.

In the event that a family moves interstate or a student takes up an apprenticeship, APS monies are refunded. Should the boy leave to attend another school this is not the case. Occasionally, a student may seek to exit St Bernard’s to undertake a vocationally specific course or pursue a career path that cannot be adequately prepared for by remaining at St Bernard’s. In this case it is important that accurate careers advice has been obtained to ensure that the change is in the long term best interests of the student. I remind students that they must consult College Careers Advisor David Rosel to ensure that the course they are proposing to undertake is appropriate for their career goals. In the event that such consultation has not occurred Advance Payment Scheme monies will not be refunded.

Last Friday night St Bernard’s College Swimming team won the Associated Catholic Colleges Aggregate trophy. This was our first victory in 14 years and a great credit to the dedicated swimmers and staff. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Carol Iannazzo, Bernadette Kirkwood, Chris Mannix and James Delzoppo for preparing the team and the leadership of team Captain Jake Panazzo. Making this result even more meritorious is the fact that it is only the 5th time in ACC history that a school has held the Swimming, Athletics and Cross country aggregate trophies at the same time. A remarkable achievement, especially when you consider the last time this happened was in 1993.

With the swimming season over and the cricket and tennis season well underway, attention will soon switch to the school football season. On this front, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Simon Atkins as coach of the College 1st XVIII in 2012. Simon coached Werribee in the Victorian Football League for 6 years following a distinguished playing career with Footscray and Fitzroy. Currently holding the position of Director of Football Development at St Bernard’s Old Collegians Football Club, we are confident that Simon will be an asset in helping develop our football program.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

Please remember in your prayers
John Barrett, Father of Peter (’73), Andrew (’77), Chris (’79), Phil (’82), Grandfather of Jackson (Year 11), John (Year 9), Michael (Year 9), Sam (Year 7) and Great Uncle of Griffin (Year 12)
May He Rest in Peace

Change of Details
A reminder to Parents to use the Parent Portal for any changes to your residential or postal address, phone, mobile or email.

A link to the Parent Portal is on the front page of our website or key in http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/parents/login.php
From The Clairvaux Campus Director

In the past week our Key Learning Area Leaders have been meeting to unpack the VCE results of 2011. This has been an invaluable experience as individual subject results were examined in great detail. Data such as the performance of each question on the end of year examination will lead us to a greater understanding of where to focus the learning for 2012.

It is timely to understand that the VCE is a competition against all students who have elected to embark on this course of study. Most courses of study consist of 50% internal and 50% external assessment. Once the raw score is finalized, your son will receive a ranking based upon the performance of all other students in Victoria. This ranking then makes up individual study scores and an overall ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank).

Study Scores
In each subject, raw scores are matched to a normal distribution curve with a median study score of 30. This means that:

- 2% of students in the state receive a study score > 45
- 8% of students receive a study score > 40
- 16% of students receive a study score > 37
- 24% of students receive a study score > 35
- 50% of students receive a study score > 30

All data indicates that our students are capable of performing above state level. We have set the 2012 academic goal of 34 median and 15% above study scores of 40.

Paul Shannon, Clairvaux Campus Director

From The Strand Campus Director

Lent
On Ash Wednesday we gathered in homerooms for a liturgy to commence the season of Lent. The Lenten Season is a reminder of the call to renew our personal relationship with God. As this is the beginning of Lent we are asked as Christians to commit to prayer, fasting and alms giving. These activities allow us to nurture this relationship with God. May Lent be a time of renewed friendship for all in our community at St Bernard’s.

Male Mentor Night
Our annual games night was held last Tuesday evening, with the night providing an opportunity for Dads/Mentors and sons to enjoy each other’s company. There were 280 boys and their partners in attendance, which is testimony to the incredible sense of community here at SBC. Thank you to the staff involved on the night in the running of activities, the cooking of sausages and generally supporting the running of the evening. Thank you also to the Senior Student Leaders who helped out at various activities including cooking the BBQ. It was great to be able to have an evening when the focus was on gathering together and having a bit of fun.

Year 9 Retreats
On Thursday our Year 9A, 9B, 9E and 9F boys participated in their annual retreat at the College. The boys took part in an engaging process that challenged their decision making and choices at this challenging stage of their life as a young man and also as a young Christian.

Year 7 Camp Dates
Monday 27th – 29th February: 7F & 7E
Wednesday 29th February – Friday 2nd March: 7G & 7D
Monday 5th – Wednesday 7th March: 7B
Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th March: 7J
Wednesday 14th – Friday 16th March: 7C
Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st March: 7A
Wednesday 21st March – Friday 23rd March: 7H
Information regarding the camp can be found at: http://year7sbc.weebly.com/year-7-camp.html

Dates to Remember on The Strand
Monday February 27 – 9D Santa Monica Presentation Evening 7.30pm
9E, 9F, 9G - Santa Monica Information Evening 8.30pm
Monday March 5 – 9E begins at Santa Monica
Thursday March 8 – The Strand Athletics Carnival (all day).
Friday March 16 – Year 8 Medieval Day.

Damian McKee, The Strand Campus Director

St Bernard’s Community Garden
A meeting will be held on Tuesday February 28 for those interested in assisting the College in establishing a community garden for students and their families. The meeting will take at 7:30pm in O’Brien Hall and any queries can be directed to jmifsud@sbc.vic.edu.au

Academic Awards Assembly.
The College held the annual Academic Awards Assembly on Wednesday February 22nd. At this assembly we celebrated the academic achievements of the senior students, including our top performers from the class of 2011. Our special guest this year was Mr Chris Smith, Director of Identity- Edmund Rice Australia. Mr Peter Hogan, the College Board Chair, was also in attendance. Thank you also to the families who came along to share this special occasion. A copy of the official program is available on the College website.
Acceleration at SBC
At Year 9 there is an opportunity for students in mainstream classes to undertake accelerated studies. The Year 9 opportunity is in mathematics, with some students undertaking the Year 10 course. Student results are used to determine suitability for these classes. The students need to be working well above expected standards according to VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards). The Maths Progression Chart is available from the “downloads” section from the SBC website.

Year 10 students are also able to undertake a Unit 1/2 VCE subjects and at Year 11 are able to study a Unit 3/4 sequence. Again, students must be able to demonstrate, through their results, the ability to work at the accelerated level.

The Acceleration Policy is available on the website and provides more information. Feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

Ms Pauline Thompson, Director of Learning

Extra English Support on Clairvaux Campus
The following times are available for students to receive extra help from English teachers outside of class time:
Year 12: Monday Period 6 and Tuesday Periods 5 & 6 in the Yr 12 Building.
Years 10 &11: Monday from 3:00pm – 4:00pm in Room 643 (Yr 11 Corridor).

Chris McGee, Clairvaux English Coordinator.

VCAL 2012
VCAL 2012 is off to a good start. Most students have sorted out their timetables, TAFE courses and Work Placements. Anyone still having difficulties should see myself, Mrs Spanti (VET Coordinator) or Mr Rosel (Careers Advisor).

We have quite a range of career paths this year including a Patisserie Chef, Jockey, Retail, Business Administration, Information Technology, Hospitality, Sign Writing, Picture Framing, Animal Studies as well as the standard trades Building & Construction, Plumbing and Electrical. This is accomplished via courses at Kangan TAFE, NMIT, RMIT, VU, Integrity Business College and CRC Sydenham.

Thanks to all the parents who attended the recent VCAL Information Night. It was a good opportunity for staff to meet parents and discuss any issues relating to the VCAL courses.

Once again I congratulate the boys on making the VCAL decision and hope they can fully utilise all of the opportunities they have available to them.

Chris Mannix, VCAL

Western Front Tour - Expression of Interest
We are currently seeking expressions of interest from students interested in a 2 week tour of Turkey and the Western Front in September 2013. The purpose of the tour will be to visit some of most important battlefields of the Australian campaign during The Great War. Sites include Gallipoli, Hill 60, Menin Gate, Fromelles and Villers-Bretonneux. For further information and a complete itinerary please contact me at bsullivan@sbc.vic.edu.au.

Brooke Sullivan

Music News
I am pleased to report that the music department website has had over one thousand page views so far this month. We encourage all to keep referring to it as the interface for passing on information about the program.

A reminder to students undertaking the music program in Year 7 that tutorials have commenced and that tutorial groups and times are posted on the website under ‘instrumental timetables’. With all students having macbooks, paper copies will no longer be posted in homerooms.

It is intended that the music department website will diminish the need to send letters, information and permission forms home. All information concerning instrumental lessons, concert dates, excursions & permission forms, soiree information & registration is available at all times along with much, much more. The first excursion for the year is the ACC Concert Band Workshop to be held at CBC St Kilda on March 26. This event is open to all members of the Year 8 Intermediate Band. Students and parents are asked to print this permission form for completion and return.

We have recently undertaken Show Band and Big Band auditions. Rehearsals for these groups have started with Show Band rehearsing Monday mornings before school and Big Band rehearsing Fridays after school. We have registered the Show Band and the Shazam vocal quartet to represent St Bernard’s at the prestigious ‘Generations in Jazz’ competition, Mount Gambier during Term 2.

Finally, we encourage all parents to look at the Friends of Music information on the website and support the program in some small way. One way is to participate on the up-coming Winery Trip and Luncheon on Sunday March 25th. Information for this can be accessed directly at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/winery-tour-and-luncheon.html. Events such as this raise significant funds for our music program. It is suggested that parents and their friends interested in participating register soon as it is predicted that all seats on the bus will sell quickly.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music
Year 12 Students...
are reminded that they should have the official St Bernard’s Year 12 tie. Those that haven’t yet purchased one can do so at the Uniform Shop on either Tuesday or Thursday.

Renee Buhagier, Uniform Shop

Lost Property
Last year a large number of lost books, stationary, and items of uniform came to front office. Many items were not labeled, and thus not returned. It is important that all belongings, especially valuable items such as uniform and calculators, are clearly marked with students’ names.

Front Office Staff

ACC Swimming Champions
On Friday, the 17th of February, our boys headed to MSAC chasing a title that had slipped through our grasp for nearly a decade and a half. The swim team, captained by Jake Panozzo, put in an extraordinary effort, taking victory in a night full of surprises, upsets and delays.

The night started with captain Panozzo taking victory in the open 200m freestyle by 6 seconds, and with everyone looking to capitalise on his success, the boys were bound to put in a brilliant effort. Throughout the night we found ourselves in a 4-way battle with Mazenod, St Bedes and Whitefriars for the title, with results often coming down to the thousandth of the second, but the Bernard’s boys pulled through to win the title by the narrowest of margins.

This title, the first of its type in a long time, ensures that St Bernard’s now holds the Swimming, Athletics, and Cross-Country titles, a rare feat that has only happened 4 times in ACC history.

Congratulations to all involved in our glorious victory, especially Carol Iannazzo, Bernadette Kirkwood, Chris Mannix and James Delzoppo, for the tireless hours they put in poolside. We look forward to defending the most hard earned of titles next year.

St Bernard’s Volleyball Club
2012 Australian Junior Beach Championships
Congratulations to (pictured right) Alex Ielo (11D), Daniel Allison (Year 11C) and Luke Fletcher (10C) for being selected and competing in the Australian Junior Beach Volleyball Championships which were held in Queensland on 16th - 18th January, 2012. Despite the bad weather during the tournament the boys played well, and with their respective partners, gained impressive Australian Rankings in the U17 Division. Luke finished 5th, Daniel 7th and Alex 9th.

State Team Trials
U17/19 2012 Victorian State Team Selection Trials will be held on February 26 with School Sport Victoria State 15 & Under Trials held on February 25. For more details or to nominate for the Trials see the Volleyball Victoria Website.

Year 7 Volleyball
All Year 7 boys are invited to join the Volleyball club. Training is on Mondays & Thursdays in the gym from 3pm - 4.30pm and all you need is your sports uniform or runners and a drink bottle.

Year 8-12 Volleyball
Year 8’s: Mondays 3pm – 4.30pm & Thursdays 4.30pm – 6pm
Year 9’s: Mondays 3pm – 4.30pm & Thursdays 4.30pm – 6pm
Year 10’s: Monday & Thursdays: 3pm – 4.30pm
Years 11 & 12 (Open Team): Thursdays 6pm – 7.30pm

Craig Osborne, Director of Sport

Ongoing Maintenance Work on Rosehill Road
Please see the attached notice with regards to maintenance work and changed traffic conditions on Rosehill Road.

Travel Safety Survey
The City of Moonee Valley is conducting a survey of all school children and their parents to find out more about how children travel to school. The survey is designed to find out about danger spots around the school so that council can decide how to spend money in future budgets on local infrastructure, such as crossings, footpaths and cycle paths.

The City of Moonee Valley wants to make it easier for children to be able to walk and cycle to school and this survey will help by identifying areas where improvements are needed. The council has engaged a sustainable transport consultancy, UrbanTrans, to run the survey.

The students of St Bernard’s College have been completing the survey in class and we would strongly encourage all parents to complete the survey online at home so we can get your views.

The survey can be accessed here through this link: http://mooneevalleyschoolsurveys.com/st-bernard-college.html

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the UrbanTrans project manager, David Meiklejohn on meiklejohn@urbantrans-anz.com or 0448 710 050.
Owner/Occupier
In the vicinity of Steele Creek running beneath Buckley Street,
ESSENDON WEST VIC 3040

Our Ref: QDn1229964

21 February 2012

Dear Owner/Occupier,

I am writing to advise that VicRoads will shortly begin maintenance work on culverts at Steele Creek, running beneath Buckley Street, Essendon.

During this work traffic lanes on Rosehill Road may be closed at times. Speed restrictions may also apply to ensure the safety of workers and the general community. VicRoads asks road users to be alert to changed traffic conditions and observe any signs in place.

The work will be managed to minimise disruption to traffic. Work is expected to start in February 2012 and be completed in June 2012.

VicRoads is committed to minimising the impacts on residents, businesses and road users, and we thank you for your understanding and patience while this important work is completed.

If you have any questions about this roadwork, please contact Sean Yates on 9313 1399 or email VicRoads at mnw.communications@roads.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
LUAY BUTRUS
TEAM LEADER STRUCTURES DELIVERY & CITYLINK