This is the final newsletter for 2013 and I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this publication over the course of the year. I particularly acknowledge Cameron Evans for his work in ensuring that the newsletter has been produced each fortnight.

The final events for many boys and families this year are the Awards ceremonies to be held on December 11 for Years 7 & 8 and December 12 for Years 9 & 10. I acknowledge and congratulate all our award winners for this year. I also look forward to celebrating with our VCE high achievers at the function on Monday December 16.

Next week we will make offers of places for Year 7, 2015. We continue to experience strong enrolment pressure and will not be able to provide all families in our designated parish schools with offers. With a small number of families expected not to take up their offer we expect to be able to make second round offers to most boys in these schools.

At the end of each school year we have the sad task of farewelling a number of staff who leave us to experience new challenges and adventures. This year we say goodbye to the following staff members, all of whom have played key roles at the College over an extended time:

- Xavier Cox who leaves us to travel,
- Alex Cometti who takes up a role at the Catholic Education Office
- Michael Mance who moves to Kingswood College
- Chris Knauf who has accepted a position at Melbourne Grammar
- Suzie Bradmore who will take up the Director of Performance role at Our Lady’s in Heidelberg
- Geoff Caulfield who moves to Parade to take on the significant role of Director of Teaching and Learning
- Fran Muscara who will finish after 10 years of loyal and committed service in reception and administration. We will miss Fran’s warmth and care for all with whom she had contact.
- Carol Ianazzo who retires after 20 years teaching. We wish her a long and happy retirement.
- Luke Steward and Michael McIntyre will take 12 months leave and we hope to welcome them back in 2015.
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We wish each of them well and thank them for their contribution to the College.

This Sunday marks the commencement of the Church Season of Advent. This four week period is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world and into our lives. I hope that your family will have the opportunity to be involved in your Parish as we prepare for the liturgical celebration of Christmas.

On behalf of the College staff I thank you for the privilege of working with your sons during 2013. I wish you and your family a warm and peaceful season, a restful, rejuvenating and safe break and the peace and joy of the Christ child this Christmas.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Unit 3/4 ATAR queries
The Post Results and ATAR Service (PRAS) is an information service available to students who may have queries after receiving their VCE results and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Information about PRAS is available on the back inside cover of the VCE Exams Navigator 2013. The PRAS will operate from 7am to 5pm on Monday 16 December and 9am to 5pm on Tuesday 17 December and Wednesday 18 December. Please refer to the VCE Exams Navigator 2013 for further information.

Academic Award Assemblies
This year we will be presenting the academic award recipients with their awards at an assembly in the gymnasium on December 11, for Years 7 & 8 and December 12, for Years 9 & 10. Students and families will be notified on December 9 if they have received an award, via an email sent to both the student and the nominated family email addresses. Parents are requested to ensure that their details are up to date and that they check their email on this day. Students who are unable to attend should advise the College of the reasons they will not be able to be present. Please note that those students who do not attend the assembly without notification will have their award withheld. Families are also advised that it is our expectation that they stay for the entire proceedings. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the boys at these assemblies.

Pauline Thompson, Director of Learning

Secondhand books and Sustainable School Shop
For many years St Bernard’s College has organised a secondhand book sale which has traditionally been held in the school gymnasium to assist parents and students with either purchasing or selling unwanted textbooks.

The College has enlisted the help of the Sustainable School Shop to help facilitate the selling and purchasing of secondhand text books. This new initiative will provide parents with the ability to trade secondhand text books.

As a result, any previously advertised secondhand book sales on the College website Calendar of Events (ie. Unit 3/4 Secondhand book sale on, November 13th) will no longer take place.

Sustainable School Shop is providing complimentary Annual Family Memberships until 31st December 2013 and we would encourage parents to take full advantage of this opportunity. All enquiries should be directed to the Sustainable School Shop on 1300 683 337 or help is also available through their website www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

More detailed information will be provided when your son’s booklist is issued in the coming weeks. In the meantime please refer to the PDF document located in the downloads section of the website.
From the Campus Directors

Advent
This Sunday we begin the journey through Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of expectation and hope as we await the birth of Jesus Christ and rejoice in all that this birth signifies about God’s love for us and the world. Christmas is a time for thinking about peace and the challenge of living peacefully in our world. We wish all St. Bernard’s families a happy and peaceful Christmas, a joyous New Year, and a safe and refreshing summer holiday.

A great aspect of Advent is the concept of giving. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of all our families in providing over 700 gifts for St Vincent de Paul to distribute to families in need this Christmas. Thank you to Mr Dennis Hobson for coordinating this project.

Final week of school
Next week will be our final week for all Year 7 – 9 students. Over the last few years attendance has been poor on our final few days of school. The final days are dedicated to liturgy; our house swimming carnival; and campus and year level assemblies to recognise fine achievements by our students. The swimming carnival is not only for those who can swim. It’s a fun day that involves games, novelty events as well as traditional swimming events. This year we will ask boys to wear casual clothes in their house colours and bring along a gold coin donation so that we can raise much needed funds for the communities in the Philippines that were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. Our final day of Year 7 – 9 classes will be next Friday. The boys will be dismissed at 12.40pm and normal buses have been arranged for that time. I ask that families support these events and ensure that we have full attendance to the very end. Thank you in anticipation.

Helping Your Son Cope with Setbacks
The following ideas are taken from an article that appeared in an edition of “Schooldays for Parents”. Research shows that a time of high anxiety is during the period of adolescence. Anxiety can occur due to the demands of schoolwork, a breakdown in peer and family relationships and the strain of juggling school, work and recreational commitments.

It also can occur due to the many daily activities that do not go to plan. It is important that we teach our sons how to cope with the realities of life and the times when the going gets a little tougher. But how do we this? How do we build resilience?

Catherine Boland, a clinical psychologist, suggests the following:

• Help adolescents understand their fear of failure. Don’t deny their feelings of not being good at something but rather, get them to work through their feelings of inadequacy.
• Reveal your thought processes to show them how to deal with anxiety.
• Accept that boredom is a part of life and do not feel that you have to engage, stimulate or entertain your child at all times.
• Don’t fear young people, spend time with them and show them that they matter to you.

Thank You
Thank you to all parent/carers who continue to follow College procedures when it comes to notifying us regarding their Son’s absence. Ringing the College Front Office before 9.30am makes it much easier for College staff to quickly account for every student, thus allowing us to ensure everyone’s safety. Thank you for your ongoing assistance in this area of student well-being.

2014
This is our last Newsletter for the year. Classes start for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Thursday, 30 January and for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday, 31 January. We would like to wish all families a very joyous and holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

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

Music News
Students in 7E, 7F, 7G and 7J have just completed their instrumental music experience and should have returned their musical instruments. All students across the school should have likewise returned borrowed musical instruments by now. Those who have not returned instruments are asked to do so immediately. We have ordered a number of new musical instruments to use in our 2014 program and some of our used stock of instruments will be available for purchase at the end of the year. Most instruments available will be flutes, clarinets and saxophones. Parents wishing to purchase a second-hand instrument are asked to email me with an expression of interest.

Parents with sons wishing to sign up for private music lessons are advised to look at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/enrolment-information.html. Music lesson enrolments can be lodged online at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/online-enrolment.html. It is asked that this is done before the end of the school year to assure an instrumental teacher is organised for all enrolled students at the start of 2014.

We advise new and all current private music students that a fee rise will be taking effect from the beginning of 2014. This fee rise still keeps our private music lessons cheaper than other Catholic College in the area while offering a small pay rise to our tutors. Details of the new rates can be viewed at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/enrolment-information.html

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Lost Property
There are a number of unlabelled school jumpers and school tracksuit tops currently in lost property at the front office so if your son has lost part of his uniform please make contact ASAP. All items not claimed before the end of term will be donated to the Uniform Shop next week for second hand sales.

Front Office Staff
Freedom Bus Riders

I think Paul Kelly said it’s 13 hours on a bus from St.Kilda to Kings Cross! Well to Canberra it’s a measly 8, but nonetheless, it was a stretch for our committed group of Freedom Riders. Hopping on the bus at 10.30pm last Sunday night, travelling through the night and arriving in Canberra, the group certainly showed exceptional commitment to the cause of speaking out about the plight of people seeking asylum in this country.

Mixing with people of all generations and demographics, the group were delighted to be amongst such a pleasant and passionate group of people. Four buses of approximately fifty passengers left from Melbourne and many of us returned with new friends and renewed hearts as we were lucky enough to meet such splendid people.

Arriving at 6.30am on Monday, the group got to know each other as they shared in the breakfast duties that it was off to the Sievex memorial until 11am when we met with other groups on the lawns out the front of Parliament House Canberra.

Our presence was immediately noted by many passers by and the group were asked to be in countless photos. The idea of a school being represented by a group of students, parents and staff was very encouraging for the organisers of the event. As each speaker spoke to the gathered crowd, mention was made of how wonderful it was to see schools represented. Of the many highlights of the experience, meeting Greens leader Christine Milne, and member Adam Bandt who took the time to come and speak with the group was special.

By the time the bus was meant to pull out and head home around 2.30pm we were all ready for a sleep but unfortunately, there wasn’t much to be had on the bus.

Thanks to Alessandro Wilson and Brodie Newman from Year 7 for coming along. The future looks very bright for St Bernard’s when we have young men of such calibre in Year 7. Jett Fogarty, Year 9 was an outstanding member of the group. His mature reflections, ability to get himself fully involved and overall enthusiasm for the cause was heart warming. Karen, Jett’s mum, also came along, under considerable pressure forgoing (or putting off) commitments of family and at work. Thank-you so much Karen, you were a wonderful participant. Our amazing staff who gave up their time and backed it up by coming to work the next day were simply awesome. Huge thanks to Alex Cometti, Rosa Mondio, Sarah Brens, David Sutton, Lori Carroll, Anita Dodson and Lisa Grass for their leadership and commitment to the cause and the boys.

The SBSJN farewells the year in style.

The St Bernard’s Social Justice Network (SBSJN) celebrated a marvellous dinner on Wednesday November the 20th. In a year where over 40 parents from our community are now regularly participating in the St Vinnie’s Soup Van, parents with a regular commitment to the tutoring of refugee children at St Albans, an acclaimed inaugural presentation on social justice with guest speakers and even a delegation heading up to protest the treatment of people seeking asylum in Australia by our politicians, the SBSJN has gone from strength to strength.

If the idea of exploring how our community can further involve itself in raising the aware ness of justice in our community resonates with you, please consider coming along to our meetings next year. Wednesday February the 19th is our first one. We would love to see you there. Please contact me if you have any questions on 9289 1113 or at bdouglas@sbc.vic.edu.au

Brendan Douglas, Director of Identity

Australian Volleyball Schools Cup – December 8th – December 13th

The Australian Volleyball Schools Cup is the largest schools sporting event in the Southern Hemisphere. St. Bernard’s has been entering teams for the last 20 years and the boys are proud to be a part of this tradition. This event is growing every year with games held at: State Volleyball Centre, MSAC, State Netball & Hockey Centre and this year due to more team entries games will also be played at Mazenod College. We wish them all the best for the coming tournament.

Representing St. Bernard’s at this year’s tournament are:

Open: Anthony Williams, Alex Ielo, Daniel Allison, Adam De Bono, Mitchell O’Dea, Jameson Trainor, Ben Hedley, Josh Stipic and Ryan Lofaro, Coach: Patrick Kirley

U17’s: Aaron Laurita, Michael Smith, Tanner Hewett, Sam Finlayson, Hugh McLaughlin, Armando Lauricella, Nicholas Volpe and Patrick Wierzbicki, Coach: Will Fleming

U16’s: Matt Arena, Noah Biffin, Mackenzie Lowe, Callum Trainor, Sean Quinn, James Berry, Julian Venturo, Jordan McLaughlin and Michael Bonvino, James Bonasera, Elijah Rasic, Christian Gherci, Tom Groenewegen, Angus Swan, Conor McCambridge and Joel Gastin, Coaches: Nick Arena and Carlos Scudeller

U15’s: Karl Fletcher, Harrison Coghill, Andrew Sernio, Henry Fleming, Nicholas Palomares, William Ronis, Alex Galle, Jack Fuhrer, Paul Rocca, Cameron Jones, Daniel Raso and Thomas Vukovic, Coaches: Trent O’Dea and Aidan Pollock

U14’s: Corey O’Dea, Marcus Giurdanella, Domenic Palamara, Marcus Griffiths, Declan Basil, Matthew Finlayson, Lucas Matic, Matthew Evans, Cristian Morales, Nathan Tomlinson and Alexi Tsakis as Referee, Coach: Zach Bye

Bowes Ave Community Centre Holiday Activities - Watercolour Painting

On Thursday January 23 explore the fascinating world of watercolour painting with professional artist, Mark Dober. Learn to mix colour, apply washes and gain an understanding of the stages of making watercolour painting. Individual expression and style is encouraged as you paint images of fruit and flowers. Open to all abilities and all materials are provided. The session goes from 10am –12pm at a cost of $2. Places are limited so to secure your spot email BowesAvCC@mvcc.vic.gov.au or call on 8325 1890. If you wish to find out more about Mark Dober you can visit his website at www.markdober.com