From the Principal

Recently Year 7 students have been working on a research task requiring them to contact staff in the school asking questions about their role and feelings about the College. A recurring question many of the boys have is “What is the best thing about St Bernards?” My replies have usually been about level of involvement of this community in the school. The engagement of current families with school activities is remarkable and the connection that most Old boys maintain equally so.

The Old Collegians Association, St Bernard’s College Foundation, SBOCARTS, Keilor - St Bernard’s Athletics Club and Old Collegian Football, Cricket, Hockey and Basketball clubs all provide formal opportunities for our boys and families to continue their involvement with the College after their time as a student has finished. The connections and friendships maintained are significant. So to is the opportunity to maintain and promote the charisms and values of the College - Community, Stewardship, Opportunity and Excellence as set out in our strategic plan.

Later this year the College will celebrate 50 years of education on the site in West Essendon. We have a video of the official opening on the website under “About Us” and “History”. The video shows that Buckley Street was not always a thoroughfare, OH&S standards were very different (as students clamber over the roof removing a flag) and the grounds were “promising”, it also highlights that this community is strongly supportive with hundreds of families present to support the College. Some things don’t change.

The conventional time to farewell staff is at the end of the year, however in this newsletter I wish to acknowledge the retirement and extraordinary contribution to the College of Michael Perrett. Michael retires from the position of Director of Development at St Bernard’s after 20 years in the role. During this time he has been integral in establishing and supporting the Foundation, re-establishing an Old Collegians Association, maintaining a reunion program, developing an Old Collegians database of 10,000 and playing a key role in promoting the College. Michael’s association with St Bernard’s commenced as a Grade 3 student in 1951 and has seen him occupy many positions from College Vice Captain to President of the Old Collegians Football Club. We wish Michael, along with his wife Joy, well in his retirement secure in the knowledge that he will still be present as a tremendous contributor to this community as he has been for many years.

The role of Development Officer will be taken over by Bernie Cronin, an Old Collegian of the class of ‘71. Cameron Evans will remain in the role of Development Manager.

In recent years the College Board have strongly supported and promoted the pursuit of academic excellence at St Bernard’s. One mechanism employed has been the provision of a full fees bursary for the Dux of each year level. In recent years it has proved increasingly difficult to discriminate the Dux from other extremely high achieving students. As a result the Board has approved the Dux will receive a bursary covering one half of the following year’s fees and the next three highest achieving students will receive a $1,000 bursary.

It is certainly an interesting time to be a Catholic with the standing down of Pope Benedict and the impending election of a successor. Closer to home the Church and Church institutions and orders, including the Christian Brothers, have received much criticism in the press as one of the institutions under scrutiny as part of the Victorian Government Inquiry into Abuse in Institutions and the Royal Commission.

Last week you may have seen press reports of a submission to the inquiry by Br Barry Coldrey, who was on staff at St Bernard’s in the late 70’s and early 80’s. It was reported that in his view, “The Christian Brothers had little sympathy for the victims of sexual abuse” and “can’t accept a pedophile’s guilt”.

I was disturbed and surprised by these comments. I interact regularly with Christian Brothers through our school network and EREA, as do many other staff. My experience of the way Congregation Leadership, the brothers and the lay leadership in schools feel about the issue is exactly the opposite of that suggested by Br Coldrey.

I attach an extract from a letter received this week from Br Vince Duggan, Leader of the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers.

Christian Brother leadership in every one of the previous Provinces, and also at Congregation level, has expressed apology, shame and remorse for the acts of sexual abuse committed by our brothers and in our institutions down the years. Pope Benedict XVI did similarly when he visited Australia in 2008. Today I repeat those expressions of apology, shame and remorse and I commit Oceania Province to work towards the healing of and reconciliation with all those whose lives have been damaged by sexual abuse. Child protection is very much at the forefront of all our ministries and planning these days.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch
From the Campus Directors

The first day of Autumn brings a change in the weather and also signals that students need to focus on their learning and take on the challenges that lie ahead. In weeks three and four all Year 7 to 12 students are involved in identifying their learning goals and devising their own challenges for the 2013 academic year. In the next two weeks the first Assessment Tasks will be due in most subjects and Interim Reports will be open in two weeks time. The first Unit 3&4/VCAL Parent Information Evening is scheduled on Thursday March 14. This will provide an initial check on the progress of our senior students and offers an opportunity for early intervention if required. At this stage of the Term it is necessary for students to realise that the ‘settling in’ period is over and that the ‘hard work’ in class and at home should have begun.

Students in all year levels need to start trying to achieve the targets that they set in their Learning Goals. Starting the work for Assessment Tasks well before the due dates is suggested, as well as studying for tests in advance. Seeking help from teachers early in the assessment process to resolve any difficulties is important. Parents can help their sons at this stage of the year by checking diaries regularly to see when major assessment tasks and other homework is due. Monitoring and discussing homework routines and due dates would be beneficial. Sharing any concerns or issues with Homeroom Teachers is essential as they are the first point of contact.

Santa Monica

On Monday afternoon, and all day Tuesday, I was very fortunate to be able to take a visit to our Santa Monica campus for the 7B and 9E camps. Both camps worked independently from each other on a beautiful autumn day as the temperature gauge topped 32 degrees.

I participated in some introductory discussions: games of cricket; a surfing lesson; night activities; canoeing and enjoyed sharing some lovely meals with the boys (tough work, but someone has to do it!).

It was a great experience for me to visit the two groups at once. We are very lucky and obviously very proud of our facilities at Santa Monica. But let’s face it, facilities are facilities. Alone, they are empty, expensive objects. Each time I visit the campus I am always struck by the dedication and enthusiasm of our committed staff. Mark Smith, Mic Stapleton, Peter Morgan and Judy Scanlon do an amazing job as a team to provide our boys with a ‘best practice’ programme that focuses on the transition from boyhood to manhood. I thank them for their commitment to this incredible experience for our boys.

The Strand Athletics Carnival

On Thursday March 7 all Year 7 – 9 students participated in our annual house based Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to Mr Craig Osborne on the success of the day. It was great to see a vibrant house spirit that is continuing to grow with the boys. Results of the carnival will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

Humanities Excursions/Incursions

On Tuesday 12th of March 9A, 9B, 9C, 9H and 9J will travel to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat for an excursion. Next Friday the 15th of March is Medieval Day for our Year 8 students.

Homework Help

All Year 7 – 9 students are welcome to attend our homework help sessions. English on Tuesdays in room 431 from 3.05 – 4.05pm and Mathematics on Wednesdays in room 431/432 from 3:05pm to 4:05pm. Students from Year 7 – 12 are welcome to attend Science homework help on Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Junior Science in the Discere Classrooms, Senior Biology in the Careers Room, Senior Chemistry in the Discere Classrooms and Senior Physics in Room 634. Assistance with homework or assignments is provided.

Humanities Excursions/Incursions

Staff from the Public Health Department of Moonee Valley City Council will be at the College from 9.30am on Monday March 25 to administer vaccinations to Year 7, 9 and 10 students. A package outlining the vaccinations has been sent home with your son. Please make sure you have received this.

Each year level will receive the following vaccinations:

Year 7 - Hepatitis B, Chicken pox (Varicella), HPV Vaccine
Year 9 - HPV Vaccine (9E will be vaccinated before leaving for their week at Santa Monica).
Year 10 - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertusis (whooping cough)

A new resource (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets.htm) has been released by the Dept. of Health to assist parents to be aware of the school based immunisation program, what they need to do or if the vaccine is missed at school, how they can follow up to be eligible for free vaccine for their child. It is important for adolescents to complete their childhood immunisation schedule with these vaccines for protection against vaccine preventable diseases.


We commend this service to you and your son and thank you for completing the consent forms and returning them to the College by the due date.

Parentline

Parentline is a telephone counselling, information and referral service available to all Victorian parents and carers who have children up to the age of 18. Parentline counsellors receive calls in relation to many parenting issues including managing family relationships, adolescent behaviour, sleep difficulties, tantrums, school refusal and bullying.

Parentline is a confidential and anonymous service available to all families in Victoria. The phone number is 13 22 89 or access the website www.parentline.com.au
St Bernard’s College Newsletter

“Achieving Excellence by Learning and Doing”

Mission News

The Reconciliation Cup! Wednesday April 24th on Oval 1 at 1.30pm.

Next term in an exciting new initiative, St. Bernard’s takes on St. Joseph’s Geelong for the Reconciliation Cup. As you can see by the diagram (left), special jumpers have been designed for both St. Bernard’s and St. Joe’s and these will be available for sale at the completion of the game.

The artwork figures around the side and base are representative of the players and how they are all different and come from different places, while all coming together towards the football icon in the centre. The figures above in the wings are the spectators/family/friends or the players watching the match. While this is all under the guidance of Bunjil, the eagle. The trophy that is up for grabs was designed by Wauthurong Glass near Geelong.

All proceeds from SBC jumpers will go to the ‘Open The Doors’ Foundation, a charity set up to help increase the numbers of indigenous children coming to school, staying there until Year 12 and helping provide them with vocational assistance into university or the workforce.

Put the date in you calendar now.

St Bernard’s Social Justice Network (SBSJN)

About the SBSJN

The St Bernard’s College Social Justice Network began in 2012 and have volunteers working on the Footscray St Vinnie’s Soup Van and attending tutoring with newly arrived children at the Edmund Rice Centre in St Albans. We are now planning some events for 2013 which will highlight social justice issues with our parent and student community – with a strong focus on how individuals CAN make a difference.

A Social Justice Evening

We would like to invite you to be part of the social justice-focused panel session that will be held at St Bernard’s College, Essendon on the night of 29th May, 2013. The St Bernard’s Social Justice Network is hosting this night in order to promote social justice initiatives within the college and to excite interest and potential involvement in the network. A range of speakers are being invited to attend who represent different roles related to social justice from Members of the state Legislative Council, leaders in not-for-profit community service and non-government organisations, student leaders and those working at the coalface with people in need. We would love you to be part of the panel that will run for approximately an hour, facilitated by one of our network members, along the lines of the well-known ABC Q and A Program.

About the St Bernard’s Social Justice Network

St Bernard’s Social Justice Network is a new group at St. Bernard’s College, Essendon. The network is made up of parents who believe to encourage and facilitate their own son’s interest and involvement in social justice, they also seek to actively participate and offer and characterise themselves as role models. The Social Justice Network has met numerous times in 2012, and has formed a vision and mission statement - *We believe in the intrinsic goodness of humankind and we believe that through the positive relationships and partnerships of parents, staff and students, working for social justice for all, we can help our children have a positive, hopeful view of the future. Working together we will model and nurture an inclusive community and help build student capacity and resilience to be confident champions of justice and solidarity. We will help to create young men characterised by their social awareness, compassion, and active gospel spirituality.*

The Network aims to create opportunities for parents to explore their personal interests in social issues and to provide tangible processes for them to become authentically involved in offering their interest, time, compassion, assistance and even expertise to social causes and thus, social justice. When, as parents, we become involved in social justice ourselves, then we can truly see ourselves as role models to our sons and also the community of boys at SBC. It is through this process of encouragement, support and opportunity that the Social Justice Network hopes to inspire more parents to become part of this exciting initiative. The Network believe that this message of the significance of parental involvement needs to be supported by those already notably immersed, working and active in the social justice community and who we believe could potentially impact the most with parents.

We therefore respectfully invite you to attend the meetings of the St. Bernard’s Social Justice Network to present and be involved in conversations and exchange with the audience, thereby endorsing and advocating the parents’ role in the process of their sons becoming “… confident champions of justice and solidarity…. [and] help to create young men characterised by their social awareness, compassion, and active gospel spirituality.”

Brendan Douglas, Director of Mission

Important Dates for Year 7 2015 Enrolments

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information Evening for Family Surnames A - L (New and Current Families)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 19 March 2013</td>
<td>Auditorium, 7.30 - 9.00pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information Evening for Family Surnames M - Z (New and Current Families)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 20 March 2013</td>
<td>Auditorium, 7.30 - 9.00pm</td>
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There is no need to book for these evenings. For more information please contact me on 9289 1103 or at jnocci@sbc.vic.edu.au

John Nocci, Registrar
Music News
I open this report with acknowledging the parents that have contributed to the Friends of Music Committee over the years. Fundraising over the last 2 years has allowed this group of parents to raise significant funds to help offset the cost of students engaging in music and music performance immersion experiences. This year we will have 17 students representing SBC at the prestigious Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier during May and 38 students representing SBC at the Sydney International Music Festival during July.

At the last Friends of Music meeting, parents pledged to continue fundraising to ensure they could offer a $35,000 subsidy towards these activities. It is this sort of support and work that makes opportunities for our students possible. I sincerely thank those who have come to concerts, purchased raffle tickets and have attended and supported fundraising events. It really has made a difference and will continue to make a difference into the future.

In regards to fundraising, the Friends of Music are undertaking a fundraising event soon, being the Winery Tour and Luncheon day. All Parents, adult members of the SBC community and their friends are welcome to participate. This is an enjoyable and relaxing way to support the Friends of Music, with the SBC coach departing for the Yarra Valley at 10am on March 17. More information can be found at www.sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/winery-tour-and-luncheon.html.

I am pleased to report that our vocal program has started well for the year. The Senior Vocal Ensemble (Shout!) rehearses on Wednesday mornings at 7:45am. The Junior Vocal Ensemble (Sync) rehearses on Wednesday afternoons until 4pm. Both groups welcome new participants to come and try out. Rehearsals for both groups are held in the Music Department, room 302.

Looking ahead, plans for our first major concert for the year are falling into place. It is confirmed we will be hosting and performing with SBC Old Collegian Ashley Naylor ‘88 (left). Ashley has developed a strong reputation in the music industry as a guitarist and singer/songwriter, recently acknowledged in Australian Guitar Magazine as one of Australia’s top 50 guitarists of all time. He has been featured as a performer on Rock Wiz and performs regularly with Vanessa Amorosi and Paul Kelly. This will be a special event – Tuesday May 21, 7:30pm in the SBC Auditorium.

Host Families required for visitors from Italy
Many thanks to those families who have generously offered to host students from our sister school in Treviso, early Term 2. We are still seeking the assistance of THREE more families who would be willing to host a student from Italy. The students are from our sister-school, Istituto Mazzotti, in Treviso. They will be with us for 9 days, arriving early in Term 2, on Tuesday, 16/04/13. If you are able to assist, please contact Prof. Spiller at the College – bspiller@sbc.vic.edu.au Grazie mille!! / Many Thanks!!

Bruno Spiller, Senior Teacher of Italian, Clairvaux Campus

Maths Help
Maths Help classes are held each week. For the Strand campus it takes place in room 431 from 3 to 4pm on Wednesdays. For the Clairvaux campus it takes place on Thursdays from 3 to 4pm. Classes are open to all students but those who are struggling, or averaging less than C on assessment tasks, are encouraged to attend. A number of teachers are present at each session.

Brian Moloney

From the Uniform Shop
A reminder that all Year 12 students are required to purchase a Year 12 tie as it is compulsory from first day of second term. The cost is $12 from the Uniform Shop.

Renee Buhagier

City to Surf 2013
This year will mark the 10th edition of St Bernard’s involvement with the race and I would encourage all Old Boys who have been on the trip to put the weekend of Aug 10-12 in your diaries. I’d like to see as many of you as possible in Sydney. Email me at the College if you are thinking of running, I have organised for more rooms at the beachouse.

Michael McIntyre

St Bernard’s Old Collegians Junior Football Club - Players Wanted
St Bernard’s Junior Football Club are looking for additional players in u14s, u15s & u16s teams. If you are interested in playing football this year and would like to know more, please contact Paul Dervan on 0418 141 272.

Moonee Valley Youth Summit
Last year the first Moonee Valley Youth Summit was a highly successful event with 65 young people in attendance to talk about issues that were important to them. Topics discussed focused on four main issues - drugs and alcohol, mental health and wellbeing, cyber safety and bullying and peer relationships. This year it is hoped that the summit will see a wider range of people and schools represented from throughout Moonee Valley.

Details of the event as follows:
Date: Friday 3 May
Time: 9:15am-3:15pm (registration from 8:45am)
Venue: Clocktower Centre, 750 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

The Moonee Valley Youth Voice Committee is looking to recruit students to help organise the event. If you know of any students that may be interested in participating please contact the committee through Youth Services at youth@mvcc.vic.gov.au or call 9243 8888.
1. **OPEN DAY FOR VETERINARY SCIENCE**
The University of Melbourne’s Veterinary Science and Hospital has its’ annual Open Day from 10am to 3pm, Sunday 17 March; **Where:** 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee; **Info:** [www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday](http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday). Step behind the scenes at the veterinary hospital and tour the facilities; discover a range of animals, attend lectures and see displays; speak to staff and students. Course and career advice will be available throughout the day. Prospective students and parents will learn about the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine graduate program. Veterinary and community groups will provide information on pet care and other special interests.

2. **EXPLORE COURSES AND CAREERS AT RMIT** — Back by popular demand in 2013, is a range of ‘Experience Day’ holiday programs for Year 10-12 students. Get a hands-on and interactive experience of courses on offer at RMIT, and find out about careers in accounting, engineering, fashion, justice, medical sciences, media, advertising, environment, IT, and art and design. To register interest and to be notified when events are on go to: [www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays](http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays).

3. **WANT ADVICE FROM SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OR TAFE?** Appointments are now available for secondary students throughout the year. You can book a time that suits you to meet a course advisor face to face, receive course advice, ask questions and receive application assistance. **Info:** [www.swinburne.edu.au/study-at-swinburne/events/](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/study-at-swinburne/events/).

4. **ENGINEERS CAREERS EXPO** – Engineers Australia has an Expo providing interactive workshops, over 80 exhibitors, presentations and advice from leaders in the engineering profession. **When:** 11am-7pm, Thurs 21 Mar; **Where:** Etihad stadium; **Info:** [www.engineeringexpo.org.au](http://www.engineeringexpo.org.au); OR: Sarah on 9321 1703, scooke@engineersaustralia.org.au.

5. **MONASH ARTS LAUNCHES FACEBOOK PAGE** – This page provides VCE students with a chance to learn about studying at Monash in an environment where you feel at home. **Features:** current students describing experiences; staff providing insights into their study areas. ‘Liking’ the Monash page is a great way to begin to get a feel for university life and to ask questions. **See:** [www.facebook.com/MonashArts](http://www.facebook.com/MonashArts).

6. **WHERE CAN I STUDY FASHION?**

Wanting to study fashion? There are many courses to consider, with University, TAFE and private providers offering qualifications. RMIT University (City) offers a 4-year Bachelor of Design (Fashion). Of the 2012 Year 12 students who applied for this course, 63 were offered a place (ie very competitive). Another 41 non-Year 12s were also offered a place. RMIT TAFE (Brunswick) also offers the 2-year Associate Degree in Fashion Design and Technology, and courses in fashion merchandising. Many aspiring fashion designers complete a TAFE course first, a great way to start your training. Box Hill Institute, The Gordon (Geelong), Holmesglen (City), Kangaroo (Richmond) and RMIT TAFE (Brunswick) offer various diploma courses such as Cert IV, the diploma and the advanced diploma in Applied Fashion Design and Technology. Holmesglen also offers the 3-year Bachelor of Fashion (Apparel Engineering and Design), and Box Hill the Bachelor of Fashion Design. Private colleges: Whitehouse Institute of Design (City) offers a 3-year Bachelor of Design (Fashion), Billy Blue College of Design (City) offers the 3-year Bachelor of Applied Design (Branded Fashion), Holmes Institute (City) offers the Bachelor of Fashion and Business, while the Australian Academy of Design (Port Melb) offers the Bachelor of Design Arts (Fashion Design). Also on offer is the 1-year Diploma of Costume for Performance at Swinburne (wardrobe for film, TV and entertainment). Application almost invariably includes an interview and folio presentation. Therefore, it is essential that you study a VCE subject(s) to help develop a suitable folio as you must be able to demonstrate a suitable level of creativity. Make sure you attend appropriate Open Days. Difficult to explain at an interview why you want to study a particular course if you have never been there....
7. BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE – At Melbourne students mostly choose from one of six initial degrees: arts, biomedicine, commerce, environments, music or science. The B. Environments is a unique program, allowing students to shape our world through design, management, planning, advising, construction, research and social change. Major study areas to choose from: architecture, civil systems, construction, environmental engineering systems, environmental geographies, politics and cultures, environmental science, geomatics, landscape architecture, property and urban planning and design. The degree engages students in interdisciplinary thinking from the start, and leads to a variety of career outcomes.

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