This week is a time where the focus of the College turns to assessment and reporting with students sitting exams and submitting end of semester assessment tasks. The grades and comments that result from this process are reported to families and usually give an accurate summary of the achievements of each student. Reports reflect many things including the ability and effort of the student, the expectation and encouragement of family, the engagement engendered by the curriculum and the commitment and professional performance of the teacher.

The College has a myriad of initiatives in place to support student achievement. They include On Demand testing, differentiated curriculum, parallel programs, parent access to student results online, data tracking of student performance, Evidence Based Observation and Coaching of teachers, contemporary learning spaces, analysis of data, and formative assessment. There are many more, all of which aim to complement students and parents ambition in allowing each student to achieve excellence. I hope that the success of these initiatives, your son’s hard work and your hopes for him are demonstrated in the midyear report.

As I reflected on first semester I realised that I seldom write about the basic high quality teaching and learning that takes place in the College each day. Perhaps I have come to take it for granted. We are fortunate to have excellent staff, capable and ambitious boys and supportive families. Teaching and learning is progressing well and I hope that your son’s report confirms this.

On Wednesday May 28 I had the privilege of attending the inaugural St Bernard’s Old Collegian’s Business Breakfast. The aim of this gathering was to facilitate interaction between Old Collegians and it was pleasing to see recent graduates mingling with those in early and midcareer along with retirees. The chance to promote business connections with those who share the same background and values is priceless. Guest speaker and College Hall of Fame member Stefan Romaniw reinforced this message. Thank you to David Rosel and Bernie Cronin for this excellent initiative, which promises to be of great benefit to our community.

I often write in this newsletter about the religious dimension of the College, particularly the emphasis on social justice and the willingness of this community to reach out to the poor and the marginalised, a legacy of the Christian Brothers. Recently I wrote of the emphasis of Pope Francis on our Church being a church of the poor.

A key influence in Pope Francis’ formation and theology has been the movement known as Liberation Theology. Liberation Theology is a movement which arose in Latin America in the 1950’s and 60’s as a moral reaction to the poverty caused by social injustice in that region. During the Soccer World Cup which commences this week in Brazil we will see many images that reinforce the poverty and injustice responsible.

Liberation Theology is about seeing theology, loosely defined as ‘an understanding of the divine’, from the perspective of the poor and the oppressed. The man who is credited as coining the title, Peruvian priest Gustavo Gutierrez, suggests that God is revealed as having a preference for those people who are “insignificant,” “marginalised,” “unimportant,” “needy,” “despised” and “defenseless.”

This is challenging if you happen to be none of the above. So where does it leave those of us who are not poor or oppressed but who seek God. There is no easy answer to this question but I hope that part of the answer is in standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and sharing with them what they need, not just what we don’t need. I think that in this way Liberation Theology is inclusive of all of us in this community rather than exclusive.

I will be commencing a period of leave next week and will be absent from the College until August 12. During this time I will be undertaking two courses in theology at Boston College in the United States. One will include input from Fr Gustavo Gutierrez.

I thank Paul Shannon for his willingness to step into the role of acting Principal during this period. I also congratulate and thank Shaun Lancashire and Chanette Glynn for their willingness to step into the role of Campus Director and Year 11 Year Level Coordinator respectively.

Best wishes

Tony Paatsch

Discere survey online

For a little over 10 years now, the Discere program has been a significant part of school life for a great many students and their families at SBC. As part of our ongoing commitment to the program, the school has undertaken a review of Discere to affirm the things it does well and improve any things that could be done better. If you have had some association with the program, Gold or Blue, student or parent, past or present we’d like to ask that you help us by completing an online survey which can be accessed via the school webpage (look under ‘important notices’). The survey is short but will help us in achieving excellence in learning and doing into the future. Should you wish to provide more detailed feedback regarding the program, please feel free to contact me via email at mhurley@sbc.vic.edu.au

Matt Hurley, Director of Additional Needs

IMPORTANT

Please make sure ALL family details are current and up to date (including email addresses, phone numbers, mobile numbers, living arrangements etc.) It is vitally important that these details are 100% correct at all times in order for the College to best serve each family’s needs. If your details need to be updated please login to the Parent Portal and do so as soon as possible.
From the Campus Directors

World Refugee Week

This Sunday, we begin World Refugee Week. Some in our media like to paint a picture that suggests that we are going to be taken over by the ‘illegal’ refugees. They warn us of the need to be concerned about our quality of life and the loss of jobs and all the other ‘bad’ things that will happen if we open our doors to refugees. It is better, they would say, to detain them in centres and to conduct an exhaustive process to work out who is a genuine refugee and who is not. In the meantime mental anguish, family tragedy and personal suffering exist at a level that is shameful.

What circumstances would drive you to leave all that you have and take your family on a leaky boat to a country where you know no one and can’t speak the language. It is only when we put ourselves in the circumstances of the refugees that we might understand their plight just a little better.

In support of World Refugee Week you may wish to consider supporting the World Refugee Day March on Sunday, 22 June at 1.30pm from the City Square (corner of Swanston & Collins Street).

Former Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser says “…if people are genuine refugees…there is no deterrent we can create which is going to be severe enough, cruel enough, nasty enough to stop them fleeing the terror from which they flee in their own lands.”

We pray that our political leaders can protect the fundamental rights of these unfortunate people.

Peer Relations Survey

Each year our College counselor, Mr John Samanna coordinates a very thorough survey that aims to gauge how safe and happy our students feel at St Bernard’s College. We take this data seriously enough to share it with our College community. Families can access the data on our College website.

The data presents a very favourable picture for our community. It indicates that 73% of our boys are happy to be at St Bernard’s College. That all forms of bullying are down from last year’s survey results. That only 5% of our students feel that they are bullied once a week, the national average is 20%. Even this low figure of 5% seems too high!

We will continue to address the issues that this data presents to us and we will continue to work with our boys in situations where they have made a mistake and chosen the wrong method of resolving conflict.

Thank you to John Samanna for his work on this important survey and we look forward to working with families to ensure that St Bernard’s College remains a safe and happy school for our boys.

Year 7 Retreats

On Monday the June 3rd 2014, 7A and 7B had a Retreat Day and were taken out of normal classes! We had the day off to work with a group called MUSTARD who are a religious group that talks about Jesus, God and scriptures from the bible. We participated in activities such as discussing miracles and selecting key words from bible scriptures. Just to make it actually fun, the classes filmed a short film about the scriptures in groups. The resulting films were really entertaining and some quite funny. Next we Crafted a Year 7 sign while playing Charades. We then wrote on it with chalk with messages about what we would do to help out St Bernard’s. Following this activity we wrote a letter to ourselves for Year 12 which we will open in 2019, about what type of people we want to be. Overall it was an enjoyable day as well as educational. It should be continued for future Year 7 students - Matthew Andreadis 7A

Discere ILP

Each year our Discere students get the opportunity to present to parents their Individual Learning Project (ILP). On Wednesday evening our enthusiastic Year 7 boys proudly presented their projects to parents. Next Wednesday, June 18 is our Year 9 evening and this will commence at 7.30pm and will be conducted in the College Auditorium.

Report Writing Day

Next Friday, 20 June will be a report writing day for staff. There are no classes scheduled on this day.

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

After School English Tuition

English staff are available every Tuesday afternoon from 3pm-4pm to offer all students extra help in English. Students at Years 7, 8 and 9 will find teachers available in the Yr 9 classrooms. Students at Years 10 and 11 will find teachers available in Room 643 (Year 11 Corridor). Mrs McGee is available every Tuesday , Periods 5&6 in Room 734.

Please ensure that your sons avail themselves of this opportunity.

Christine McGee, Clairvaux English Coordinator

SBC Book Club

Come along and join the SBC Book Club, held every second Wednesday in the reading room.

Library Staff

Come and try Karate

Learn self defence, increase self esteem and personal confidence and have fun all at the same time. 2 free lessons for everyone as well as free uniform on joining. Sessions will be conducted in O’Brien Hall, Thursdays after school. Secondary students from 5pm with juniors (primary aged) commencing at 4pm. For further information visit www.artofdefence.com.au or call Amelia on 0407320333.

Amelia Zarb, Art of Defence
This year, St. Bernard’s in conjunction with St. Columba’s are proud to present the acclaimed musical hit “Shout! The Legend of the Wild One.” The musical which chronicles the life and times of Australia’s king of Rock’n’Roll features the much-loved songs of the original Wild One and is a spectacle not to be missed. For the last term and a half, almost fifty students from both schools have worked tirelessly with hours of singing, dancing and acting to ensure that the production is of the highest quality.

‘Shout! The Legend of the Wild One’ will run for 6 performances in the College auditorium beginning at 7:30pm: Thursday, July 31st, Friday, August 1st, Saturday, 2nd, Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday August 9th.

Tickets go on sale June 24th and available through the College website: www.sbc.vic.edu.au

Any enquiries about any of the performances can be redirected either to the school website or the following: 9289 1049 shout@sbc.vic.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you on the boards!

Brooke Sullivan, Director

Music News

The end of Term 2 marks our first Year 7 concert for the year. The concert for 7A, B, C, D and H will be held on Thursday June 19th at 7:30pm in the College Auditorium. We encourage all family members to come along to support the boys in their music presentations.

Some students from these classes have already committed to undertake further music lessons into Semester 2 and beyond. Parents with boys in these classes who wish their son to continue with further music lessons are asked to have application forms in by the end of Term 2.

Over the last few weeks we have had the Semester 1 concert combined with St Columba’s and our Semester 1 soiree. We congratulate all students who took part in these special events, adding to the cultural fabric of our College.

Plans for the Music Department 2015 program are already underway. We are negotiating with the management of Tony Pantano and it is hoped that we can host Mr Pantano at our Semester 1 College Concert in May 2015. Further to this, it is hoped that 2 or 3 of our College Bands will represent St Bernard’s College at the Australian National Eisteddfod Bands and Orchestras Divisions in Canberra next year.

Hosting and running these events costs requires financial support and the SBC Friends of Music are already planning fundraising to help. One of the fundraising activities to happen in term 3 is a ‘donation for voucher’ program offered by Team Mates Australasia. Parents or other SBC community members associated with a business that would like to participate by offering an exclusive deal voucher regarding their products or services are welcome to enquire with me directly before the end of Term 3.

Shout! 2014

Greetings from Hiroshima!

Konnichiwa! My name is Daniel Beasley and in March this year I jumped on a plane to live and study in Japan for a whole year. It is hard to believe that 3 months have already passed since I arrived in Hiroshima and joined my host family. My host family consists of Akiko (host mum), Shota (dad) (picture) and my two brothers (Taisei and Kousei) who are 8 and 4 years old. They have been very welcoming and supportive and I am so grateful to them for allowing me to become part of their family and experience the Japanese way of life.

The first couple of months have been quite challenging as I have had to adjust to a very different culture and lifestyle, settle in with my host family, attend a new school and deal with being away from home, family and friends. At the beginning I found some of the food difficult to eat, especially things like seaweed and raw fish. Gone are the vegemite sandwiches for lunch – my host mum makes me a Bento box to take to school most days! Overall, I would say the most difficult part has been the language barrier. Whilst I feel that my Japanese is improving, I also know that I have a long way to go to reach my goal of becoming fluent in the language.

Japanese school life is very different. I attend Hiroshima Johoku Senior High School which is an all boys school of about 1,200 students. I attend School 6 days per week with one Saturday off every month. I also participate in compulsory club activities after school a couple of times a week. These activities can include various sports (baseball, table tennis, soccer), or arts/science clubs (photography, music, etc.). It takes me about 1 hour to get to school which includes travelling by train and bus.

I leave home about 7:30am in the morning and usually get back home at night around 6.30pm. As for my studies – I am doing my best but let’s just say it’s very interesting being in a classroom and not understanding a thing that is being said by the teacher!

Hiroshima is such an amazing and beautiful city. It is very picturesque with mountains in the north and the ocean in the south. It reminds me very much of Melbourne. Both our cities have a major river running through them, beautiful parklands and transportation which includes trams.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms Brens and Mr Nakajima for inspiring and encouraging me to further my Japanese studies and take this “big leap into the unknown”. Being an exchange student is about stepping out of your comfort zone, not being afraid to try new things and embracing and accepting other cultures and ways of life. In my short time here, I have experienced all of that. It has been life changing and shown me that anything is possible if you put your mind and heart into it!
CAREERS NEWS JUNE #2 2014

UPDATED COLLEGE WEBSITE! – first stop for any careers information both inside and outside of St. Bernard’s. Includes a parent’s section.

ACU BREAKS DOWN THE BUDGET – The recent Federal Budget included changes to higher education funding which will have significant implications for Australian universities. The Australian Catholic University summarised the proposed changes that will affect students:

- **Universities will set their own fees** – from 1 Jan 2016, universities will set their own fees for Australian undergraduate courses.
- **The government will contribute less** – from 1 Jan 2016, students will pay more towards the cost of their degree, and the government will pay less. The Commonwealth contribution will reduce by 20% overall.
- **Extending the demand driven system** – this system has been expanded to provide Commonwealth Supported Places for any undergraduate qualification offered by a university – diplomas, associate degrees. Government funding has also been extended to students studying at registered higher education providers (incl TAFE).
- **Repaying the debt sooner** – The HELP loan will still be available, so students will not have to pay their fees upfront. However, the government has reduced the income threshold so graduates will start making their repayments sooner – when they are earning approx. $50,638.

For ACU students (if the changes pass in parliament), this means: Current ACU students or those who have accepted a place at ACU and elected to defer that offer on or before 13 May, 2014, will **not be affected as long as they complete their degree by the end of 2020**. Students who accept an offer of enrolment from 14 May 2014 until 1 Jan 2016 will be charged under the **existing arrangements till 31 Dec 2015**. After that, they will be charged under the **new arrangements**. ACU will be consulting with stakeholders over the coming months to determine the appropriate fees for ACU’s courses. Other universities will, no doubt, make statements in due course.

COMPUTER GAMES BOOT CAMP – This seven-day event is for students in Years 9-12, and gives an opportunity to experience everything connected to computer games and information technology. Learn from experienced industry professionals, talk to like-minded individuals and expand your networks by participating in workshops, tournaments, presentations, and activities. If you are interested in multimedia, designing or playing games, or looking to a career in IT, this is for you.

When: Sat 5 – Fri 11 July; Where: Monash Clayton; Info/register: https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/

ART DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE (MADA) – MADA is hosting a range of three-day workshops for Year 11/12 students interested in studying creative disciplines. Students can build folios and attend foundation workshops in architecture, interior architecture, communication design, industrial design and fine art, and experience life at MADA. Industry professionals and academics will run the workshops and guide students through the lessons and activities. When: 1-3 July & 24-26 Sept; Where:
INTERESTED IN A CAREER WITH ANIMALS? Various school holiday programs are again on offer. ‘Winter Wonderland’ is the theme this year.
• **Healesville Sanctuary** - a chance to get close to some of our most endangered alpine animals. The **Keeper for a Day** program allows you to help keepers and learn about a very rewarding job.
• **Vet for a Day at Healesville Sanctuary** allows you to see the vets working with real life cases involving the animal collection as well as injured wildlife brought into the hospital.
• **Keeper for a Day at Werribee Open Range Zoo** - find out what a keeper’s day is really like.
**Who?** Yr 7-12; **Booking:** 9285 9406; **Info:** [www.zoo.org.au/whats-on/school-holidays-at-zoos-victoria](http://www.zoo.org.au/whats-on/school-holidays-at-zoos-victoria).

**LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** – The annual **Melbourne JD Showcase** is coming up. At this workshop, master classes will be held on legal issues like **So Sue Me!** (what a negligence action is all about); **dispute resolution** interactive session, **refugee law**, and the **environment** – who is responsible for contamination? The Showcase will give school students an interactive experience, combining sample law classes with information about Melbourne Law School and the JD degree. **When:** Wed 2 July; **Cost:** $66 (incl morning tea and lunch); **Registration and payment:** by 25 June at [www.jd.law.unimelb.edu.au/schools](http://www.jd.law.unimelb.edu.au/schools); **Info:** Yvonne Au, 8344 8879, y.au@unimelb.edu.au.

**A CAREER WITH BOATS?** The 2014 Boating Industry Association **Boat Show** will have a stand offering a range of information about careers associated with the boating industry including boat and engine manufacturing and retailing, marine accessories manufacturing and retailing, boat and marine engine repairs, marine distributing and wholesale, and tourism. Visit stand A36 from 11am-6pm, Thurs-Sun for career advice. Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Clarendon St, Southbank; **When:** 11am-6pm, Thurs 12 – Mon 16 June. (Some free tickets are available for students from kaz@oellen.org.au). **NOTE:** Are you aware that the **Australian Maritime College** in Tasmania offers courses from certificates through to degrees in areas like boating, fishing, engineering and maritime architecture? Check out courses at: [www.amc.edu.au](http://www.amc.edu.au).

**WANT TO STUDY ACCOUNTING?** Many accounting firms offer **cadetships** to Year 12 students planning to study business/accounting at university. For example, Deloitte, EY, PwC, KPMG, and many others offer cadetships. The usual arrangement is that those receiving a cadetship study part-time and work with the company offering the cadetship part-time. This means that recipients gain real-world **work experience**, are likely to be offered **employment** on completion of their degree, and are **financially rewarded**. A good starting point to find out what is available is at: [http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/Students/Whats-on/Event-listing/National-event-info/Cadetships.aspx](http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/Students/Whats-on/Event-listing/National-event-info/Cadetships.aspx)
EXPERIENCE RMIT – If you are considering studying at RMIT, and in Years 10-12, don't forget the RMIT ‘Experience Days' and Tours on offer in the coming holiday break. They cover marketing, advertising, public relations, journalism, engineering, information systems, science laboratory visits, a science day, a trades’ day, and many more. See details at [www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays](http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays) and [www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover](http://www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover).

Compiled by: M. Walker

David Rosel  
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