From The Principal

As the 2014 school year draws to a close I would like to briefly turn our attention to next year. In 2015 St Bernard’s celebrates 75 years of excellence in Catholic Boys Education. We will celebrate in a variety of ways and on a number of occasions during the year. The first of two most significant events will be a Community Dinner to be held at Flemington Racecourse on Friday June 19. Full details of the night will be made available early in the new year but for now please add this date to your diaries. It promises to be a ‘once in a lifetime (or at least once in 75 years event!!). The Second significant event will be St Bernard’s Day on Friday August 21 when the entire school community will gather for Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Hart, followed by a day of celebration back at the College. Keep an eye on the College website and this publication for information regarding our 75 year celebrations and how you can be a part of it.

This is the final formal newsletter of the year although I will email families following the release of VCE results. I would to thank all those who have stayed in touch with the College by reading this communication each fortnight. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Cameron Evans in editing, producing and circulating it each fortnight.

Congratulations to all those students who will receive academic awards at the formal ceremonies this week. I hope that you and your families are justifiably proud of your achievements and use it as a springboard for continued excellent academic achievement in the years ahead. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all your teachers who have worked with you this year.

While the summer holidays are downtime for the educational aspect of the College, this summer exciting developments will take place in the area of grounds and buildings. We expect completion of the oval carpark, pedestrian path and landscaping along with the laying of turf on Murphy Oval. In addition, January will see the widening of the road from the bus park to the bottom carpark.

We have accepted a tender for the construction of our new Senior Science and Parallel Programs Centre. Work on this project will commence prior to Christmas in the area currently occupied by the Clairvaux basketball courts. We have also accepted tenders for an upstairs extension to the Gymnasium and expansion of the entry foyer to commence in the new year.

In recent days enrolment offers for Year 7 2016 have been posted to families. We continue to have more applicants than places and I am acutely aware of the disappointment of those families to whom we are unable to offer a place. I would dearly love us to have the privilege of educating all boys whose parents seek a place at the College but unfortunately this is just not possible. At the moment we have been able to offer a place to almost every Catholic boy who is in one of our feeder schools and who lives in the area set out by the Catholic Education Office, as part of the parishes to which these feeder schools belong.

At a recent meeting the College Board approved a 5% fee increase for 2015. This is in line with the Educational CPI which is 5.1%. The fees for next year are $6700 at Years 7 and 8 level and $7150 for Years 9, 10, 11 & 12. I am confident that the College continues to provide an excellent, high quality education, state-of-the-art facilities and outstanding value for money. I am also confident that appropriate support is available for those for whom payment of fees is impossible.

At this time each year we farewell staff who have been part of the College community. This year there are a three significant retirees who have served St Bernard’s and Catholic education for a working lifetime. I would like to wish Greg Jorgenson, Peter Wilson and Tony Hudson well in retirement. Greg has served the College in 2 stints, most recently for 12 years, the earlier stint as a Christian Brother. Greg is in many ways our last surviving staff link to the Brothers. Peter has been with St Bernard’s for 25 years and will forever be regarded as the architect and driving force behind the Agere program. Tony has been with us for 15 years and will be remembered for his commitment to the Mathematics and Science faculties and to the education of our junior students. Vale to these good and faithful servants of the College.

We also farewell:

• Brendan Douglas after 16 years including 8 as Director of Identity (Mission). Brendan will take up a role as Assistant Principal at Salesian College Chadstone.
• Jeff Mifsud leaves after 16 years for a role in student support at Santa Maria College Northcote.
• Michael McIntyre formally departs after 10 years to take up a new challenge overseas.
• Jane Fleming departs after 9 years to take up the role of Head of Art at Avila College Mt Waverley.
• Dan Salmon moves closer to home after 8 years having accepted a teaching role at St Joseph’s College Geelong.

Paul Dodson will also take leave during 2015 and we wish him well.
Thank you to Siovhon Brister, Suzie Caminiti and Jo Wilkinson who have had replacement roles this year. We wish them well and hope that we may see them again in similar roles in the future.

At this time each year we also farewell our gap year students. Thanks to Darcy Nolan, Ben Kelly, Michael Marinelli, Johnny Nguyen, Isabella Romanin and Pat Kirley. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

This week, having commenced the season of Advent I hope that your family has the opportunity to take time out from the busyness of the day to day and focus on preparing for the real meaning of Christmas, the presence of our God with us in our world. Thank you for the privilege of working with your sons again this year and I wish you the peace and joy of the Christ child this Christmas. Please have a safe and restful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all at the start of the 2015 school year.

Best Wishes
Tony Paatsch

From the Clairvaux Campus Director

Awards Evening
Next week we will celebrate the academic achievements of our Year 7 - 10 students at our 2014 Awards evening. The Year 7 & 8 Awards night will be held in the Gymnasium at 7.30pm on Wednesday December 10. The Year 9 & 10 Awards evening will be held in the Gymnasium at 7.30pm on Thursday December 11. Invitations for the night will be sent out to families shortly.

Please note that the names of all award recipients in Years 7 -10 will be placed on the College website on December 5. Please ensure that you check the website on this day. If you are unable to attend the award ceremony please contact reception on 92891105.

Paul Shannon, Deputy Principal – Clairvaux

From The Strand Campus Director

Advent
On Sunday we began 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 the many gifts for St Vincent de Paul to distribute to families in need this Christmas. Thank you to Miss Lisa Grass for coordinating this project.

Final week of school
There is a tendency for attendance to be poor on our final few days of school. The final days are dedicated to liturgy; Year 9 Melbourne Experience; our house swimming carnival; and campus and year level assemblies to recognise the fine achievements by our students. The swimming carnival is not only for those who can swim but a fun day that involves games, novelty events as well as the traditional swimming events.

Our final day of Year 7 – 9 classes will be this Friday. The boys will be dismissed at 12.40pm and the normal buses have been arranged for that time. The canteen will not be open at recess on the final day. I ask that families support these events and ensure that we have full attendance to the final bell. Thank you in anticipation.

The Strand Student Leaders for 2015
It is with great pleasure that I announce that the following appointments have been made as a result of student and staff elections. Congratulations to: Robert Valvo (The Strand Captain), Christian Inglese (Academic), Harry Catterall (Arts), Damian Watson (Ministry) and Tom Pound (Sport). I look forward to working closely with these fine young men in 2015 and I would like to thank our College Student Leadership Coordinator, Mr Michael Torpey for his organisation of the election process.

Year 7 Orientation Day
Last Friday our 2015 Year 7’s enjoyed their first day at the College on what is known as ‘Orientation day’. It was an exciting day for all involved, including the parents. The transition process from Year 6 to Year 7 can often be a stressful one for student and parent and is actually considered a major ‘change’ event in an individual’s life. I would like to draw your attention to the Year 7 St Bernard’s College Weebly (http://year7sbc.weebly.com/). I encourage all new parents to view the resources that this page contains in preparation for 2015.

2015
This is our last Newsletter for the year. Classes start for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Thursday, 29 January (Day 9) and for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday, 30 January (Day 10). We would like to wish all families a very joyous and holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Damian McKee, Deputy Principal – The Strand
**Booklists**

Booklists have been issued and distributed to students in all year levels. If any student has lost, misplaced or not been issued with a booklist they are asked to collect one from the Front Office at the College. A reminder that Booklist order forms are due in by **COB TODAY** Wednesday 3 December.

*Campion Education Booksell Day - Tuesday 27 January 2015 – REMINDER for non collected parcels*

1. If you have prepaid your order and cannot collect it on the sell day please arrange for a family member/friend etc., to collect on your behalf. Any prepaid parcels returned to Campion may be charged an additional $5.95 by Campion on collection from the Retail store.
2. If you have not prepaid your order and do not collect it from the sell day, this parcel will not be available for collection as it will be returned to stock.

John Nocci, Registrar

**St Bernard’s Social Justice Network**

A sincere thank you to all for the donations for the St Vinnies Soup Van Food Drive! It was pleasing to see that so many people had donated! *(pictured)* Hopefully next year we can do twice as well!

What a lovely Xmas present for the Soup Van.

Brendan Douglas *(on behalf of the SBJN)*

**Music News**

As the academic year concludes, the music staff not only continue to work on reports, but deal with an influx of musical instruments being returned for inventory and maintenance. To assist in this process, we ask all students who are still in possession of a school-owned musical instrument to return it immediately.

In regards to instruments, the school has a number of musical instruments for sale, namely flutes, clarinets, trumpets, alto saxophones and tenor saxophones. These instruments are still in great working order. I encourage those interested in purchasing an instrument to email me.

One of the final events on our school calendar is the Year 7 concert for 7E,F,G and J. This was held on Thursday night, November 27. We are aware of a significant number of students who have been inspired by what they have achieved in the compulsory program and are considering enrolling in further music lessons in 2015. It would be appreciated if all applications are received ASAP to facilitate instrumental staffing for next year.

Thank you to all who supported our music program over 2014.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

**Immunisation Program 2015 - Three big changes to the vaccine program**

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Moonee Valley City Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact St Bernard’s College on 9 289 1000 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Moonee Valley City Council.

2. In 2015 only the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

**Classic Italy Tour – January 2015**

For any adult who is interested in touring Italy, a Classic 16-day Italy Tour is being organised during the summer vacation. Dates for the Tour are: start in Venice, 2/01/15 – end in Rome 17/01/15. For further information, please contact Prof. Spiller via email at the College.

Bruno Spiller, Senior Italian Teacher
Echoes from the Archives
On Friday 12th July 1963, a fierce wind accompanied by lashing rain, thunder and lighting, lifted the roof from the corridor outside the Form 3 (Year 9) classroom at Moonee Ponds. Luckily, the five pupils inside the adjoining rooms were unharmed.

From ‘To Learn and to Do’, A History of St Bernard’s College 1940-1990 by Paul Rule
Maureen Kavanagh, Archivist

Uniform Shop
Please note the College Uniform Shop will be open from 10am - 4pm on January 27 - 30
Renee Buhagiar, Uniform Shop

AFL Umpiring Academy
The AFL umpiring academy will run again in 2015. The academy will take place at the College after school, once a week from March until June. Students should keep an eye on the bulletin for more information.

Australian Volleyball Schools Cup, December 7th - December 12th
Best wishes and good luck to those representing St. Bernard’s at the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup:
Open team: Mitchell O’Dea, Josh Stipic, Ben Hedley, Jameson Trainor, Ryan Lofaro, Mackenzie Biffin, Luke Fletcher, Aaron Laurita, Michael Smith, Tanner Hewett and Sam Finlayson,
U17’s: Noah Biffin, Matthew Arena, Mackenzie Lowe, Callum Trainor, Elijah Rasic, Sean Quinn and Angus Swan,
U16’s: Henry Fleming, Jack Fuhrer, William Ronis, Harry Goghill, Nic Palomares, Andrew Sernio, Tom Vukovic, Alex Galle, Karl Fletcher, Daniel Raso, Cameron Jones, Alex Bellistri, Tom McAllister, Chris Barbaro, Darcy Hewat and Patrick Foley
U15’s: Corey O’Dea, Marcus Giurdanella, Dom Palamara, Declan Basil, Marcus Griffiths, Matthew Evans and Dillon Considine
U14’s: Marcus Arena, Alex Bye, Thomas Xuereb, Ethan Driscoll, Nicholas McKenzie, Jeremy O’Sullivan, Darcy Knights, Jacob Zieba, Anthony Stipic, Matthew Pennuto, Shannon Hughes, Aaron Taranto, Jeremy Tocic, Joel Treutlein and Jacob McDonald.
Also to the coaches that will be supporting the boys during the tournament: Patrick Kirley, Nick Arena, Zach Bye, Anthony Williams, Adam DeBono, William Fleming and Aidan Pollock.
It will be a week of early mornings and late nights, many thanks to the parents that will be transporting and supervising the teams!
Danielle Fletcher, Old Collegians Volleyball Club President
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