During the last two weeks I had the privilege of attending the EREA Principals’ conference and the Victorian Catholic Secondary Principals’ conference. A recurring theme in both was the feeling of freedom and change that is sweeping our Church under the leadership of Pope Francis.

I had the chance to reflect on the fact that the strong social justice commitment evident at St Bernard’s is completely faithful to Pope Francis’ statement that the Church is a church of the poor. The financial component of our commitment supports education and individual students in Kenya and provides dignity and hope for them. The collection of over $80,000 on Edmund Rice Day is a remarkable example of our commitment to social justice and I congratulate all those involved.

The College also has a strong commitment to challenging and eliminating homophobia as part of our wider commitment to eliminate all forms of bullying and harassment. Again, Pope Francis has affirmed this emphasis. In response to questions regarding Church teaching on homosexuality Francis replied; “A gay person who is seeking God, who is of good will -- well, who am I to judge him”. While these remarks do not change Church teaching they remind us that is never acceptable to marginalise or discriminate against anyone on any basis and that we must treat all people with respect. The words are an echo of the Gospel exhortation “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:7).

I am pleased to report that the annual peer relations survey completed by all students confirms our progress toward eliminating all types of bullying and harassment at the College. Particularly notable was a reduction from 19% to 5% of sending hurtful remarks via electronic devices and 43% to 19% of hearing the word ‘gay’ in a negative way. Staff have also been undertaking professional learning regarding our obligations to each other and all members of the College community. EREA have produced a Code of Conduct that applies to all members of the community. A copy of the code is available on the parent portal.

In June this year we had planned to have our third student immersion group travel to Kenya to work in the Br Beausang School. After much thought and discussion we have reluctantly taken the decision to cancel the trip for this year due to safety concerns generated by terrorist attacks in Nairobi and Mombassa. Withdrawing our physical presence from Kenya unfortunately is one of the outcomes sought by the terrorists as a means of putting pressure on the Kenyan government but the safety of our students and staff is paramount.

We have planned an alternative experience for those boys who had committed to Kenya. Masin in the Philippines has an established community of Christian Brothers with a strong connection to Australia. The community runs the Edmund Rice Services organisation in the region providing a range of services including education to a very poor community. We are confident that this will offer boys an opportunity to be involved first hand in working for a church of the poor in a safer region of the developing world.

In recent weeks College staff and a selection of students have completed the Enhancing Catholic School Identity survey. The survey link has been sent to all families and I encourage all parents to try to find time to complete it. Your feedback will help us to target curriculum and programs to ensure that we remain an authentic Catholic school.

Fr Tony Kerin has been our Chaplain for the last 11 years during which time he has also been the Parish Priest of St Martin de Porres, Avondale Heights. Fr Tony has taken up a new role in the Parish of St Francis Xavier in Box Hill. Fr Tony has been a wonderful Chaplain and we wish him well in his new parish. During the Edmund Rice Day Mass, College Captain Jack Stephens presented Father with a plaque recognising his service to the College. At the Grandparents day Mass the following week we welcomed our new Chaplains Fr Nhan Le (pronounced Nyoung) and Deacon Prakash Menezes. We assure the both of them a warm welcome as they become part of our College community.

As we approach the middle of the school year the academic demands on students, particularly those at the senior end of the school increase. At this time there is generally an increase in requests for teachers to provide feedback to boys. Often this is through submitting work by email accompanied by polite requests for rapid feedback. Our teachers are absolutely committed to providing such feedback and will do so as soon as possible. Please remind boys to allow adequate time for teachers to correct and respond. It is not reasonable to expect feedback in first period on an essay emailed late the previous evening.

Best wishes
Tony Paatsch

Please remember in your prayers
Lorenzo Valvo, father of Adrian 11D and Robert 8J

May He Rest in Peace

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

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

Year 10 Examinations
Semester one exams for all Year 10 students will be held from: Friday June 13 through to Thursday June 19.

The timetable for the Year 10 exams has been e-mailed to students and is available from the Year 10 notice board. Most Year 10 Exams will be held in the Gym and will commence with 15 minutes reading time. Please note carefully the dates and times, as misreading the timetable is not accepted as an excuse for missing an exam.

All students must attend their scheduled exams in their full school uniform and arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to their exam. From June 13 to June 19, there are no scheduled classes for Year 10 students, so students are expected at school only for their timetabled exams. Friday June 20 is a report-writing day for staff and therefore no classes for students.

Ms Rita Krouskos & Mr Brendan Tollit should have already been notified of any exam clashes.

Work Experience

Work Experience for all Year 10 students commences on Monday June 23 and concludes on Friday June 27. Work placements should already be organized. Please see our Careers Practitioner, Mr David Rosel, immediately if you have not organized a placement.

Semester 2 Classes For Year 10
Semester 2 subjects will officially start on Monday July 14, after the school holiday period.

Year 11 Examinations
Semester one exams for all Year 11 students will be held from: Tuesday June 10 through to Tuesday June 17.

The timetable for the Year 11 exams has been e-mailed to students and is available from the Year 11 notice board. Most Year 11 Exams will be held in the Gym and will commence with 15 minutes reading time. Please note carefully the dates and times, as misreading the timetable is not accepted as an excuse for missing an exam.

All students must attend their scheduled exams in their full school uniform and arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to their exam. From June 10 to June 17, there are no scheduled classes for Year 11 students, so students are expected at school only for their timetabled exams.

Mr Shaun Lancashire & Mr Nick Smith have exam clash forms if required.

Semester 2 Classes
VCE Unit 2 subjects will officially start on Wednesday June 18. Friday June 20 is a report-writing day for staff and therefore no classes for students.

YEAR 12 SACs
Semester one SACs for all Year 12 students will be held from: Tuesday June 10 through to Friday June 13.

The timetable for the Year 12 SACs has been made accessible to students and is available from the Year 12 notice board. Most Year 12 SACs will be held in the Gym and will commence with 15 minutes reading time. Please note carefully the dates and times, as misreading the timetable is not accepted as an excuse for missing a SAC.

All students must attend their scheduled SACs in their full school uniform and arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to their assessment. From June 10 to June 13, there are no scheduled classes for Year 12 students, so students are expected at school only for their timetabled SACs.

Mr Michael Torpey & Ms Melinda Sachanandani should have already been notified of any SAC clashes.

GAT
The GAT for all students undertaking a Unit 3 & 4 subject will be held on Wednesday June 11, commencing at 10.00am in the College Gym. Please arrive by 9.00am and report to the assembly area outside the gym.

Semester 2 Classes
VCE Unit 4 subjects will officially start on Monday June 16. Friday June 20 is a report-writing day for staff and therefore no classes for students.

Edmund Rice Pathways
The Edmund Rice Pathways students will be on extended work placement during the exam period. Please ensure that correct documentation has been signed and completed prior to entering a work-site. Please see our Careers Practitioner, Mr David Rosel, immediately if you have not organized a placement.

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

SBC Book Club
Come along and join the SBC Book Club, held every second Wednesday in the reading room. Our next meeting is Wednesday 11 June at 12.50pm and our next book is The last thirteen by James Phelan (who was the writer in residence at Writer Camp in March). Come and see Ms Dervan or Ms Gale so we can make sure you get a copy ASAP.

Library Staff
Music News

Last newsletter it was mentioned that Students from the St Bernard’s College Showband and Shazam vocal quartet represented St Bernard’s College at the Generations in Jazz festival in Mount Gambier. We are pleased to report that it has since been confirmed that two of our musicians were selected by the adjudicators in a honorary Team of The Year, known as Superband. Well done to Cody Brasher and Anthony Scott on this achievement. This placed these two students in the top 2 percent out of some 1000 participating students nationally.

The Semester 1 College Concert was held on Tuesday May 27th in the College Auditorium and showcased all the large ensembles of the College and many ensembles and choirs from St Columba’s College. The smooth-running event concluded with combined performances from our respective band students. We thank the students and staff of St Columba’s College for making this event possible. As mentioned on the evening, our concerts are now professionally photographed. Photos taken by Red Book Photography are available for viewing and may be purchased online. A letter will be issued to our music students shortly with the appropriate login information.

Our semester 1 soiree will be held on Thursday June 5 at 7:30pm. This concert is an opportunity for any music student to perform in the College Auditorium, either as a soloist or in a small ensemble/group. This opportunity is for any student who may sing or play an instrument, not just those who have lessons at school. Students may register their interest to reserve a performance spot on the night by going to http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/soiree-registration.html Registrations are due by Friday May 30.

The Friends of Music met recently and have considered some fundraising options to help raise subsidy towards a proposed music tour to Canberra in 2015. In aid of this, the Friends of Music continue to seek donations suitable as small raffle prizes for this year’s concerts. Those willing to assist are asked to contact Mr Arthur Busuttil at archiebus@optusnet.com.au

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Save the Date(s)

St Bernard’s College Foundation Sports Night - Wednesday July 23 - One of two Foundation yearly hallmark events the Sports Night is always a great source of entertainment and knowledge. Come along and enjoy a 2 course meal whilst listening to Dr Peter Larkins talk about drugs in sport. Look out for further details in the coming weeks on the College website and s newsletter.

College Musical “Shout: The Legend of the Wild One” - July 31, August 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9

“She’s My Baby”, “So Tough”, “Sing, Sing, Sing” – just some of the gems that the world has been blessed with from mind of the original ‘Wild One’, Johnny O’Keefe. This year, the creative talents of St. Bernard’s and St. Columba’s join together once more to present “Shout: The Legend of the Wild One.” Performing over seven nights in the St Bernard’s auditorium and told through a flurry of vibrant colours, memorable tunes and iconic Aussie characters, “Shout” is a show for us who remember the music, as well as those who will undoubtedly one day discover it for themselves. Stay tuned for ticketing information!

Echoes from the Archives

Although the college commenced in 1940 no formal recording of yearly events were recorded until 1955 when the first Clairvaux magazine was produced............

Editorial by Barry Rule

This year, 1955 is a year of special significance for St. Bernard’s College. Through the tireless efforts of all our past pupils and benefactors, we have a Matriculation class at the college this year, and our pupils are able to finish their secondary education without having to travel to St Kevin’s, Toorak.

To mark this, our special year, the boys of the senior classes, under the auspices of the Brothers and the teaching staff, have come together as a group to produce a term magazine and annual report. It is the earnest desire of the editing staff that the magazine will be an incentive to you, the pupils, and encourage you to always strive to uphold the name and fame of our college. We hope that future generations will be able to keep and cherish these summaries of our school’s activities and achievements in all fields, and be able to say with pride that they attended St. Bernard’s College, Essendon.

Our College is named after the great French saint who founded his monastery at Clairvaux. What better choice for the name of the school magazine than the name of the spiritual centre from which our patron and his monks spread their influence over the world in the days now long since passed?

Clairvaux, Vol.1 No.1, 1955 (Published in each of the 3 terms in A5 format of about 30 pages)

Maureen Kavanagh, Archivist

R (Relationship) Day - CatholicCare Marriage Enrichment Program, Saturday 14 June

Relax, Renew, Recall, Romance, Revisit, Revitalize, Rejuvenate and Rejoice! This one day workshop for couples is based on the 7 Principles of a Sound Relationship House developed by relationship expert Dr John Gottman. During the workshop you will explore ideas for deepening connection, friendship and intimacy in your relationship. Educators from CatholicCare’s Marriage and Relationship Education Team will run the workshop.

Contact: 92875516 or email relationships@ccam.org.au

Mary Brown, Relationships Matter! and FOCCUS Australia Coordinator, CatholicCare

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 Australia
Kids View Conference

The Eddie and Bernie social justice group hosted the Kids View Conference on May the 9th for raising awareness about poverty in the Philippines. The organisation Bahay Tuluyan presented insights into the issues and realities that are faced by many today. Focusing on the global issue of poverty, we did some activities in groups of people from other schools and through these activities learnt a bit more about the hardships people in poverty suffer. With what we learnt on the day, we wish to go forward and raise awareness in our own school about poverty around the world.

Sarah Brens

Where Will You Sleep Tonight?

Homelessness Is Not ‘ROOFLESSNESS.’

A number of students from the ‘Eddie and Bernie’ social justice group recently attended a conference at Amberley where many aspects of homelessness were discussed. Our eyes were opened wide by the sheer ferocity of the information presented. Our minds gave way to new possibilities of an age where homelessness is no more. Our souls resonated with the life stories of those denied a safe and secure home. By the day’s conclusion we were fully aware of the true hardships the homeless experience during their day-to-day lives.

Homelessness As A Whole

Homelessness was categorised by the following, inadequate dwelling, lack of freedom, security, privacy, insufficient tenure (lack of a good home contract-rent, lease, bills etc.)

There is no one cause for homelessness. Instead, there are a variety of reasons to why a person enters into homelessness such as housing, financial hardship, family violence, mental health issues, substance abuse and the lack of services such as a foster family or an orphanage.

Current forms of aid for the homeless involve crisis accommodation, family violence refuges, food aid, case management and short-term financial assistance.

Ways to further improve the conditions of the homeless include building more affordable social housing, increase income support and social assistance as well as support services that can provide for people’s needs.

It is not enough, however, to just give to those in need. We must also find out why they are in their current situation and empathise with them on a personal level. We must learn who they are, what they stand for, their needs, their desires.

Here are some facts:

- 90,000 people experience homelessness in Australia each night
- 22,000 ages 12 to 18
- 12,000 of these people are under twelve
- 58% of Australian people are under 35
- 42% of these people are women.

Victoria

- Since 2006 homelessness has increased by 8%
- Currently 22,789 approximately are homeless in Vic
- Of the homeless 4% are Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders and yet they only make up 0.5% of Victoria’s population.

Of the homeless:

- 7,845 are in homeless supported accommodation
- 6,091 live in overcrowded houses
- 3,329 staying in temporary households
- 4,397 live in boarding houses.
- 1,092 are sleeping rough
- 90 receive other forms of lodging

Homelessness Can Affect Anyone

They are just the same as us, they are still people but with different circumstances and fortune. The only way to truly understand their plight is to learn their life stories and experience their situation-get your hands dirty and help. There is no need to push others away to get ahead in life.

How We Can Make A Difference

- Vinnies Christmas appeal
- Christian Service
- Winter Sleepout
- St Albans Tutoring
- St Vincent De Paul Soup van
- Fundraising in forms such as walkathons, benefit concerts, bake sales etc
- Aged Care Facility Visits i.e. spend time with them

We are all God’s people, created in his image as equals. Make a difference. Spread love and fun to all. Volunteering soothes the soul. So go out there and make the difference.

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of you, you did for me” Matthew 25:40

Lisa Grass with the Eddie and Bernie Team
CAREERS NEWS JUNE 2014

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

VU - VU has an outstanding reputation in sport, exercise and active living. It has the largest number of sport related courses in Australia and is the only university to have a dedicated College of Sport and Exercise Science. Courses cover exercise science and human movement, physical education, sport management, sport law, sports engineering, and osteopathy. The newly established VU Basketball Academy, under the Directorship of Andrew Gaze, enhances sport teaching, research and knowledge exchange. VU Partnerships provide excellent opportunities for students to learn from professionals.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JOINING THE DEFENCE FORCES – Defence Force Recruiting holds regular information sessions on a number of topics. Coming up soon are:

- One Year Roles and the ADF GAP Year: 5.30pm for 6-7pm session, Wed 4 June
- Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA in Canberra) – 6-7.30pm, Wed 11 June
- Army Officer (Royal Military College in Duntroon) – 5.30pm for 6-7pm session, Wed 18 June.

All session are at Level 14, 501 Swanston St, Melbourne; Bookings: CPTVIC@dfr.com.au.

Students in Years 10-12 and their families are welcome to attend.

ASPIRE – THE NEW LA TROBE UNIVERSITY EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM – La Trobe has a new initiative for school leavers for entry to the university in 2015. The new Aspire Early Admissions Program recognises the positive impact that a student has had on their local community. Community engagement and objective school achievement forms a significant part of the assessment criteria of the Aspire program, not ATAR scores. Students will be able to apply across all La Trobe courses at all campuses, with offers of places being made to successful applicants as early as September. Applications open: 1 July, close: 31 August. Register now for program updates at: Aspire webpage.

David Rosel
Careers Practitioner
9289 1159
drosel@sbc.vic.edu.au
Student Wellbeing Drama Festival 2014

Thursday 12 June, 7pm at The Clocktower Centre
750 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.
Tickets available from the school or the theatre box office - 9243 9191.
St Bernards Old Collegians Football Club

COMEDY NIGHT

FRIDAY 20th JUNE @ 7:30pm

PAVILION BUILDING - GATE 8, HAMPTON RD. ESSENDON

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