From The Principal

This is the final newsletter of Term 3. I hope that all students have had a fulfilling term and that our senior boys are preparing to use the 16 days without classes to accelerate their exam preparation.

The ordination of an Old Collegian is a significant event for a Catholic College and I am delighted to acknowledge and congratulate Fr Joel Peart (Class of 1999), who will be ordained tomorrow Saturday, 12 September at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Joel will be the special guest at our Year 12 final assembly on October 9 and I look forward to having Joel return to his ‘alma mater’ to say Mass at the first possible opportunity.

On wet, cold and dark June, July and August mornings our Cross Country squad gathered at 7:00am and ran off into the dark of the Maribyrnong parklands to prepare for the ACC event. Such commitment deserves our admiration and it is no surprise the squad was victorious, winning the aggregate at the ACC Cross Country Bundoora Park on Wednesday this week.

The performance of the leaders and the under 17 and Open runners was simply outstanding. Congratulations to all runners, head coaches, Gerard Brown and Helen Roberts and staff who assisted with coaching and prepared breakfast on training mornings.

On those same cold, wet dark mornings many of our musicians also gathered and rehearsed before school. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to enjoy them performing at the Spring Concert next Tuesday, 15 September in the Frank Fitzgerald Auditorium.

At the end of this term there are a significant number of changes to our staffing. Donna Bourke, Peter Kelly, Bruno Spiller and David Sutton will take Long Service Leave for the duration of Term Four. Katherine Klavins and Rita Oakley take maternity leave and will soon join Isabella Easton, Amy Crawford and Chanette Glynn taking time to care for new arrivals.

Lisa Grass is not taking leave but will be working at the Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre in Embulbul, Kenya during Term Four. Lisa is a member of our Identity Team, is passionate about social justice and will work assisting the teachers at Beausang in their professional development.

It is important that the commitment of the St Bernard’s community to the Beausang community remains a relational one and is never simply about donating some of our discretionary spending money. We have not been able to send student groups to visit Beausang since 2013 and I am delighted that Lisa has agreed to be the face of St Bernard’s to our friends in Embulbul next term.

We were saddened recently by the death of long serving teacher Noel Bell. Noel was on staff for 34 years. He loved the College and in turn was admired and respected by students and his teaching colleagues. We acknowledge Noel’s contribution to the College and pray for the repose of his soul and comfort his wife Rosy and sons Wayne and Adrian.

The Victorian Government has confirmed that the day before the AFL Grand Final will become a public holiday in Victoria beginning this year. As a result the College office will be closed on Friday, 2 October. VCE trial exams scheduled for that day will continue as scheduled however the Library will not open on that day.

Tony Paatsch
Principal
YEAR 12: The Year 12 students of 2015 have thus far conducted themselves well and have been, by and large, positive role models within the College this year. Some of the students have confronted personal difficulties as the year has gone on, and have dealt with these in a most mature and responsible fashion, winning the admiration of their peers and staff alike. Many students have made significant strides in their learning and have perhaps even surprised themselves at what they have achieved. The students in both VCAL, Edmund Rice and VCE classes have forged some very good working relationships with their teachers, allowing mutual respect to develop and flourish. We think that many students have found great support from their teachers, and staff have thoroughly enjoyed watching your son grow in confidence and ability.

Over the coming weeks, for those families with students preparing for VCE exams, it is important to ensure that your son is getting enough sleep each night, eating well, and managing his study time at home during the week and weekend effectively. He should be spending some time each night this term in revision, ensuring that he has all his notes prepared well before the end of this term for each subject, so that he is really ready for serious revision in Term 4. This may well mean increasing his three hours study per night during the week, with an equivalent increase in time over the weekend.

It is equally important, during the study time at home prior to, and during, the exam period that your son sticks to his routine. We would recommend that he continues to get up at the usual time each day, and then organises his day according to the school bell times, so that he can get in at least three study sessions of 100 minutes each day, as well as some additional time in the late afternoon, early evening. We would also recommend that he goes to bed at the usual time and has at least eight hours sleep each night.

Practice Examinations in all VCE subjects will be held in the second week of the coming Term 3 break, from Monday, 28 September to Friday, 2 October. It is compulsory for all VCE students to attend those exams. A detailed examination timetable has been forwarded to your son. Students do not need to wear their College uniform to these exams.

For VCAL and Edmund Rice students and their families, ensuring that all coursework is completed and has been handed in is the primary focus and concern over these next few weeks. It is also imperative that students have organized extended work placements for Term 4.

Paul Shannon
Deputy Principal – Clairvaux

From the Deputy Principal – The Strand

Term 4:
Term 4 begins on Monday, 5 October. This is a Day 6 of our ten-day timetable cycle. Families are reminded that from the first day of Term 4 all students are expected to wear their summer uniform. During Term 1 and 4 of each year students are not permitted to wear their winter uniform.

Please assist staff to ensure that your son is well presented on entering the school property in the morning. For Terms 2 and 3 each student is expected to be wearing his blazer to and from school. We ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son is neatly presented for the beginning of each day.

Damian McKee
Deputy Principal – The Strand
Year 7-11 Parent Student Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Student Interviews will be taking place on Wednesday, 16 September in the College gym between 2:00pm – 8:00pm. Students will be dismissed from class at 12:40pm with normal after school bus schedule running.

Craig Osborne
Director of Organisation

Parents and Friends:

The next Parents and Friends Association meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 September at 7.30pm in the College Board Room.

The ‘Parents and Friends’ provides a forum for parents to meet, discuss and be informed on a wide range of matters related to the College. The Deputy Principal (Mr Damian McKee) attends and provides a report on current issues.

Attendance at the meetings offers a good insight into College life, provides a venue for parent input, and is one way in which the parents’ voluntary time contribution to the College can be met.

Amongst other things at the September meeting the opportunity will be taken to canvass ideas for future ‘Parents and Friends’ activities into 2016.

Peter Scully
President

Music News

The annual Spring Concert will be held on Tuesday, 15 September. All intermediate and senior ensembles of the College will be performing, including the SYNC vocal ensemble. This concert is usually the last opportunity for Year 12 students to perform and is always a very special event – 7:30pm in the College Auditorium.

A reminder to students undertaking private music lessons that they should be participating in at least one of the College’s bands or ensembles as a vital aspect of their musical development. Those not participating in this way or are unsure of which group to join, are encouraged to email one of the music staff to further discuss their enhanced involvement.

Any student in a position to cease private music lessons at the end of this year are reminded that this would need to be done by a parent with the Music Department website at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/lesson-cancellation.html. Any and all notification of ceasing lessons at the end of the year are asked to be submitted by Friday, 6 November 2015.

Further to private music lessons, St Bernard’s College will undertake internal instrumental music examinations for most instrumental music students from Years 8 to 10. This is an exciting addition to our instrumental lessons program, which promotes a unified standard of achievement for all instrumental music students regardless of instrument and instrumental tutor/teacher. These examinations are scheduled to be held on Monday and Tuesday, 19 October and 20. Students involved are encouraged to prepare sufficiently for this.

Music Bursaries: Music bursaries are now open for 2015/16. All music students are welcome to apply for one of the 10 music bursaries to the value of $500 each. These bursaries (through written application and scheduled audition) are awarded to 10 students annually who demonstrate a high commitment to their music learning and contribute to the life of the College through music.
Music (continued)

Details can be found at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/music-prizes-and-bursaries.html

Applications are open until the end of Term 3.
Applications can be lodged online at http://sbcmusicdepartment.weebly.com/bursary-application.html.

Carmelo Puglisi
Director of Music

Annual Volunteers Dinner – 28 October, 7:00pm at the College Pavilion

This is an opportunity for the College to say thank you to the many helpers who assist in the canteen, library, reading, uniform shop, sporting groups etc. We hope you can join us.

Carolyn Holland
Canteen Manager

Sad News from Br Beausang Kenya:

We ask families to keep Br Beausang College in your thoughts and prayers during this time. Sadly, a Form 3 student (Year 11) passed away suddenly this week due to illness, whilst another Form 3 student has undergone major surgery.

Lori Carroll
Immersions Co-ordinator

St Vincent’s Winter Appeal and Winter Sleep Out

This year we had a record number of 60 boys brave the cold and sleep outside for the Winter Sleep Out. The boys had the opportunity to speak to Mem, a Soup Van Manager from Father Bob’s Mission as well as Graham Collier who volunteers at many food refuge centres across Melbourne. These speakers really humanized the issue of homelessness for the boys and they were shocked to learn the real stories of homelessness in Melbourne.

The boys were incredibly courageous sleeping outside in brisk, cold conditions and gained an authentic experience of what homelessness feels like. So when the truckloads (literally!) of donations came rolling in the next morning from the St Bernard’s community, they were truly overwhelmed. Again, your donations exceeded all expectations and were a true demonstration of the charism of Edmund Rice living strong in our community. Your donations directly helped those on our local streets. Many thanks for your support.

There are many ways for you to be more involved in these initiatives. If you are a student, keep an eye out in the bulletin for the next Eddie and Bernie meeting. If you are a parent or guardian, join our Social Justice Network. We meet every third Wednesday of the month. For more information please visit the website at SBCSJN.com.

Lisa Grass
Christian Services Co-ordinator