From The Principal

I write this final newsletter of 2015 in the first week of Advent, a time of expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ into the world. Last Saturday the Principals of the 40 EREA schools from around Australia gathered for Mass with Bishop Vincent Long in Richmond. The Gospel, from Luke 21, uses extremely graphic and powerful imagery of the end of the world and is a reminder to each of us to be prepared for the coming of the kingdom of God.

This scripture operates on multiple levels, it is about the second coming of Christ, a reminder to be prepared in the face of our own mortality and a reminder of the importance of seeking the kingdom of God and welcoming God into our own lives. The season of Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for the entry of Christ into our lives and our world. I hope that you and you family have the opportunity to be part of advent in your parishes and enjoy the celebration of the great Christian feast of Christmas.

Around this time each year many secondary schools have a ‘speechnight’ at which academic awards are presented. Rather than a full school traditional ‘speechnight’ we present our senior academic awards in February after the VCE results are known. Our Year 7 and 8 awards and Year 9 and 10 awards are presented at separate functions on Wednesday and Thursday nights next week.

This community values academic excellence and its celebration. An invitation to be presented with an academic award should be seen as a significant honour. Last year a small number of students simply did not attend the awards ceremony. A small number also asked to be excused for what I judged to be ‘flimsy’ reasons. These students’ awards were withheld and not presented, including in one case a substantial financial award. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of all our award winners next week.

At this time each year we farewell staff who have contributed much to the College. This year we farewell and thank long serving teachers Christine McGee and Col Deveraux who retire after over 16 and 15 years respectively at St Bernard’s. We also say goodbye and thank you to long serving staff Tarik Kendjer, Shaun Lancashire and Carmelo Puglisi.

We also thank teachers leaving us after shorter tenure including Taryn Bates, Glen Buchanan, Craig Tyrell, Mairead Johnson, Ryan Leahy, Carmel Peatrie and Alessandra Vono, along with members of our wonderful support staff Catherine Grass, Cameron Evans and Fiona Solomidou. As is customary at this time of year we also thank and farewell our Gap Year Students; Declan Gilbert, Ryan Durrington, Kristian Giglia and Josh Rice.

We also wish those taking leave including Tony Dib and Damian McKee all the best for their time away from St Bernard’s.

As we reach the end of our 75th year there is so much to be grateful for. I would like to sincerely thank all who have made a contribution to the community during this anniversary year. I wish all families a blessed and holy Christmas and a safe and restful holiday break.

God Bless,
Tony Paatsch

Academic Award Ceremonies

The annual academic awards assemblies will be held in the College gym at 7.30 pm on Wednesday December 9 (Years 7 & 8) and Thursday December 10 (Years 9 & 10). This is an important occasion as we celebrate the academic achievements of our students.

A list of award recipients will be posted on the College website on Monday December 7 by 4pm. All families are asked to check the website to ascertain if they are required to attend.

Students are to wear their Summer uniform to the award assembly.

If a student is to receive an award and is unable to attend then it is essential that the College is notified by 9am on December 9 by calling 92891000. Any award recipient who is not in attendance and has not notified the College will not receive their award. Non-attendees who have informed the College will be able to collect their award from the College reception on Monday December 14.

We look forward to celebrating the academic achievements of the boys.

Pauline Thompson, Director of Learning
St Bernard’s Short Story Competition

The SBC Short Story Competition once again attracted many entries in 2015. Students from years 7-11 submitted entries on a range of topics from stray dogs to revolution. Mark Smith, teacher at Santa Monica, adjudicated the competition. Not only is Mark a great educator and role model for the students, earlier this year he was awarded the Griffiths University Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize and has had a number of short stories published.

Once again the SBC Ladies Auxiliary is to be acknowledge for supporting the competition. It has provided a $500 bursary for the winner at each year level. Students also receive a $200 JB Hi-Fi voucher. Runners up also receive a $200 & $100 JB voucher respectively. Congratulations to the following students:

YEAR 7 SBC SSC Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Ajithan Navaneethan (7H)</th>
<th>The Revolutionary End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Luca Cesarini (7B)</td>
<td>The Struggle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Liberty Falvo (7H)</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 8 SBC SSC Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Corey Brock (8B)</th>
<th>Tears</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Connor Lemke (8H)</td>
<td>Lost In Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Patrick Sexton (8H)</td>
<td>Then The Bell Rings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 9 SBC SSC Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Nathan Lloyd (9H)</th>
<th>Empty Tunnels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Anthony Nguyen (9H)</td>
<td>No-One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Hunter Thorpe (9H)</td>
<td>Untitled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 10 SBC SSC Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Henry Fleming</th>
<th>Complicated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tomas Egan (10F)</td>
<td>Software Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ethan Seiderman (10B)</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 11 SBC SSC Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Luke Brock</th>
<th>Survival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Nicholas Hales</td>
<td>Short Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mark DiBartolomeo (11H)</td>
<td>The Wretchedness of Man’s Heart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kate Torpy, Literacy Co-Ordinator

Students and their Environment

On Thursday November 26th, 7E spend their RE lesson actively looking after the environment of the College. Following on from their recent Creation unit, 7E learned how easy it is to dig a hole for a native plant to help beautify the area and return the environment more closely to its more native roots. The weather was not kind at 11am with the class running for protection from lashing rains, however we managed to secure 25 minutes of dry sunny weather to complete the task.

Thanks to Mr Hobson for organising an opportunity for each Year 7 homeroom to help one part of the school grounds. Also, we appreciate the time and patience of Lachlan and Mitch, College groundsmen, who taught the boys how to dig and correctly. And now for the photographic evidence: parents can now rest easy in the knowledge their boys are ready to transform the garden at home.

Siobhan Loukomitis, 7E RE teacher.
Spirit of St Bernard’s Photography Competition

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first ‘Spirit of St Bernard’s Photography Competition’

There were a number of very high-quality photos which showed a range of aspects of life at the College.

The winning photo, by Owen Humphrey (11E), was taken at the ACC athletics carnival. The photo shows Year 12 students teaching Year 7s the chants. The judges felt that this image captured the sense of school pride, enthusiasm and participation that contributes to the life of St Bernard’s. The colours of the photo are reflective of the school colours and the sea of faces in the image is reflective of the many different members of our school. A low-resolution copy of the winning image is included in this email. Congratulations Owen.

In addition to the winning entry, congratulations to the following consolation/encouragement prize winners:

Ash Warren (8F), James Travaglini (11B), Andrew Lai (9), John Rosace (7E), Adam Spiritosanto (10H), Goring Family

Music News

Thursday November 26 saw the final year 7 concert for 2015. It was a terrific showcase of the work done by 7E, F, G and J during the semester. Performances were also presented by the College’s Concert Band and Symphonic Band. A special mention to Liam McWhinney for his brilliant singing and efforts as MC. We congratulate Joel Treutlein, Max Treutlein, Marco Pezzimenti and Nicholas Daniele on receiving Friends of Music Encouragement awards on the night of the Concert. We done to Liam McWhinney and Lachlan Thompson who in recent weeks had been announced as Music Captain and Music Vice Captain for 2016.

The Concert Band concluded their year on December 1 with performances for the students at Resurrection House Primary School and Evocca Learning Centre in Broadmeadows. Their band transition into 2016 has looked promising and we encourage these boys to keep up the good playing.

Private music lessons: Thank you to those who have submitted private music lesson application forms. Those with new applications or continuing on from this year will have lessons commencing in the first full week of 2016.

Musical Instruments: All students who have been in possession of a school owned musical instrument should have returned it by now. Students who are continuing with instrumental music lessons and wish to borrow a musical instrument for the holidays are to email Mrs Puglisi at mpuglisi@sbc.vic.edu.au with the request. It is hoped that loan instruments for the holiday period can be collected from the music department on December 9 and 10.

Friends of Music: Thanks to the Friends of Music for a terrific year of support. Early next year, the Friends of Music will be running a Winery Tour and Luncheon Fundraiser to the Yarra Valley on Sunday March 20. This has become a popular fundraiser over the years and we encourage a diary note now to keep the date free. More information pending next year.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

To the EREA Community

The final edition of the eRicean for 2015 is now available at http://ricean.erea.edu.au/ricean

This edition includes a reflection on Advent and highlights the inaugural EREA Charter Leadership Awards and other key events. There is also our regular roundup of news and events from across the EREA network.

Helen Bird, Personal Assistant to the EREA Executive Director