From The Acting Principal

We had the pleasure of hearing from Professor Jim Nickoloff at our staff professional learning day last Monday. Jim has been teaching at Barry University since 2009. He holds the AB in history from Stanford University; the MDiv from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA; the STL from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA; and the PhD in systematic theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

Jim was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, but lived and worked for extended periods outside the United States, including three years in Andong, Korea, as a Peace Corps Volunteer; two years in Kingston, Jamaica; and two years in Lima, Peru, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation. These experiences profoundly shaped his faith, his theology, and his views of society and politics.

Jim previously taught at Boston College, Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, Santa Clara University in California, the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and the Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia. He is Associate Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, where he taught Catholic systematic theology from 1989 to 2009.

With 30 years experience teaching theology, Jim summarizes his major focus and life trajectory as follows: “The reasons for my choice of work are simple. Teaching is one of the best jobs in the world, as nearly all teachers will tell you, because of the meaningful relationship that can grow between teacher and students. Theology - putting religious experience into words - is ultimately an impossible task but well worth the effort. Theology wrestles with some of the most important questions of human life. And for me, the Catholic theological tradition is like a well from which I drink, quenching my thirst for meaning, inspiration, challenge, and community. Studying and teaching Catholic theology have introduced me to extraordinary people over the years, some living today and some having passed this way long ago.”

To see a recent interview with Jim and his views on liberation theology and the Catholic Church in the modern world please go to [http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/liberation-theology-interview-james-nickoloff](http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/liberation-theology-interview-james-nickoloff)

We are well and truly in the season of Lent. Jim explained to us that our mission is to take the church out into the world. We all can be blinded by prejudices and assumptions. We may jump to conclusions about families, neighbors, or people of different ages, cultures or races. We need to see the face of Christ in every person, and ask ourselves what would surprise us the most to find out about that person, and then act accordingly.

On Monday night, about twelve staff embarked upon tertiary studies in Religious Education. This has been a joint venture between St. Bernard’s, the Australian Catholic University and the Catholic Education Office of Melbourne. We are delighted with the commitment of these teachers that have been sponsored by the College. These staff members are working towards a Masters Degree over the next couple of years.

With the 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner around the corner the College is promoting a special “Early Bird Booking Incentive”

**Early Bird Prize - Win one year's tuition fees!**

Book your tickets to attend the 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner by Friday 10 April 2015 and go into the draw to win one year's tuition fees for your son. To book please click [here](http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/liberation-theology-interview-james-nickoloff)

*The following conditions apply:*

- Person purchasing ticket must be the parent/guardian for a current St Bernard’s student and must be present on the night.
- Prize is for one year’s tuition fees only.
- Bookings must be made via [Trybooking.com](http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/liberation-theology-interview-james-nickoloff) no later than midnight on Friday 10 April, 2015.

**Unit 3&4 Parent/Student/Teacher interviews** will take place this Thursday, March 12. This is an important time to provide formative feedback of Assessment Tasks so far. It is timely to remind students that there is a short amount of time before the first VCE exam. Let’s continue to encourage the boys to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them for extra assistance.

Congratulations to the staff and students involved in our ACC Swimming Team. The team worked extremely hard prior to the event and we were all very proud of their performance on the night.

Best Wishes
Paul Shannon

Please remember in your prayers
Richard Anchen, grandfather of Benjamin 12J and Timothy 9A Cook, Jenny Purdue, mother of Tim Purdue ’06 and Vicki Fireberg, grandmother of Ryan ’14 and Finn 11A Durrington

May They Rest in Peace
From the Deputy Principal – The Strand

As adults we are responsible for teaching our children how to resolve conflicts in life. Restorative methods in schools seek to address problems by working with students rather than doing things to them or for them. At St Bernard’s we strive to be a restorative school with a consistent whole school approach to the overall student wellbeing of the individual. This takes time, and at the same time it takes a lot of reflection and learning. This week a group of leaders within the College undertook further training in restorative practice.

Restorative practices in schools can be seen as both an upstream and downstream approach to student wellbeing. It can act as a solver of problems after the event, as well as a learning tool that actively enables our students to better communicate and resolve issues before they arise.

We live in an age of constant change, ever increasing stressors, and a period of history where we are experiencing a disintegration of support networks. Our once effective caveman ‘fight or flight’ response is no longer an adequate or socially acceptable response to deal with modern day relationship conflicts.

It is our hope that we will continue to work with parents to ensure that restorative practice techniques we can be passed on to our boys as an essential life skill that will make our society a better place to live.

Communication

At St Bernard’s we have made the decision to base our communication around electronic methods rather than the postal line of communication. We feel that this is the fastest and most effective means of communication.

Over the last week we have been made aware that some families have missed out on vital information that was sent via email. Tests conducted to our system indicate that as long as the email address is correct in the parent portal there is no reason why this email does not make it to the destination. Please make sure that you check your junk mail folders just in case emails may have been delivered there.

I would be happy to receive any feedback regarding our communication methods so that we can continue to improve in this area.

Parents and Friends Association

The next Parents and Friends Association meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 March at 7.30pm in the boardroom. The ‘Parents and Friends’ is a forum for parents to meet, discuss and be informed of 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 gives a good insight into College life, provides an opportunity for parent input, and is one way in which the parents’ voluntary time contribution to the College can be met.

Amongst other things the meeting will be assessing the applications received from different departments at the school for ‘small grants funding’ for 2015. All are welcome - Mr Peter Scully, President

Year 8 Camp Dates (Remaining)

- 8E – Tuesday, 11 March & Wednesday, 12 March
- 8F – Monday, 17 March & Tuesday, 18 March
- 8G – Tuesday, 18 March & Wednesday, 19 March
- 8H – Monday, 24 March & Tuesday, 25 March
- 8J – Tuesday, 25 March & Wednesday, 26 March

Information on the camp can be found at: [http://year8sbc.weebly.com/santa-monica-overnight-camps.html](http://year8sbc.weebly.com/santa-monica-overnight-camps.html)

The Strand Athletics Carnival

Yesterday, all Year 7 – 9 students participated in our annual house based Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to Mr Craig Osborne on the success of the day. It was great to see a vibrant house spirit that is continuing to grow with the boys. Results of the carnival will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

Parentline

Parentline is a telephone counselling, information and referral service available to all Victorian parents and carers who have children up to the age of 18. Parentline counsellors receive calls in relation to many parenting issues including managing family relationships, adolescent behaviour, sleep difficulties, tantrums, school refusal and bullying. Parentline is a confidential and anonymous service available to all families in Victoria. The phone number is 1300 30 1300 or access the website [www.parentline.com.au](http://www.parentline.com.au)

Dates to Remember

- Friday, 27 March – Final day of term. Classes finish at the normal time.
- Monday, 13 April – First student day of Term 2
Read, Read, Read
Bruce McAvaney, Tim Lane and Les Carlyon. Gerard Whateley cited these as the three major influences on his career when addressing Not So Secret Men’s Business, an evening of books, boys and stories. He shared his passion for sport, sports stories and reading with fathers and sons in the St Bernard’s Community under the banner of literacy, for which he stated he was “humbled”.

Gerard covered a range of topics in his address. The stories of Black Caviar, Gideon Haigh’s prose admiring the skill of Shane Warne, that “baked bean eating, super model dating cricketer” and what its really like to share the set of AFL 360 with Mark ‘Robbo’ Robinson; his range was broad and manner engaging.

Gerard highlighted his passion for words and an interest in collecting sentences and well-written phrases as enhancing his own commentary and writing skill. The overall message Gerard conveyed to young and aspiring writers was, in the words of ABC journalist Mark Colvin, to “read, read, read”.

BUILDING READING RELATIONSHIPS
- Spend quality time reading together
- Read about shared interests
- Read different types of books
- Have fun & laugh
- Use technology to engage


Kate Torpy, Literacy Coordinator

Unit 3&4 Parent/Student Teacher Interviews
The first Unit 3&4/VCAL Parent Information Evening is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12th March in the Year 12 Building (Building 7) beginning at 3:00 pm. This will provide an initial check on the progress of our senior students and offers an opportunity for early intervention if required. At this stage of the Term it is necessary for students to realise that the ‘settling in’ period is over and that the ‘hard work’ in class and at home should have begun.

Paul Shannon, Deputy Director - Clairvaux

Year 10 2016, acceleration in a VCE Unit 1 & 2 subject.
Many students will seek to accelerate into a VCE Unit 1 & 2 subject as a Year 10 student for 2016. The college has policies and procedures in place to support students in this process. Each application for acceleration requires approval from the class teacher, Key Learning Area Co ordinator before being checked by the Director of Learning. Please note that in order to accelerate, students should be achieving at a B+ average across all their subjects. We will be looking at a students’ semester one report to provide this information.

The Acceleration Policy is available on the “policy” section of the College website. Please contact the College if you need further clarification.

Pauline Thompson, Director of Learning

Immunisation Program
Students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 have received their Immunisation letter and cards to be completed and returned to their homeroom teacher by the dates indicated on the letter. It is important for all families to complete and return these cards even if your son has received his immunisations outside of school or will not be receiving his Immunisations. If your son has misplaced any cards spares can be found at the College Reception. If you have any further enquiries please contact Moonee Valley City Council on 9243 9189.

Craig Osborne, Director of Organisation

Uniform Shop News
Recycled Uniform Sale - The recycled uniform sale will take place on Tuesday 10th March from 3pm – 6pm in the College Boardroom.

Renee Buhagiar, Uniform Shop
Call for Donations

Bahay Tuluyan is a non government organization that provides a variety of programs and services aimed at preventing and responding to the abuse and exploitation of children in the Philippines. They are a children’s right organisation working towards building a socially just world through education, advocacy, volunteering and sustainable development programs.

Currently they are in the process of collecting needed items for children in the areas of Manila, Laguna and Quezon, Philippines. Specifically they are after good quality black school shoes, good quality runners, and towels. If you have any of these items at home and would like to donate to this worthy organisation- please place items at the SBC office before 27th March (end of Term 1).

Lori Carroll, Immersions Coordinator

Music News

The first Friends of Music meeting was held this week and it was marvellous to have so many new supporters attend. As part of the meeting, the term ‘value adding’ was used at one point by a parent in attendance. We do not often consider the notion of the ‘product’ in education, but it was both appropriate and commendable that our music program at SBC would be considered to adding value to the education offered at St Bernard’s. It is worth students to consider the activities and opportunities that ‘value add’ to their education at no extra cost.

All budding guitarist are welcome to join the Guitar Ensemble. The Guitar Ensemble rehearses every Tuesday after school until 4pm. Also, our inclusive vocal groups have started rehearsing, with SYNC (for Years 7 – 8) on Tuesdays and Shout! (Years 9 –12) on Thursdays after school until 4pm. These vocal groups, coordinated by Mr Stewart, are a way of students engaging in the music program who do not otherwise play an instrument. As mentioned, these are free opportunities for education enhancement. Involvement in the above-mentioned groups attracts house points. Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to email either myself or Mr Stewart of their intention to participate.

Other than practical involvement, the music program offers after school theory sessions on Thursday afternoons until 4pm. These theory sessions are geared towards preparing students to undertake Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) examinations in music theory. Theory lessons attracts a fee of $100 which pays for lesson materials, the required workbook and AMEB enrolment fee. Students wishing to attain AMEB qualifications or to hone their theory skills for VCE music are encouraged to participate.

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, The first Friends of Music meeting for 2015 attracted many new contributors and some great initiatives were discussed. Those who may not be able to make the meeting, but are willing to assist with concert ticket sales, concert supper etc. are asked to contact Michelle Puglisi at mpuglisi@sbc.vic.edu.au with their pledge of support. Furthermore, I encourage all parents and their friends and colleagues to support the Friends of Music in their first fundraising venture for 2015 — A Winery Tour and Luncheon Day on Sunday March 22 2015. Further documentation is attached to this newsletter and online booking is available through the music department website.

Carmelo Puglisi, Director of Music

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 12 Students
Luca L'Eveille (right) and Andrew Neophytou (middle) as well as Old Boy Adam Mulkearns'14 (left), on their selection into the annual Fireworks exhibition at the Incinerator Gallery in Moonee Ponds.

Fireworks is now in its third year and features exceptional works from VCE art and design students who live, work or go to school in Moonee Valley, with $1,400 of prizes awarded in art and design. This exhibition gives many young artists their first opportunity to exhibit in a professional gallery and offers a glimpse of the future of art and design from our bright young things.
Echoes from the Archives

The College Mascots: Bernie, B.J. and Iggy

In 1981, Bernie, was a welcome addition to the St Bernard’s family. At the July assembly, the College Vice-Captain, Julian Toohey, welcomed Bernie on behalf of the students. Principal Br. Godfrey, invested him with the title of College Mascot and presented him with a black, gold and blue beret and St Bernard’s tie.

Bernie was the companion to Br. Carey (pictured), a retired teacher. He once said that Bernie’s one desire was “to be friends with all the world”. However, Bernie was well known for his dislike of men in uniform and often welcomed visitors to the College with a ferocious bark (and a bite sometimes!). Most of the time he spent sleeping, eating and generally enjoying all SBC had to offer him.

Many, but especially Brother Carey, who cared for him before his own death in 1986, loved Bernie. Although Brother Carey was missed, Bernie, in his later years, was able to accept the love and care of Mr Peter Dymus, the college caretaker.

When the Student Council of 1999 wanted to reintroduce a College Mascot, ‘Luke Wade, the College Captain, became a ‘foster father’ to Bernie Junior “B.J”. The Wade family generously welcomed B.J into their home, making Ms Jacq Wade, a teacher at the College, a ‘foster auntie’!

B.J was a regular attendee at College functions until 2010. Mrs Kaye Wade said “you’ll never replace B.J”.

Nevertheless, after his passing, the next College Mascot also found a home with the Wades. Iggy (Ignatius) was born in May 2012, and now weighing 95kgs, is certainly making his presence felt!

Maureen Kavanagh, Archivist

SBOCA Business Breakfast

The speaker for the third of SBOCA’s Business Breakfasts to be held on March 25 at the Moonee Ponds Club will be one of Australia’s most successful businessmen Mr Ron Gauci, speaking on the 10 Guiding Principles for Success. A former St Bernard’s student and teacher, Ron has had held senior management and executive positions in some of the world’s largest multinational and domestic organisations including Microsoft, Telstra IBM and Verizon Business. His crowning achievement however may be the restoration of the Melbourne Storm as an NRL powerhouse following the much publicised salary cap scandal in his role as CEO and Managing Director.

Details of the event are as follows:

DATE: Wednesday March 25
TIME: 7AM (for 7:30AM start) - 8:30AM
VENUE: The Moonee Ponds Club - 622 Mt Alexander Road Moonee Ponds
COST: $10 (includes full breakfast)
RSVP: By March 20
BOOKINGS: http://www.trybooking.com/124829

Madden Bedford Shield – St Bernard’s vs Parade

Every year the St Bernard’s and Parade 1st XXII play for the Madden Bedford shield, named after 2 legends of the game in Simon Madden and Peter Bedford. Before hostilities are renewed out on the newly revamped Murphy Oval there will be a luncheon held in the pavilion celebrating 75 years of St Bernard’s ACC football, including interviews with the guests of honour, the opposing captains and coaches of the day and as many former ACC XXII captains as we can muster. This day will also be an opportunity to celebrate those who attended the College in its infancy in the 1940s and ‘50s and give those Old Collegians the chance to catch up and share memories with each other back on St Bernard’s ground (albeit a much different one from what they experienced).

Details of the event are as follows:

DATE: Wednesday April 15
TIME: 11:30am for a noon start
VENUE: St Bernard’s College Sports Pavilion – entry off Hampton Road
COST: $25 (includes 2-course meal with drinks at bar prices)
DRESS: Neat Casual
RSVP: April 3
BOOKINGS: http://www.trybooking.com/125167
Careers News

REMINDERS - UMAT
Registrations by 5 June; Test Date: 29 July, 2015

OPEN DAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Open Days are a great opportunity to check out tertiary institutions. Most occur on Sundays in August. The dates for many of them are listed here so that you can get them in your diary for later on. Year 10-12 students (and their families) are encouraged to visit institutions of interest on Open Days so that you can see their facilities, attend information sessions, collect information, get your questions answered, talk to staff, and so on.

DATES:
• Sun 2 Aug – Monash (Caulfield & Clayton); Swinburne (Hawthorn)
• Sun 9 Aug – Australian Catholic University (Fitzroy); Deakin (Geelong campuses); La Trobe (Bundoora); RMIT; William Angliss Institute
• Sun 16 Aug – Melbourne; Monash (Parkville – Pharmacy); La Trobe (Bendigo)

LAW AT SWINBURNE
Swinburne introduced a law degree this year. Its focus is on commercialisation, Intellectual Property, and technology transfer. The Clearly-In ATAR was 91, with 71 students commencing this year. A number of double degrees are also on offer – with arts, business, engineering and science.

SWINBURNE HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM
High achievers can often have different expectations of university. Students with an ATAR of 95 or more are invited to join this Swinburne program. It is currently offered to science (physics), communication design (honours), and IT students, later to be offered to students of business and engineering. Students are guaranteed access to a research group from first year, mentoring with senior academic staff, guaranteed accommodation, and a $5,000 pa scholarship. Places are offered automatically to students meeting the entry criteria in the participating degrees.

INTERESTED IN VETERINARY SCIENCE?
In Victoria, veterinary science can only be studied at the University of Melbourne. The Faculty is holding a Course Advice Day on Sat 21 March (10am -3pm) at the Werribee Campus, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee. For further information please visit http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/events#course-information-day. There will be a tour of the hospital for which you must register.

WHAT IS BIOMEDICINE?
VU offers Biomedicine and Biomedical sciences at the St Albans campus. Biomedicine is a broad field of study to gain an in-depth understanding of human physiological and anatomical function, disease and medical applications. These degrees prepare graduates for a career preventing and treating disease. Gain hands-on training and knowledge of human physiology, combined with essential skills in critical analysis and communication. Possible careers are in research, pathology, injury rehabilitation, crime scene investigation, and so on. NOTE: Biomedical science is also offered at Monash university (a possible pathway into Monash post-graduate medicine), ACU, Deakin, La Trobe, while Biomedicine is offered at Melbourne University (a possible pathway into Melbourne post-graduate medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy degrees).

CAREERS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES
Entry is usually through general or officer entry.
• General entry requires applicants to have at least Year 10, be at least 17 years, and to pass a number of physical, mental and character tests.
• Officer entry requires applicants to have a high ATAR in their VCE, and also to pass various tests. Officer entry applicants study in Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), a campus of the University of NSW. Degrees on offer at ADFA are: Arts, Business, Engineering, IT, Science and Technology. Successful applicants complete their military training during university holiday breaks.
• Defence Force recruiting hold information sessions throughout the year. Call 13 19 01 for details, or see www.defencejobs.gov.au.
• Defence Forces offer the ADFA Education Award, presented to Year 12 students in recognition of leadership potential, and academic and sporting achievements exhibited during Year 11. The award is a laptop computer, with up to 100 awards on offer annually.
• ADF Gap Year program still operates – this program provides an opportunity for young people who have completed Year 12 to gain military training, new skills and pay over their Gap Year.

David Rosel, Careers Practitioner