From The Principal

Last Monday night the College “Strategic Directions 2017 - 2021” document was formally launched to staff and members of the community. The community gathering was attended by representatives of significant groups within the College community including Board, Finance Committee, Building Committee, Parents and Friends, Ladies Auxiliary, College Social Justice Network, Foundation and Old Collegians Committee.

The development of this document has been a lengthy consultative process which commenced in February this year. The College Board, Leadership Team, staff, students and families have all had the opportunity to contribute and I would like to thank all those who put forward their views. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Damian Mannix and Petra Kelly from the Agenda Group which facilitated the process and developed the final document.

A link is attached (below). I hope that you find it a catalyst for rich discussion.

The strategic priorities “Innovative”, “Empowering”, “Holistic” and “Just”, have been discerned from the consultation. These will be used in goal setting and decision making into the future and will inform the development of discrete elements, the likes of which are seen in a more traditional “strategic plan”. They will also be used as a review tool for all aspects of the College operation.

This week the College budget for 2017 has been finalised and approved by the Board and EREA. I am grateful to Tina Davis for her diligence in preparing the budget. We are a not for profit organisation and the quantum of our revenue and expenditure is almost 28 million dollars next year. About half of our revenue comes from fees and about half from state and federal government funding. The tax deductible contribution to our building fund continues to be an important element in our ongoing commitment to fund the development of high quality facilities. Keeping fees affordable while providing such facilities and programs is a balancing act and there is always robust debate at Finance Committee and Board regarding this. The Education CPI (Consumer Price Index) reflects the cost of providing education and is just over 5%. Government funding is expected to increase by less than 3% for the 2017 school year. The College fees will increase by 4% in 2017.

On enrolment each family makes a contribution toward their son’s Year 12 fees known as the Advanced Payments Scheme (APS). This is added to with a portion of the annual re enrollment fee each year. When the student’s is in Year 12 the APS is credited to fees for that year. Effectively this money is held in trust as a loan to the College and plays an important part in assisting our building program.

APS contributions are non refundable in the event that a student does not remain at the College until Year 12, however families may apply for the return of their APS contribution. If the student withdrawal is the result of an interstate move, taking up an apprenticeship, an agreed transition to a more suitable educational offering or similar situation, a refund is usually made. In the event that a boy accepts a scholarship at another school, departs without our agreement or is part of a negotiated transfer, a refund is not made.

On Monday the College ‘Head Start’ program commences. In effect each student cohort commences 2017 by moving up a year level. I would like to thank all those involved in this major logistical undertaking particularly Mr Chris Mannix the College Timetabler and all our administration and IT support staff. I would like to also thank those Year Level Coordinators for 2017 who commence their role 2 weeks early.
The Music Theatre Guild of Victoria have nominated our production of ‘The Boy from Oz’ for Bruce Awards in multiple categories including:

- Junior Production of the Year
- Best Direction in a Junior Production (Brendan Tollit and Brooke Sullivan)
- Best Musical Direction of a Junior Production (Ben Kelly)
- Best Choreography (Katherine Nelson and Jess Barlow)
- Best Junior Male in a Leading Role (Liam McWhinney)
- Best Junior Female in a Supporting Role (Nesceda Blake as Judy Garland)
- Best Junior Female in a Supporting Role (Brigid Hanley-Leonard as Marion Woolnough)
- Special Commendation – (Jessica Mathews as Liza Minnelli)

On 10 December the cast will reform to perform “I Still Call Australia Home” at the Awards Night at the Frankston Performing Arts Centre.

This is a remarkable achievement and once again I congratulate all those involved.

God Bless.

Tony Paatsch
Principal

Please remember in your prayers:
Fulvio Orlich past student 1977, father of Joshua 11G and Christopher Orlich ‘14
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord May perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen

School Fees Reminder

A gentle reminder to families who are on a 7 or 10 instalments plan, your fees should be paid in full at this stage. Any families experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact Mirella Luca (Credit Controller) on 9289 1128 to make a suitable payment arrangement to avoid unnecessary debt follow up.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Tina Davis
Business Manager

Uniform Shop

The Shop will be open prior to the commencement of Term 1 2017 from Monday, 30 January until Friday, 3 February 2017 between 10.00am-4.00pm. Normal Shop hours will commence Tuesday, 7 February 2017.

Renee Buhagiar

Ladies Auxiliary Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday 7 December at 9.30am in the Peter Hogan Boardroom. This meeting will be followed by a festive morning tea. Come along and meet the dedicated ladies who support the College through this very important service. New members ALWAYS welcome. Further enquiries please contact jenny@careplus.com.au

Jenny Goring
President, The Ladies Auxiliary
Echoes From The Archives

From Clairvaux, 1980

During the first term a group of Form 4 and 5 students began training on Wednesday’s for sport at the Essendon Rowing Club. A number were very keen and increased their experience by training after school during the week. Midway through Term 2 they were ready for tough competition.

A crew of four rowers were chosen to represent St Bernard’s on 19 July in a winter regatta on the Yarra. In a display of stylish rowing and sheer guts, our schoolboys four ripped away and thrashed an Essendon Technical School by 8 to 10 lengths.

In the next regatta held at Footscray on 9 August, both our crews were plagued with troubles and only managed 3rd and 4th places. St Bernard’s looks forward to a successful future in rowing.

Maureen Kavanagh, Archivist

Parents and Friends

The Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 14 November. Many thanks to those parents who attended. At the AGM nominations were considered and office bearers for 2017 were elected.

The following people were elected as the P&F office bearers for 2017:

President: Stefan Loukomitis
Vice President: Anthony Cameron
Secretary: Anne Maree Szauer
Treasurer: Lara Bennett Cheshire
Advisory Forum Rep: Janelle Hurley

The College is extremely grateful for the work that our Parents and Friends do in engaging our community. Thank you to the parents who attended meetings throughout the year.

David Formosa
Director of Development

Christmas Appeal

The St. Vincent de Paul Society operates their Soup Van in the Footscray area 365 days a year. They provide food for homeless teenagers and adults and for the many families who live in boarding-houses in the area. Every year they have an annual Christmas party for their ‘clients’ where over 700 people are given a three course traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Everyone who comes gets a present. Last year the Vinnies, because of the generosity of the St. Bernard’s community, was able to give every child and teenager an extra present. This is often the only present these kids will receive at Christmas time.

This year looks like there will be even more people coming. I am asking for your help to make this Christmas a happier time for the Vinnies’ clients. Could you please consider donating a present this Christmas? Anything that you would be happy to receive yourself would be greatly appreciated.

The Boys’ Homerooms have been given the responsibility for providing a present for:
Year 7 - Boys and girls under 12
Year 8 - Adolescent boys and girls 13-17
Year 9 - Adult male or female
Year 10 - Adult male or female
Year 11 - Adult male or female
It would be appreciated if all presents could be wrapped but clearly labeled with which age group they are for and any clothing labelled with sizes. eg Female Teenager, 14 yrs, size 10.

There will be a box at Reception where the presents can be placed. They will be picked up by the Vinnies on Friday, 2 December.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of this program and hope that this year it will be bigger than ever. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Lisa Grass
Christian Service Coordinator
2017
ABERFELDIE GIRLSFootball
REGISTER INTEREST NOW
girlsfootball@abers.com.au

TEAMS FOR 2017
UNDER 12 - Born 2005 to 2008
UNDER 15 - Born 2002 to 2004
UNDER 18 - Born 1999 to 2001

INFORMATION EVENING:
CLIFTON PARK PAVILION
7c BATMAN STREET ABERFELDIE
7:00PM MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2016

HAVE FUN, DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS & BECOME PART OF A GREAT CLUB IN THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN VICTORIA.
#GIRLSPLAYTOO #CHANGETHEGAME #GIRLSFOOTY #ABERSGIRLS

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW:
EMAIL girlsfootball@abers.com.au TO BE PART OF THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY. LIST YOUR DAUGHTER'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR 'INFORMATION EVENING' ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2016.
St Monica’s Parish
Monthly Youth Mass

St Monica’s parish invites you to a
Monthly Youth Mass
Sunday December 4,
at 5:30pm

This will be followed by pizza
in the Symon Centre

Please contact Fr. Minh on 9370 5035
or Francis on 0433 561 030 for further details

Church Address 820 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds
PRE SEASON TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Invitation to all players U15, U16, U17 & U19 in 2017

Be a part of the highly successful St.Bernard’s Football Club initiative designed to provide a tailored training and football development program for young men wanting to develop their personal fitness and football skills in preparation for playing football at all levels in 2017.

If you are keen to be challenged physically and develop your football skills and enjoy being a part of a larger all inclusive group then join us for the 2016/17 Football Academy.

ANY young man from ANY football club can join this pre season training program held in a semi professional environment with guest appearances from experienced AFL coaches and players and co-ordinated by VAFA Junior Coach of the Year 2015 and Premiership coach Rocky Iannello.

Mondays and Fridays 4.30pm to 6.20pm SBC Oval No.2
Only $90 for 10 weeks of Intensive Training

Starts : Friday 18th November to Monday 19th December 2016
Re commences : Monday 30th January to Friday 3rd March 2017

Join our Facebook Group
St.Bernards Football Academy

Register Online www.stbernardsfc.com.au go to Football Academy link