From The Principal

It is good to be able to report that the year has started well at St Bernard’s with staff and students quickly settling into the week-to-week pattern of the school year. I am particularly pleased with the approach of our Year 12 boys and the way that our year 7 boys have made the transition to secondary school.

At our opening College Mass last week, I pointed out that ‘we are Church’. The press reminds us daily of past sins in the full spotlight of public scrutiny that a Royal Commission brings. Our Church is being forced (reluctantly), to acknowledge past failings, redress past wrongs and commit to a future free of any structure, process, or person that could ever allow such abuse to happen.

The fundamental dignity of the human person is the bedrock of Catholic Social Teaching. It believes that each human person has an inherent dignity as they are created in the image and likeness of God.

While having not been impacted on as directly as some other Catholic schools, we are still challenged by the spectre of abuse within the Church. Our challenge is to create a community where the value and rights of each person is acknowledged and respected and power is distributed in such a way that it can never be abused. We are committed to this and I hope this can be seen in all aspects of our College operation.

While we feel collectively ashamed as we read of the Royal Commission, in other areas we can we proud of our Church.

The current political debate over the treatment of asylum seekers challenges us to explore our Catholic beliefs. We know that “the law is the law” and that in recent weeks the High Court has confirmed the constitutional legality of sending a group of asylum seekers back to detention in Nauru. The Church has been strong in its condemnation of asylum seeker policy and practice. The Gospel verse “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”… Mt 25: v35 is clear on where we should sit in this debate.

As part of church we are diminished when we get it wrong but are edified when we get it right. A St Bernard’s education comes with basic Catholic social teaching imbued in the DNA of each graduate and that this manifests itself as a commitment to speak out against injustice and a respect for the rights of and dignity of every human being. We will continue to pray for those who seek asylum in Australia and agitate and advocate for a government response that respects the fundamental dignity of each human person.

When we speak of our identity we describe ourselves as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Last week I received an email from Wayne Tinsey, the Executive Officer of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). It includes a reflection on the nature of a fellow EREA College, St James in Brisbane. It is from a teacher there and I have included it below. I hope that in reading it we can see much that reinforces the kind of school that we are and much that challenges us about the kind of school we might become...

“A small reflection of an experience of our community this morning that I thought you might appreciate. It’s not an ‘out there’ experience; it’s just an everyday experience of life at St James, really. A snapshot, if you like, or a ‘God in the ordinary’ moment.

We have a highly diverse community - something I believe is the living example of a genuine Inclusive Community. This reflection is really about how our diversity has real ripples into our local community.

I’ve been a regular attendee of our Brekkie Van program - an activity where we encourage our older students to engage with those living on the margins in our local community. This morning’s van was like any other day; 6am start, bleary eyed students looking perfect in their uniforms, ready to cook up a storm. All five of our students were attending for the first time.

It soon occurred to me, as I was driving along, that the group of kids we had was a real microcosm of our whole school. There was Mary, a shy but independent Muslim asylum seeker from Afghanistan. There was Brandon, one of our house leaders and a strong Indigenous role model. There was Thenusha, a dedicated young woman from Sri Lanka and of the Hindu faith who regularly fasts and donates the little she has. There was Raphael, a bright
new student in Year 11 from Cambodia whose parents are Buddhist, but who is still working out his own faith. And there was Zeke, our upstanding School Captain who has grown up around Brisbane.

All of these students had caught public transport in the very early hours of the morning to get to school by 6am, most took over an hour to get there.

Many of the (mostly) men whom we serve are much older. I can only assume that they wouldn't normally have many experiences with such a diverse range of faith backgrounds. Before we'd even started cooking, someone had struck up a conversation with Mary about her hijab. We'd never had a Muslim girl serving these older men before. Mary was confident and very polite. She said hello to every person as she served them, as did the rest of the group. Brandon had struck up a conversation with a fellow Indigenous brother, and the others all engaged so politely and gracefully with many of the men with whose presence we were graced.

Whilst nothing particularly out of the ordinary was happening - I realised that so much was happening at the same time. Our presence in the community; the example of diversity that we were displaying; the opportunity to share this experience with our students, who each brought their own complex stories with them; was real example of what I believe Edmund's charism is about. There was food, yes, but what was being served was so much more. And it went both ways - they were serving us as much as we served them, if not more.

I don't know why I'm sharing this with you. I guess I just wanted you to know how truly blessed a community we are. When I stood back today and thought about this experience this morning, I realised how important a role our schools play in the example they set not just to each other, but the local community as a whole.

I know that the message of Edmund's vision has a much wider impact than just within our schools, even if it isn't always associated or connected so explicitly. I just hope that it can continue to permeate the many parts of our society that may not yet have had the privilege to experience it.

Last week I received a letter from the Edmund Rice Foundation. It acknowledges receipt of the sum of $107,092 to be directed to the Br Beausang College in Embulbul Kenya. The letter thanks all of us on behalf of the students and families of the school. Congratulations to all who contributed through the voluntary fee contribution or through the walkathon.

God Bless

Tony Paatsch
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Student Attendance

Over the coming weeks we will continue to enhance protocols and procedures for student attendance. Below is an extract that we would typically place in an early addition of the newsletter. If there are changes to this please let me know.

Procedures

A parent can report their son’s absence via SMS 0428937348 or by calling the student attendance centre on 92891128. If you know that your son will be absent from school in the future please call the student attendance centre directly. The centre will be open from 8.15am on school days.

If you know that your son will be absent for an extended period of time please make contact with your son’s homeroom teacher and Year Level Coordinator to discuss the absence. If your son is absent at the time that his homeroom roll is marked (between 8.46am – 8.55am) we will notify you regarding your son’s absence via SMS. The following SMS is sent to the primary mobile phone of parents;

St Bernard’s records show John Citizen is absent FRI 22/7/2014. PIs reply by SMS or PH 92891128 with student name/reason/abs date.
The message will arrive on the phone displaying the number, “0428937348”. Please store this number in your mobile phone under “St Bernard’s College” so that when the message arrives, you are aware the message has come from the College Parents can then reply, preferably using SMS, or by phoning the student attendance centre. Alternatively simply press the reply option on your mobile phone when you receive a message from the school and add your son’s name, homeroom, date of absence and the reason they are absent or late.

If your son is absent and a reason has been provided in advance, you will not receive an SMS. If you require your son to leave school during the day he will be required to organise a leave pass from the student attendance centre prior to the commencement of homeroom. Your son must be provided with a signed note from you for the pass to be issued. If your son arrives late to school, after homeroom, he is to report to the student attendance centre for a late pass. This pass will be issued and he will then present the pass to the subject teacher.

If you require your son to leave school during the day for an unexpected reason, you can make contact with front reception to arrange for your son to leave class.

Front reception will arrange for him to leave class. Your son then reports to the student attendance centre for a leave pass. The student attendance staff member will then verify this absence with front reception before issuing the leave pass.

Essendon Station
New students would not be aware of our desire to ensure students do not linger around Essendon station after school.

Buses leave school for Shamrock Street, Glenbervie Station and Moonee Ponds. If a boy needs to catch a city bound train he can do this by catching the bus to Glenbervie Station or from Moonee Ponds. We ask that students support us with this. We acknowledge that some boys will need to walk under the station from Shamrock Street to Mt Alexander Road or to catch a bus in Russell Street which is located on the East side of the station. If a student requires to catch a bus in Russell Street we ask that he request a permission pass available from his Year Level Co-ordinator.

Paul Shannon
Deputy Principal

From the Assistant Principal (Student Wellbeing)

Male Mentors Night
On Tuesday 16 February, the Male Mentor Night was enjoyed with 340 students from Year 7 to Year 9 being joined by a significant adult male, making a total of 680 participants. Each student/adult pair participated in activities including rock climbing, soccer skills, volleyball, tennis, board games, electronics, AFL, ultimate Frisbee, table tennis, carpet bowls, chess, darts, basketball and cricket.

The aim of the night is a very simple one, to provide opportunity for young and adult males to play and have fun together and to meet others. The night is put on by the St Bernard’s College staff and the Student Council and its’ success is due to their efforts, so a big thank you to the many people who helped out both on the night and in the preparations.

Bike Helmets
The College has had several reports of groups of SBC students riding their bike to and from school not wearing a helmet. Lets not have a tragedy such has occurred elsewhere in Victoria this year. Can all parents whose son rides to school please talk with them about this important safety issue.

David Sutton
Assistant Principal (Student Wellbeing)
CAREERS NEWS

ANU Tuckwell Scholarship
Australian National University (ANU) launched the Tuckwell Scholarship Program in 2013. Receiving a Tuckwell Scholarship – valued at $20,000 per year up to five years - is not just about a student’s intellect. It is also about their desire and determination to use their natural abilities to realise their full potential so that they can make a difference in the world.

Eligible students need to expect an ATAR of 95+ but students who have experienced disadvantage, or who have achieved significantly in other ways, may still be eligible. Applications open on 29 February and close on 23 March 2016.

Students and their parents are invited to attend the 2016 ANU Tuckwell Scholarship Roadshow in Victoria.
**Date:** Tuesday 1 March 2016  
**Time:** 5.30pm – 8.00pm  
**Venue:** Novotel, 270 Collins Street in Melbourne  
**Register at** Tuckwell Scholarship Roadshow in Melbourne

Aviation Careers Day – Moorabbin Airport
Moorabbin Airport is hosting its Aviation Careers Day. This is a great opportunity to meet industry leaders and spend the day exploring the full range of career pathways within this industry.

Any interested Year 9, 10 or 11 student who wishes to be considered for this opportunity, must email me to express an interest.

Places are limited and preference will be given to those who have already spoken with me about an aviation pathway.

David Rosel  
*Careers Practitioner*

VCE Unit 3 Parent Student Teacher Interviews
VCE Parent Student Teacher Interviews will take place on Tuesday, 8 March between 3:00pm – 8:00pm at St Bernard’s College. Further information regarding bookings and interview locations will be sent to all VCE Parents in the coming week.

Craig Osborne  
*Director of Organisation*

Italy Study Tour 2016
Our 2016 Italy Study Tour in September is looming large on the horizon. Students and their families have been sent an email re our next Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, 3 March 2016, in the Peter Hogan Board Room, commencing at 7:30pm. A few vacancies still exist for this Tour, which is open to students in Years 10 and 11. If you are interested in being part of this exciting Tour, please email me as soon as possible, so that Tour details can be forwarded to you.

Bruno Spiller  
*Languages KLA*
Art and Design
I encourage all Visual Arts students to see the ‘Fireworks’ exhibition at the incinerator Gallery next to the Maribynong River in order to support our past and present students. The pieces that are being shown are in recognition of those who have had exceptional VCE work in the area of Art and Design. The event goes from the 19 February until 20 March and includes past students Thomas Wenlock, Matthew Modica and Current Year 12 student Matthew Buccheri.

Lachlan McCord

Echoes from the Archives
St Bernard's College Sports
Along with the usual athletics, some interesting events were included to make the day more fun and enjoyable for all.

- Slow Bicycle Race
- Wheelbarrow Race
- Bell Chase
- Siamese Race
- Horse and Jockey Race
- Tug-O-War
- Musical Bags on Bicycles
- Potato race
- Shuttle Race Relay

Maureen Kavanagh
Archivist

Recycled Uniform Sale
The recycled uniform sale will take place on Tuesday, 8 March from 3:00pm – 6:00pm in the Peter Hogan Boardroom.

Renee Buhagiar
Uniform Shop

Film Club
Film Club is starting up again at St Bernard’s with a change, the format has been altered to a 15+ environment as to adhere to duty of care so that younger students will not be encouraged to watch mature or high level content that may not be appropriate. The full swing of things will however return this week on at Friday lunchtime.

Lachlan McCord

The Ladies Auxiliary
SAVE THE DATE - LADIES LUNCH: Wednesday 1 June 2016 at Ascot House
The Annual Ladies Lunch is back. Invitations are sent to all current parents at the College and it is open to any lady wishing to attend (past parents, grandmas, aunts, friends). This is a popular event on the social calendar and seats are strictly limited. If you are able to assist by donating a raffle prizes please contact jenny@careplus.com.au

Jenny Goring
President, Ladies Auxiliary
SBOCA Business Breakfast

The St Bernard’s Old Collegians’ Business Breakfast will be held on Thursday 10 March, from 7:00am (for a 7:30am start) at the Moonee Ponds Club. The Breakfast is a fantastic opportunity for business networking and mentoring with Old Collegians in a wide variety of fields and occupations.

The Guest Speaker for the morning will be one of Australia’s most successful sportsmen, AFL legend and Old Collegian Simon Madden. Simon played 378 games for Essendon, was Victorian and club captain, played in two premiership teams and was selected All Australian three times. He has been inducted into the Essendon Football Club, the AFL and the St Bernard’s College Hall of Fame. He has been the President and a Director of the AFL Players Association and is now a Director on the Board of the Essendon Football Club.

Simon has gained a wealth of experience both through Football and through his business ‘Winning Pty Ltd’ specializing in Business Strategy, Education and Training. Simon has a strong belief that if you improve your people, you improve your business.

Date: Thursday 10 March
Time: 7:00am (for 7:30am start) - 8:30am
Venue: The Moonee Ponds Club
Where: 622 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds
Cost: $10 for a full breakfast
RSVP: By Friday 4 March
Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/133429

The Social Justice Network

The St Bernard’s Social Justice Network is made up of parents and community members who believe that in order to encourage and facilitate their own son’s interest and involvement in social justice, they also must seek to actively participate. This presents them the offer to characterize themselves as role models.

We meet once a month to discuss and act on social justice issues. All are welcome. The next meeting is on Wednesday 23 March, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in the Peter Hogan Boardroom. For more information please contact Lisa Grass, lgrass@sbc.vic.edu.au

Lisa Grass
Christian Services Co-ordinator

Parents and Friends

The next Parents and Friends Meeting will be held in the Peter Hogan Board Room on Tuesday 15 March at 7:30pm.

All newcomers welcome.

Stefan Loukomitis
President, Parents and Friends Association
ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE FOUNDATION

HALL OF FAME DINNER

Friday 22 April, 2016, 7.00pm
The Australian Club
110 William Street. Melbourne

The Foundation is proud to announce the 2016 inductees are:

Mr. Frank Fitzgerald, Principal of the College from 1996 to 2008. An inspiring leader who left a colossal legacy of educational, cultural and facility growth.

Mr. Justin Madden, An AFL great who played 287 games for Carlton and 45 with Essendon. An All-Australian with two Premierships to be proud of, Justin served 15 years in State Parliament holding seven Ministerial portfolios.

Bookings through TRYBOOKING opening 1 March, closing 15 April.

Ticket price: $130 per head.

http://www.trybooking.com/GTKC

For further information contact Bernie Cronin on 9289 1106 or at bcronin@sbc.vic.edu.au

YOUR APPRECIATION OF ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE CAN LIVE FOREVER
ENROLMENT APPLICATION

YEAR 7, 2018

ENROLMENT APPLICATION MEETINGS

FAMILY SURNAMES A – K
(New and Current Families)
TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2016

FAMILY SURNAMES L – Z
(New and Current Families)
WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016

at

7.30 PM
in

COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

Application Forms are distributed at these meetings and need to be returned to the College by Thursday, 14 April 2016.

Application Forms requested after these meetings may be classed as a Late Application.
The meeting is for Parents/Guardians only.

2016 TOURS of the College are as follows:
15 February, 16 February, 22 February, 23 February, 1 March, 3 March, 8 March.
22 March, 12 April, 14 April, 18 April, 19 April, 21 April, 26 April, 29 April, 3 May,
6 May, 13 May, 17 May, 19 May, 24 May, 27 May, 31 May, 9 June, 10 June

commencing at 9:00am. Bookings essential - telephone 9289 1182.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
COLLEGE WEB SITE: www.sbc.vic.edu.au
or Telephone: College Receptionist - Jenette Nicholl on 9289 1182
2016 Junior Registration day

Wednesday 24th February, 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Keilor Park Recreational Reserve, Stadium Drive (off Keilor Park Drive)

Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 & U12 Girls

Auskick registration is online via www.aflauskick.com.au/register (under 3042 or Keilor Park)

Come meet the coaches, players & families.
Training is on at same time, so come try out before you register.
Register a friend and receive a 20% discount.
NEW player registrations go into draw for free footy apparel (drawn fri 26th Feb)

Join the fun and successful teams of 2015 -
U10’s (div 6) – 2015 Premiers
U12’s (div 4) – 2015 Semi Finalists
U14’s (div 6) – 2015 Premiers

Enquiries: Peter McGrady, 0414 444 205, ptmcgrady@outlook.com
Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to learn what it's like to live in another country?

Learn a new language? Experience a different culture?

You can have all of this in 2017 - With Rotary Youth Exchange -

If you are in year 9, 10 or 11 in 2016 you can apply now

For further information contact

District 9800 Rotary Youth Exchange

Phone: Vanda Mullen, 0408 109 368 or
Email: vmullen@netspace.net.au

www.rotaryyouthexchangedistrict9800.com.au
SAVE THE DATE!
The Linden Tour is Visiting
Scotch College
1 Morrison St.
Hawthorn VIC 3122

Monday, March 7
6:00 - 8:00 pm

6:00 - 6:30 pm: Choosing a University and the Application Process
6:30 - 8:00 pm: College Fair

Interested in studying in the United States?
Please contact melbourne@educationusa.info for more information.

Register Here