From The Principal

This is the final College newsletter of 2016 and the final time I will have the chance to contribute to it. I will however, write to the community after December 12 to report on and acknowledge the performance of our 2016 VCE cohort.

Each Monday morning the College staff gather to pray and read the gospel from the Sunday Mass. This week was the first week Advent and the Gospel reading was Matthew 24: 37-44. Advent is a time of expectation getting ready for the coming of Christ into the world.

Matthew’s simple story resonates with us as householders. “Be sure that if the household had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect”. This week students will be encouraged to focus on preparation for Christmas and the entry of Christ into our lives and our world. I hope that your family has the same opportunity and that you enjoy the celebration of the great Christian feast of Christmas.

For a number of years the College has held Year Level based awards nights the week after students finish classes for Years 7 - 10. This has proved problematic with many families unable to attend due to alternative commitments. These award nights will now be held at the start of next year to align with those for Senior Year Levels.

For many years the College has been an affiliate member of School Sport Victoria. This provides our students with the chance to try out for state teams in a wide range of sports. Earlier this year we were informed that the fee for St Bernard’s to be a member of SSV would increase by 100% next year. Attempts to negotiate a more reasonable increase have been unsuccessful. As a result, all schools in the ACC have informed School Sport Victoria of their intention not to renew their membership. Almost all other associations that have been affiliate members of SSV have indicated that they are likely to follow suit. The result of this is that students from most non government schools will not be eligible for state representation through SSV teams in 2017. I am hopeful that a resolution to the current impasse will be negotiated early in the new year.

At this time each year we farewell staff who have contributed much to the College. This year we farewell teachers, Cathy O’Halloran, Stuart Crawford, Michael Torpey, Sarah Brens, Catherine Bellair, Paul Dodson, Dale Kang and Catherine Campbell along with catering manager Judy Scanlon who has cooked for boys at Santa Monica for the last 13 years. We also farewell Mohsen Kharamideh, our Admin Trainee and our gap year students; Conor Denehy (Santa Monica), Matt Redzepi (I.T.), Matt Lewis (Sport) and Lachlan McCord (Arts) and Jeremy Webb who has assisted in our music department. We thank all of our departing staff for their contribution to the College, we wish them well in their future and assure them of a warm welcome when they visit. We also wish David Selva well as he commences a period of leave from the start of 2017.

I have made a farewell video to the community so I will not write much here by way of farewell. Each work morning for the last 8 years I have driven down Rosehill Rd with a sense of joy and excitement at what the day may hold. Thank you to every parent, staff member and student who has helped make my time as Principal so wonderful, professionally and personally. I hope we remain in contact and I know that you will provide a warm welcome for new Principal Adam Taylor.

Click here for farewell video.

God Bless you and your family and I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas and a safe and restful holiday break.

Tony Paatsch
Principal
2017 School Year

Please note the following important dates for parents & students at the beginning of the 2017 school year:

Year 7 and VCE (Year 11 & 12) students commence on Wednesday, 1 February.

Year 8, 9 & 10 Students commence on Thursday 2 February

Year 7 & 12 Welcoming Mass – Thursday, 2 February 7.30 pm in the College Gym.
2017 Opening School Mass – Friday, 3 February 9.15 am on the College Gym.

2016 Year 7 & 8 Academic Awards Night – Wednesday, 8 February 7.30 pm in the Frank FitzGerald Auditorium
2016 Year 9 & 10 Academic Awards Night – Thursday, 9 February 7.30 pm in the Frank FitzGerald Auditorium

2016 Academic Awards Ceremony – Friday, 10 February 9.15 am in the College Gym.

Information relating to the College Calendar can be found on the Parent Portal MySBC/Calendar

Craig Osborne
Director of Organisation

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
Uniform Shop

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

St Bernard’s Day
On the weekend 20 August 1990 St Bernard’s celebrated its Golden Jubilee as a school community. On Oval 2 there were many festivities going on. A large queue had formed around the major attraction, the Dodgem Cars.

The atmosphere was filled with screams from the Turbo and people fulfilling their stomach needs with doughnuts and chips. There were many other rides including a high roller, giant slide and the merry-go-round for the people who didn’t want to take their chance on the scary rides. People were trying their luck in shooting a star. A band played at this exciting carnival. They played hard rock music. Every night from Rosehill Rd or Buckley St you could see the excitement and lights were flashing.

The Monday after, the whole school came down to the senior campus and spent the day at the carnival. The day, and weekend, was a big success, and showed all the effort and time people and staff put in for these events.

Maureen Kavanagh
Archivist

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
Merry Christmas
from
St Bernard’s College

Christmas Carols In The Heights
Sunday 11 December 2016 @7:00pm

Come and Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
Joy to the World
St Bernard’s Junior Football Club
2017 REGISTRATION OPENS 
MONDAY, 30 JANUARY

Boys: Under 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 17
Girls: Under 12 & 15

NEW PLAYERS welcome
EXISTING PLAYERS will receive an
invitation to register via email
New Players are asked to attend the
registration day on Sunday, 12 February
9:30am – 11:30am
St Bernard’s College Oval
Perrett Pavilion (Enter via Gate 8)
Please bring a copy of your birth certificate or passport

2017 Fees
1st Player $280
2nd Player $150
Family (3 or more players) $480
(if paid prior to Saturday, 18 February)

Email registration enquiries to
juniorpres@stbernardsfc.com.au

www.stbernardsfc.com.au
Team App: “St Bernard’s Junior Football”
Free Holiday Umpiring Clinic for New Student Umpires

Venue: Windy Hill Football Ground Napier Street Essendon
Dates: 24th and 25th January 2017. Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm

FREE UMPIRING CLINIC

BENEFITS of UMPIRING
FRIENDSHIP
FITNESS
FUN
Earning an income through active participation in sport.

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
ROWAN.SAWERS@ESSENDONDFL.COM.AU
MOBILE: 0434 689 690
MUST BE 12 YEARS OR OVER
GIVE BLOOD

SAVE 3 LIVES

Airport West Donor Centre
93 Matthews Avenue

Visit donateblood.com.au or call 13 14 95 today because giving blood feels good

Australian Red Cross Blood Service
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

YOUTH

Church Address 820 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds