From The Principal

At about this time each year College staff have a number of difficult conversations with students and families about what is the best pathway for their son’s final year/s at the College. Sometimes this is about specific subjects chosen and sometimes in relation to the program chosen.

Subject selections for Year 12 are based on student preference and student performance. Student performance will be reviewed at the end of the Year 11 exam period and students may be required to change subjects if their performance indicates that they will be unable to cope with the demands of a Year 12 course of study in that subject.

In terms of Year 12 programs, it is usually one of two scenarios. Firstly, families insisting that their son takes the VCE pathway, despite him expressing a preferred career path best supported by VCAL, the Edmund Rice Pathway with unscored VCE, or a School based apprenticeship. Secondly, student and family insisting that “things will be different this year” despite the student having consistently performed at a level that will result in very poor study scores and ATAR that will not give access to any tertiary study options.

One of the key elements of St Bernard’s is that we are ‘open entry’. That is, we do not selectively enroll academically able students. It follows logically therefore, that we are obliged to provide a pathway that caters for all boys. It is my hope that all families come to understand that the VCAL pathway, School Based Apprenticeship and The Edmund Rice Pathways (unscored VCE) are not better or worse but just different to VCE, and that in many cases far more likely to lead to the best possible post Year 12 outcomes.

The Industrial agreement between the College and all employees, mandates an “Annual Review Meeting” at which the performance of the employee is discussed. Members of the Leadership Team have been meeting with staff for their ‘ARM’ in recent weeks. I have enjoyed the opportunity to affirm their commitment and work with students. These opportunities remind me that we are blessed with an outstanding group of teaching and support staff. I know that most parents realise this.

Among my email sub-folders is one called ‘approbation’ in which I collect messages from parents acknowledging individual teachers and the College in general. I have two other folders called ‘student issues’ and ‘staff issues’ where I retain any complaints from parents relating to the treatment of students or complaints about staff. I haven’t counted the number of emails in each but the ARM’s remind me of what a great job most staff do. Today being World Teachers Day we are reminded that the work of teachers has unique power to shape and inspire every young person in their care to be the best that they can be. Too often we are quick to voice our disapproval or complaints. I encourage parents to let staff know when they are doing well.

The St Bernard’s College Social Justice Network recently held a debate encouraging us to accept and support diversity in the College and the community. The evening was entertaining and challenging, particularly for those who tend to be conservative. Click here for a report of the night by Lauren Wilton, published in the Catholic Education Melbourne online news.

God Bless

Tony Paatsch
Principal
College Dates and Organisation

Mid Term Break (Melbourne Cup Long Weekend)
Please note the College will be closed on Monday, 31 October. VCE Exams will run as per schedule on Monday, 31 October.

2016 Calendar – Term 4 Update
As has been mentioned previously, we will begin our transition into 2017 with our Year 8-12 Head Start Program beginning on Monday 21 November, 2016. This has meant several changes to the College Calendar as follows:

Information has been updated on the following publications:

MySBC Calendar & College Website – MySBC & College Website calendar has been updated to reflect changes for term 4.

Please note the following important dates:

Year 11, 2016 Classes Conclude – Friday, 4 November
Year 11, 2016 Exams Begin – Monday, 7 November
Year 11, 2016 Exams Conclude – Monday, 14 November
Year 11, 2016 students will not be required at school from Tuesday, 15 November to Friday, 18 November. They will prepare for Head Start 2017 during this time.

Year 10, 2016 Classes Conclude – Thursday, 10 November
Year 10, 2016 Exams Begin – Friday, 11 November
Year 10, 2016 Exams Conclude – Friday, 18 November

Year 7, 8 & 9 Exams will take place from Wednesday, 16 November to Friday, 18 November.

Year 8-12, 2017 Head Start Begins – Monday, 21 November
Year 8-12, 2017 Head Start & 2016 School Year Concludes – Friday, 2 December (2:55 pm Dismissal)

Year 7, 2017 Orientation Day – Friday 25 November
All current Year 7 students are required to attend school on Friday, 25 November.

Craig Osborne
Director of Organisation

Echoes From The Archives

‘Blisss At The School Library
Computers at St Bernard’s have come a long way since the school purchased several ‘Apple Computers’ in 1983. A wander through the school buildings in 1988 illustrates the extent to which computers have been established at the school. Computers have benefitted St Bernard’s tremendously, having a wide range of applications in the school’s operations. They are being used as teaching aids and resources for both members of staff and students, as storage systems for all school records and have many other applications in the school environment.

In 1988, the establishment of a new updated storage and retrieval system has enabled the Library to cater for the increasing number of students at St Bernard’s each year, and develop its facilities for the school community to use the library more effectively. The new system is the ‘Barcome Bay Library Information Search System’ or ‘Bliss’ for short.

Maureen Kavanagh, Archivist
Art and Technology Exhibition and Film Premier Night

Congratulations to all the students who took part in The Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition and Film Premier Night last Tuesday evening in the Visual Art and Technology Centre.

Staff, students and their families celebrated the creative talents of the graduating Studio art, Visual Communication, Technology and Media students.

The Annual Exhibition saw the return of Old Boy Matthew Wade. Matthew opened the exhibition with highlighting the pathways he explored in charting a career in the arts.

Works of excellence from all levels were represented with awards presented for outstanding art works on the opening night.

Hayley Allen
Food Technology Coordinator

Independent Learning Project Presentation

On Wednesday, 19 October, the Year 7 Discere students hosted their Semester 2 ILP (Individual Learning Project) Presentation Night.

As part of the evening, the students and their families enjoyed a shared meal prepared by the Discere staff. After dinner, families were able to walk around O’Brien Hall to talk to the students about each of their projects which ranged from Volcanoes, sporting events, technology, planes and historical topics.

Each of the students was eager to show off their projects which were a result of thorough planning and research. It was an enjoyable evening for all of the staff and families involved. The students of 7H should be commended for their efforts.

Marie-Claire Anastasiadis, Discere

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
Library News

Dane Swan Event
St Bernard’s Mitchell Library in collaboration with Bookbonding and Hardie Grant hosted a book launch for Dane Swan.

On Monday, 10 October 200 people were treated to a Q & A session with Dane Swan, he spoke about his football beginnings, his AFL career with Collingwood Football Club, his career highs and lows and the injury that has kept him sidelined in 2016. Dane shared his aspirations and goals for his post football life and how he has had to deal with an injury that ultimately lead to his retirement from the game he loves. For the attendees they were able to speak to Dane individually during his book signing.

A copy of Dane’s book, My Story is available in the library for those who would like to read about one of AFL’s greatest players in modern times. I would like to thank those who came along to this event, your support is very much appreciated.

3 Million Word Challenge Winners
Ms Harding’s English class 8B were the winners of the 3 Million Word Challenge for 2016. They were fantastic in their efforts to be the first class in Term 3 to read 3 Million words as a group.

There were some other students whose reading efforts were also rewarded individually for their reading accomplishments: Aaron Powell, Blake Jones, Anthony Martens, Flynn Catterall, David Karaula, Aiden Lemke, Aji Navaneethan, Noah Hewitt, Nathan Borg, Christian La Ferla, Nathan Rayner, Patrick Hewat, Christopher Abbenante, Scott Carter and Mikhael Touma. All students were invited to attend a Pizza Lunch in the Library on Wednesday, 19 October.

Jacqui Gale
Library Manager

Wellbeing Week Activities –Learning How To Maintain Wellbeing.

The Student Wellbeing Action Team (SWAT) organised a number of activities to help promote wellbeing amongst the St Bernard’s students. One of the innovations the treasure hunt using QR Codes. The QR Code can be deciphered by using a QR Code Scanner on a smart Phone. This then revealed where the next QR code could be found. The first person who found all QR codes and was able to state the wellbeing fact won a JB HiFi voucher.

On Thursday we had a band formed by the Year 11 music group that played music while students ate lunch. Meanwhile in the Soccer field and Hockey field, Futsal matches were run. One of the teams was made up of staff who were given a run for their money by the student teams.

On the Friday two assemblies were run. The Year 11’s were spoken to by speakers from Yooralla Peter and Clarke, who spoke about how they manage their lives living with a severe disability. This showed students wellbeing is more than being abled but is about the attitude we use to approach adversity. The year 7 to 10 students listened to Fireman Scott Darcy and Fireman Dean Gould speak about how Fireman support one another to maintain wellbeing especially after experiencing traumatic events. They spoke about the internal bucket we carry that gets added to each time a difficult situation arises. What is important is to recognise when the bucket is reaching the brim and the steps they take to empty it to help maintain mental health.

The SWAT group ran Lunchtime Barbeque to help raise money for the Fireman’s preferred charity of Lifeline and Beyond Blue. Over $575 was raised for these two charities. A big thanks to all the students and staff that made Wellbeing Week a very special and memorable week. A major thanks goes to Berra Meat Macellaria from Niddrie Central Shopping Centre and to the Burke Family who donated some of the sausages.
Iggy Helps Year 12 Students
Therapy dogs are helping students across the Australia deal with stress during the busy end-of-year exam period.

Prior to the English exam on Wednesday morning, the Year 12 boys were treated to the presence of Iggy, the College’s mascot, in an attempt to relax the boys before an their exam and stressful exam period.

Anti-Bullying Poster Competition Winners Announced
During the Year 7 to 10 Wellbeing Assembly the winners of the Anti-Bullying Poster Competition were announced. Third place went to Dante Juhasz 7E, 2nd place to Anthony Zorzanello 12A and the winner was Harry Catterall 10F who won an iPod Nano. We congratulate the students who in total entered 79 posters and made the competition very worthwhile.

John Samanna
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Music News

Spring Concert
Term 4 has progressed well with our Spring Concert in Week 2 showcasing the great efforts of our students throughout second semester. It was at the concert that we farewelled our Year 12 musicians. These students have contributed a great deal to music and to the St Bernard’s College community. We wish them all the best in their endeavours beyond school.

I have enjoyed witnessing the progress of some of the College’s newest musicians, the Year 7 honours Band, as they have rehearsed on Wednesday mornings. The engagement and dedication of the students is to be commended, as is the support from parents for being so willing to get them to school so early in preparation for band!

Bursary Applications
There are still some places left for bursary auditions. Please see link below to apply ASAP.

https://mysbc.sbc.vic.edu.au/homepage/3918

Auditions will be held on Wednesday, 2 November from 3.00pm – 5.00pm and Monday, 7 November from 3.00pm – 4.30pm. Applicants who have already sent their form in will be individually notified of audition times.

Year 7 Concert
A reminder to parents of 7A, B, C, D and H that the Year 7 concert is on Thursday, 17 November beginning at 7.30pm. Promises to be a great celebration of the students’ achievement.

Friends of Music
Also, the next Friends of Music meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 November at 7.30pm in the music department.

Jack Stewart
Director of Music
FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Wellbeing Week 2016
October 10-14
INVITATION TO TRY OUT FOR THE INAUGURAL SBOCCC CRICKET CLUB JG CRAIG SHIELD TEAM

Formally known as Hatch, this is the premier representative Under 15 Turf Cricket tournament in the state and is for only the most elite young cricketers in Victoria.

St Bernard’s is about to enter its first year in the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association, and as such, we will be debuting our first ever JG Craig team.

As St Bernard’s students, we want YOU to represent your area at this season’s tournament. Best efforts will be made to schedule try outs and training so it will not affect your ability to play and train with your current club.

For more details, either head to our website: http://www.stbernardsoccc.com.au

Or

Please contact St Bernard’s OCCC via email at stbernardsoc@club.cricketvictoria.com.au and leave your contact details or phone Duncan Hefter on 0481251700 and leave a message with your contact details.

Please note, all players must be under the age of 15 as of the 1st of September 2016.

Try outs will begin in October, with dates to be finalised.
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

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