From The Principal

Last Wednesday all College staff gathered for our annual Spirituality Day. The speakers were Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services, and Tim Costello who stepped down as CEO of World Vision Australia earlier this year after 13 years. Tim is currently the ‘Chief Advocate’ of the organisation.

Both speakers were excellent and challenged us, not only about social justice but on a deeper level as to why we ‘do’ social justice and why it is important that we do. There were some strong links to our touchstone of gospel spirituality.

Tim suggested that the central message of the Gospel is that people matter and that the worst thing that can befall anyone is that they cease to matter and become invisible to others. One line that resonated with me is that for the homeless beggar the most significant issue is not that they are cold or hungry or homeless but that they are invisible to us as we pass by and ignore them.

Our Christian tradition and scripture informs us that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. When we ignore a human in need we ignore God. As an inclusive community St Bernard’s promotes and demonstrates justice and solidarity by recognising and responding to human need. It was good for us to be reminded of the theological basis for this commitment.

This week Mother Theresa of Kolkata was formally recognised as a saint in a ceremony in Rome presided over by Pope Francis. The primary reason for this recognition was her response to human need. Mother Theresa demonstrated an ability to see God in some of the poorest and most needy people on the planet and help them.

During the holidays I will be travelling to India to spend a week in an ‘immersion’ in a school in Dadar (near Mumbai), followed by a week in Kolkata where I will join about 280 Edmund Rice school leaders from across the world for the first ERBB (Edmund Rice Beyond Borders) conference. Christian Brothers and educational leaders from 25 different countries will also be present. It will be a large and significant gathering, although not quite as large at the one about a kilometer away where, coincidentally, over 3 million will gather for a Mass to celebrate Mother Theresa’s sainthood.

Today we will be involved in a National Day of Prayer & Action, with 50 students joined by St Columba’s students to stand together in ‘circles of silence’ as part of ‘Detention for Detention’. This is part of a nationwide demonstration of solidarity and justice and the College is proud to stand with people seeking asylum and refuge in our ‘lucky country’.

On a separate but, I think related theme, the College has been hosting training for the Essendon footballers banned during 2016 by ASADA. As an Edmund Rice school one of our commitments is to the touchstone of Gospel Spirituality. Our Christian tradition and scripture emphasize the importance of forgiveness and redemption.

When training commenced some months ago I was astonished to receive a number of calls, emails and letters questioning the decision to allow alleged ‘drug cheats’ to use our facilities. I was delighted to write back pointing out that as a Catholic community we believe in forgiveness and redemption. These players will complete their ban and will finish training here in the coming weeks. On behalf of the College I wish them well in their careers and assure them of a warm welcome should they visit St Bernard’s again.

Congratulations to our Senior Basketball team and Year 10 Hockey team who won ACC premierships last week. Our Year 7 Division 2 Hockey team also won their premiership yesterday.

Congratulations to our ACC Cross Country team who were finished third overall behind St Bede’s and St Joseph’s on Wednesday.

Our Junior Golf team are competing in the ACC tournament as this newsletter goes to press.
Last week we received word that April Honeyman will be retiring as Principal of St Columba’s College at the end of 2016. On behalf of this community I would like to acknowledge the support April has given St Bernard’s, and her support for me particularly when I commenced in 2009, and wish her a long and happy retirement.

This is the final newsletter for Term 3. I wish all families a safe, restful break and our VCE students a productive ‘non-instructional period’ as they prepare for exams.

God Bless

Tony Paatsch
Principal

Diversity Day 2016

On Friday, 26 August, students participated in the first Diversity Day at the College. Students and Staff celebrated their differences by wearing a different tie or scarf. Often people discriminate towards those who are different, whether it be differences in height, skin or hair colour, race, culture, background, gender, sexuality etc.

The aim of the day was not to fundraise but to promote, accept and celebrate the differences within St Bernard’s College and the wider community. We are all made in the image and likeness of God and no one should receive any unjust discrimination because of that.

Lisa Grass
Christian Service Coordinator

Organisation

Year 7-11 Parent Student Teacher Interviews
Parent Student Teacher Interviews for Years 7-11 students will take place in Term 3. There are two dates set aside for interviews as follows:

Afternoon / Evening 1 - Tuesday 13 September
Time: 2.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Venue: College Gymnasium
Students will be dismissed at 12.40pm (After school buses will operate at 12.40pm for students who require transport home)

Afternoon / Evening 2 – Thursday 15 September
Time: 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm
Venue: College Gymnasium
Students will be dismissed at 2:55pm (Normal School Day)

End of Term 3 – Friday 16 September
Students will be dismissed at 2.55 pm on the final day of Term 3. Term 4 Begins – Monday 3 October.

Craig Osborne
Director of Organisation
Volunteers Dinner

We would like to invite all of our volunteer helpers to the annual Volunteers Dinner. Whether it be Cross-Country training, Ladies Auxiliary, Parents & Friends, Social Justice, The Production, Uniform shop, Canteen or any other event. You are most welcome to attend. A two course meal and drinks are provided.

Where: St Bernard’s College Pavilion Gate 8
When: 19 October at 7.00pm
RSVP: 10 October via telephone: 9289 1136 or email Cholland@Sbc.vic.edu.au

For catering purposes please indicate any dietary requirements.

Carolyn Holland
Canteen

Library News

Dane Swan Upcoming Event
St Bernard’s College has been offered another truly unique event. Dane Swan will be releasing a book on Monday, 10 October to mark his retirement.

St Bernard’s College will be celebrating his outstanding football career by hosting a Q & A followed by book signings on Monday, 10 October at 5.30pm, nibbles and non-alcoholic beverages to be provided with Q & A starting at 6.00pm. The cost is $45 which admits two people and a copy of the book. Bookings are now open on the St Bernards College website http://www.sbc.vic.edu.au/. Bookings are essential, this event is open to the wider community so get in early to avoid missing out.

If you have any questions or queries feel free to email Jacqui Gale on jgale@sbc.vic.edu.au

Jacqui Gale
Library Manager

St Bernard’s Day Soccer Match

St Bernard’s Day was not only a day of acknowledging the history of our great College, it also provided us with an opportunity to display the real sense of community which our school prides itself on. As well as welcoming back a number of Old Collegians and their families for the celebration, we also welcomed into our community a handful of newly-settled asylum seekers who now call Australia home. The boys - who are in the care of Anglicare Victoria - were invited to participate in a friendly soccer match together with some of our own students.

The gym became an area filled with excitement and a genuine sense of togetherness as the boys took to the court for a game of indoor soccer.

The environment became one which depicted how a community should be - we not only welcomed our guests but also affiliated and socialised with our newly-accepted Australians.

The soccer match resembled the theme of being one. With only few boys playing in the physical game, each of the many spectators soon found great enjoyment in observing this form of unison. It was a great success, not in terms of the score, but in terms of establishing what the St Bernard’s community is all about.

Patrick Kennedy, Anthony Bonaguro, and Nic Lukies
Student Council
SBOCA Golf Day - Sponsorship Opportunity and Bookings

On Friday, 21 October the St Bernard’s College Old Collegians are holding their Annual Golf Day.

In 2016 we are joining with the Lane Family to support a project in honour of their son and Old Collegian Chris, who was tragically killed in the USA in 2013. All profits raised from the SBOCA Annual Golf Day will go towards helping build a new Little League Baseball Field named in honour of Chris Lane.

We are inviting interested families with a business the opportunity to sponsor this event. For further information on how you can help, contact David Formosa on 9289 1106 or development@sbc.vic.edu.au

Bookings can also now be made to book your team via https://www.trybooking.com/MNLZ

David Formosa
Director of Development
St Bernard’s College Essendon, in conjunction with BookBonding Bookstore & Hardie Grant Books invite you to

CELEBRATE THE AFL CAREER OF ONE OF COLLINGWOOD’S GREATEST PLAYERS

DANE SWAN

Dane Swan is a Brownlow medallist, three-time Copeland Trophy winner, premiership player and five-time All Australian. The road to success has been an impressive journey for this AFL player. An old-style footballer, Swan works hard and plays hard. He is one of the AFL’s most prolific ball winners and has since become recognised as one of the greatest midfielders of the modern era. In his autobiography, Dane Swan talks about the highs and lows of his AFL career. Revealing, fascinating, funny, and brutally honest, this is a must read.

“He’s got an element of danger about him. He’s from Broady, he’s got tatts, he’s got a sense of humour, he’s his own man, he makes blues and he’s sublime on the field.”

Eddie McGuire

“There are no airs and graces, what you see is what you get. He’s not trying to be someone he’s not and that’s the beauty of Dane Swan. He’s only always been Dane Swan and you either like him, like most people do, or you don’t” – Liam Pickering

“Swan is the best mid-fielder in the AFL” – Leigh Matthews

Date: Mon 10th October, 5.30pm arrival for 6pm start
St Bernard’s College Auditorium, 41 Rosehill Road, Essendon
COST: $45 (admits 2 people & one copy of book).
Further copies may be purchased at the event with cash or card.
Nibbles & non alcoholic beverages provided.
Short Q&A followed by book signing.
THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER, 2016
7.30 - 9pm
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
ST. BERNARD'S COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
DONATIONS FOR CHARITIES
WELCOME AT THE DOOR

BOOK FREE TICKETS AT www.sbcjn.com

GUEST SPEAKERS:
FIONA SCOTT-NORMAN
writer & comedian
LEILA GURRUWIWI
tv presenter & mentor
TIM CRONIN
social worker
TOBY HALLIGAN
writer on Ch10’s “The Project” & comedian
LINC YOW YEH
educational coordinator & musician
KATIE O’NEILL
refugee advocate

IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT.
A Great Debate on Diversity
#ok2bdifferent sbcsjn
 comic