From The Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Bernard’s,

You may be aware that in 2016 the College Board made the courageous and—in my view—wise decision, to invest in the human and physical resources to establish a St Bernard’s Research Centre. Ms Christine Shannon was subsequently appointed as Director of Professional Learning, Innovation & Research, and plans were approved for the inclusion of a Research Centre space among the new buildings which are now under construction.

I wish to share with you my own view of the potential that a research Centre can hold for St Bernard’s; in particular, how it can contribute to the improvement of student outcomes for our students.

I begin with several observations:

- There is now a high level of consensus amongst researchers, teachers, politicians and the general public that a high quality education relies on high quality teachers.
- I am convinced that all teachers want to be better teachers, no matter where they lie on the continuum. As principal, I want all teachers to teach more like the best teacher. There is a synergy in those two desires. For all teachers to teach more like the best teachers, they need to see and work with their colleagues more, rather than teach in isolation. Teachers teaching on their own and in isolation is a model of teaching that would be very familiar to most of us from our own schooling experience.
- Continuous learning is a professional requirement of teachers under Victorian Law, consistent with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers required of all Australian teachers. The way in which the accumulation of professional learning hours has happened, however, has often not served the needs of students well. The traditional form of teacher professional learning or ‘inservicing’ as it is sometimes known, is to send teachers off-campus to a ‘one shot’ workshops. One shot workshops take teachers out of their regular classes (which is immediately counter-productive). In addition, there is a growing awareness in the profession, also expressed by researchers in the field, that “what really counts is what happens ‘in between the workshops’ where teachers teach teachers” (Michael Fullan 2011).
- Schools are at an unprecedented point of being data rich. Never before have we had so much data about students’ learning readily available, and the tools with which to access it. On its own, however, the data is of little use. It needs time for analysis and reflection, and an implementation plan to address students’ learning needs that such an analysis and reflection reveals. Experience of the last decade has taught us that while we are awash with data, teachers remain keenly focussed on their work in the classroom with their students (as they should) and little change in practice has taken place, in spite of the presence of additional data on students’ learning abilities and challenges. Additional support is needed to drive the analysis of the data to which we have so much access.

Given these realities, a Research Centre and human resources invested in it provide the means for St Bernard’s to address teacher professional learning and student data and individualised learning in more effective and intelligent ways. Teachers can be supported to work in collaboration and on-campus in ways that limit disruption to student learning.
Teacher professional learning can be focussed on actual local data on their real students with an action plan specific to their classrooms and students, rather than the generalities that are dealt with in off-campus workshops.

The ultimate outcome will be more personalised learning that better places St Bernard’s to maximise the learning of every student, and better informed teachers, learning from each other, that deliver even higher quality teaching than that to which the St Bernard’s community has already grown accustomed.

Adam Taylor
Principal

Principal, Dr Adam Taylor pictured with Ms Danielle Cronin, Acting Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, the peak body established by the Australian Bishops Conference to, amongst other things, negotiate education funding for Catholic schools.

Ms Cronin was addressing the Principals’ Association of Victoria regarding the current state of funding negotiations with the Federal government. The Catholic community must never take for granted the importance of government funding for our schools and the fact that it was, and continues to be, hard fought for and hard won.
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You will notice in the index above there is a section in the newsletter called 'Letterbox'. This is a collection of recent forms and letters that have gone home to parents/guardians.

Should forms and letters be misplaced or accidentally destroyed, a second copy can simply be obtained by clicking on the relevant link to the form you need. You will be able to download and print the form if you choose to do so.

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From The Deputy Principal

2017 VCE Goals

In the past weeks our Year 12 teachers have met to unpack the VCE results of 2016. This has been an invaluable experience as individual subject results were examined in great detail. Data such as the performance of each question on the end of year examination will lead us to a greater understanding of where to focus the learning for 2017.

It is timely to understand that the VCE is a competition against all students who have elected to embark on this course of study. Most courses of study consist of 50% internal and 50% external assessment. Once the raw score is finalized, your son will receive a ranking based upon the performance of all other students in Victoria. This ranking then makes up individual study scores and an overall ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank).

Study Scores

In each subject, raw scores are matched to a normal distribution curve with a median study score of 30. This means that:

2% of students in the state receive a study score > 45
8% of students receive a study score > 40
16% of students receive a study score > 37
24% of students receive a study score > 35
50% of students receive a study score > 30

All data indicates that our students are capable of performing above state level. A reminder that individual help is available from subject teachers and the library is open after school and during term breaks.

Unit 3&4 Parent/Student Teacher Interviews

The first Unit 3&4/VCAL Parent Information Evening is scheduled on Tuesday, 14 March. This will provide an initial check on the progress of our senior students and offers an opportunity for early intervention if required. At this stage of the Term it is necessary for students to realise that the ‘settling in’ period is over and that the ‘hard work’ in class and at home should have begun.

Paul Shannon, Deputy Principal
Recycled Uniform Sale

The Recycled Uniform Sale will take place on Tuesday, 14 March from 3.00pm-6.00pm in the Peter Hogan Boardroom

Renee Buhagiar, Uniform Shop

Male Mentor Games Night

On Tuesday, 14 February the Male Mentor Night was enjoyed by 420 participants. Students from Year 7 to Year 9 were joined by a significant adult male participating in activities including rock climbing, soccer skills, volleyball, tennis, board and card games, 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. It is a truly wonderful St Bernard’s community event. The night is put on by the St Bernard’s College staff, the Student Council and VCAL students 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.

David Sutton, Assistant Principal (Student Wellbeing)

St Bernard's Parents and Friends Association

Next Meeting: 14 March 2017
Time: 7.30pm
Location: Peter Hogan Board Room
Main Issue: Small Grant Presentations

All parents are welcome to attend.

Stefan Loukomitis, President
St Bernard’s Ladies Auxiliary Morning Coffee

Save the Date: The Ladies Auxiliary will host a morning tea in the Boardroom on Wednesday, 1 March from 9.00am.

For all new ladies. We look forward to meeting you and to give you the opportunity to meet other ladies at the College. RSVP your attendance (for catering) to jenny@careplus.com.au.

Visit From Our Italian Sister School

Following our successful 2016 Italy Study Tour, it is now our turn to host students from our Sister School in Treviso, Italy.

Twenty-five students and two teachers from the Istituto Mazzotti (Touristico / Alberghiero) will be arriving on Tuesday evening, 28 February, and will spend the next 8 days with us.

They will attend St. Bernard’s on Wednesday 1 March and will be welcomed by College Principal, Dr Adam Taylor, together with Bruno Spiller and some VCE students who will present information about St. Bernard’s, the City of Melbourne & the State of Victoria. An overview of their Itinerary can be found on the College Website.

A BIG thank-you / grazie mille to those SBC Families who will be hosting a student. We look forward to another enriching cultural experience with our friends from Treviso, Italy.

Bruno Spiller
Languages KLA
St Bernard’s College Foundation

St Bernard’s College Essendon has grown into one of Melbourne’s most highly regarded Catholic Boys Colleges. In the process, generations of young men have been educated at St Bernard’s in the Edmund Rice Tradition, allowing them to achieve personal success.

In 2003, the College Board and Administration realised that in order for the College to continue to provide affordable education into the future, the College Community, being Old Collegians, Past and Current Families and other stakeholders would be required to make a continuing investment.

The establishment of the St Bernard’s College Foundation in 2003 provided the structure for the organisation and administration of that investment. Most of the College’s facilities have been made possible through the outstanding generosity of past generations, a combination of Old Collegians and the dedication of Catholic families.

Today the St Bernard’s College Foundation continues to provide a philanthropic avenue for those wishing to invest in the school. Whether it be through the Building Fund, Scholarship and Endowment Fund or Bequests, the Foundation is working to ensure that St Bernard’s College and its students are continued to be held in high regard within the community.

For further information about the St Bernard’s College Foundation, contact the College Development Manager Mr David Formosa on 9289 1106 or dformosa@sbc.vic.edu.au

National Ride2School Day

National Ride to School Day is an environmental initiative focused on cutting down on emissions and improving travel to and from school, but more importantly, a wellbeing initiative that allows an active way to get to school. It’s a perfect way to start the day, being on the ball for school and feeling refreshed and healthy.

By riding or walking to school on Friday 17 March, students will be allowed to wear PE uniform for the day.

Members of the Student Council will be at a number of checkpoints around the local area. These students will be on bikes and leaving each checkpoint at 8:00am on Friday. Great way to ride as a group! Stay tuned for more info.

Student Council
St Bernard’s College Social Justice Network

St Bernard’s College Social Justice Network (SBCSJN) is a parent group that was established in May 2012. The network is made up of parents who believe that to encourage and facilitate their own son’s interest and involvement in social justice, they must also seek to actively participate, offer and characterise themselves as role models.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, we are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself. Social justice as a goal, but also as a process, is everywhere. As parents, we recognise that the gospel duty and relevance of helping others is one of the most important reasons for sending our boys to this school.

The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the Peter Hogan Boardroom (below reception). We run social justice awareness raising events, soup van initiatives and other minor projects. All parents are welcome to join, please contact sbcsjn@sbc.vic.edu.au for more information about our first meeting.

The 2017 Melbourne Palm Sunday Walk For Justice For Refugees will be on Sunday April 9 at 2pm, commencing at the State Library (music from 1.30pm). The St Bernard’s Social Justice Network is organising a group to attend the walk. We are also hoping to walk with other Catholic high schools in the area. Please join us and stand up for justice! For more information, contact us by email: sbcsjn@sbc.vic.edu.au or check our website www.sbcsjn.com and Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/SBSJN

Why Walk? Detention on Manus Island was declared illegal in April last year, but people are still being held there. Refugees trapped on Manus and Nauru are approaching their fourth year on the detention islands. The US refugee deal remains uncertain; no-one has yet been offered resettlement. The humane thing to do is to #BringThemHere.

Also, over 30,000 refugees are living on Bridging Visas in our community with their futures in limbo. They are only eligible for Temporary Protection Visas. Many families are separated by the harsh system, and people despair of ever being reunited. Many fear being deported to danger under the government's new Fast Track Assessment process.

The refugee movement is shifting public opinion; a majority are now opposed to the continuing detention of refugees on Manus and Nauru. An estimated 15,000 people attended the 2016 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice. We want the 2017 gathering to be bigger still.

Let's try and make this year the end of offshore processing. Bring your family, friends, and workmates, bring banners and signs.

Lisa Grass
Coordinator – Advocacy & Justice
ENROLMENT APPLICATION

YEAR 7, 2019

ENROLMENT APPLICATION MEETINGS

FAMILY SURNAMES A – K
(New and Current Families)
TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2017

FAMILY SURNAMES L – Z
(New and Current Families)
WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2017

at
7.30 PM
in
COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

Application Forms are distributed at these meetings and
need to be returned to the College by Friday, 21 April 2017.
Application Forms requested after these meetings may be classed as a Late Application
The meeting is for Parents/Guardians only.

2017 TOURS of the College are as follows:
9 February, 13 February, 16 February, 20 February, 21 February, 22 February, 28 February,
3 March, 7 March, 10 March, 13 March, 15 March, 16 March, 22 March, 23 March, 19 April, 20 April, 24 April, 27 April,
3 May, 4 May, 11 May, 25 May, 30 May, 31 May
Prospective students and families are most welcome to tour the College but please note that access to some
buildings and facilities will be restricted due to ongoing building works. Families assemble in the Noel O’Brien
Foyer – entrance to College gymnasium (Building 3)

commencing at 9:00am. Bookings essential – telephone 9289 1192.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
COLLEGE WEB SITE: www.sbc.vic.edu.au
or Telephone: College Receptionist – Janette Nicholas on 9289 1192
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”