The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) training encouraged me in the philosophies that underpin our policies and direction that the College is headed. We are starting from a very strong position and already have in place a number of initiatives that fit under the SWPBS umbrella. This is reflected in the strong school spirit and welcoming atmosphere that people recognise when they enter our school. This is a foundation that we will use to be the best that we can be, both as individuals and as a school community.

Late last week Mrs Saunders underwent surgery. This went well, but she is taking an extended period of leave to help her recovery, and to undergo follow-up treatment. Mr Matt Ward will be taking her classes from the beginning of next week.

On Tuesday I was pleased to be part (in a supporting role) of the College’s team competing in the Northern Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools (NSATIS) swimming carnival held in Launceston. It was a very successful carnival for us, not solely for the fine results, but because of the strong school spirit that was in evidence in the way the members interacted with and supported each other and their coaches. I thank Mr Hector Lenton and Miss Kaoru Sherriff who took on the role as coaches for the team, as well as Mr Adam Aherno and, Head of Sport, Miss Renae Sushames, who accompanied the team. The College came third overall, won the Junior boys shield, came second in the overall boys; third in both senior girls and overall girls. In addition we won the U13 and U14 boys age levels. Special mention must go to record breakers: Joshua Pickett who broke his own record in the 50 M Breaststroke by 0.63 of a second to set a new time of 32.01S; and the U 13 Boys relay team (Daniel Littler, Max Green, Max O'Leary, and Ben Williams) who took nearly 3 seconds off the old record to come first in their age group.

Results that I am aware of (but there may be others) are: Hayley Atkins and Allison Hall, both past scholars of the College, as well as current students: Karley Beer; Rochelle Smithers; and Lucie Riley. Results that I am aware of include: Allison Hall who placed 2nd; Karley Beer placed 6th; Lucie Riley who placed 8th; and Rochele Smithers who placed 11th. Andrea Hendrey had qualified to compete, but on the eve of the event her horse went lame. Karley rode on a new horse that she had trained herself.

On Friday a number of our Aussie Sport Leaders provided support as officials for the Devonport Triathlon. I was not surprised to hear what a good job they had done and what fine ambassadors they were. I am aware of two results of students who competed on Friday. Max Green came first in his age group, and Georgia O'Rourke was the first female home, and third overall, in her age group.

This week-end just gone, several past and present students from the College’s equestrian team, competed in a 3 day Trials event. They represented their pony clubs in this state-wide competition. In two weeks they will also be competing in State Championships. These are the two biggest horse events on the equestrian calendar. The riders I’m aware of (but there may be others) are: Hayley Atkins and Allison Hall, both past scholars of the College, as well as current students: Karley Beer; Rochelle Smithers; and Lucie Riley. Results that I am aware of include: Allison Hall who placed 2nd; Karley Beer placed 6th; Lucie Riley who placed 8th; and Rochele Smithers who placed 11th. Andrea Hendrey had qualified to compete, but on the eve of the event her horse went lame. Karley rode on a new horse that she had trained herself.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal
National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2012

In 2008, the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program is scheduled to continue in 2012 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 to be assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Tasmania have been participating in literacy and numeracy tests for a number of years, so there is familiarity with the test formats and the types of questions.

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2012 are Tuesday 15 May, Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May.

These national tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level, as well as performance across the whole range of student abilities. The results will support improvements in teaching and learning for students.

Parents will receive an individual report that shows their child’s results and a comparison of their child’s performance against all other Australian students in their year level. The report will also indicate how your child performed in comparison to the national average and the levels of achievement expected at that year level.

For students in Years 5, 7 and 9, the results from the 2012 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since they last participated in NAPLAN testing in 2010.

The best way you can assist your child is by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, including test samples, frequently asked questions, the test schedule and a parent information brochure, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: http://www.nap.edu.au.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Helen Williams at the College.

Mrs Helen Williams
Deputy Principal
Learning & Teaching

Environmental Group

The new Student Leadership Environmental Group of 2012 is led by Joe Braid and Mr McIver. Recently they have accomplished their first initiative; the Schools clean-up day which is an affiliation of the well-known clean-up Australia day.

The afternoon was very successful with a few prefects, Miss Leary, Mr McIver and his Year Seven class helping out. The day consisted of a walk to Coles Beach and along the track towards the Bluff, with a mission to clear away the rubbish and waste. The Year Sevens helped to make this day run smoothly as they were very enthusiastic to participate and make a difference. After cleaning along the track the group then trekked back to school and collected rubbish around our school grounds as well.

Throughout this year the Environmental Group’s main goals are looking at improving the schools recycling abilities, introducing an Earth Day as well as many more exciting initiatives! The first group meeting held on Tuesday was very promising; we are to expect great things. The participation from all the students is appreciated immensely.

Joe Braid
Student
Science:
Wednesday, May 23rd
Year 7 - 12 students

Maths:
Thursday, August 2nd
Year 7 - 12 students

The Big Science competition is run by Australian Science Innovations and the Maths competition is conducted by the University of Canberra. All participants receive a certificate and a detailed results letter. Credit, Distinction and Medal awards are also achievable. These documents are suitable for inclusion in a portfolio.

The questions tested in the competition cover a wide variety of skills and processes that are an integral part of all these subjects. The papers test the application of these skills across all disciplines.

Student participation is voluntary, and will involve withdrawing students from their regular classes for 90 minutes. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity as achievement in these competitions is recognised throughout Australia. If your son or daughter wishes to participate and you support their decision, please complete the permission slip provided (more slips are available from the school office) and return this to your homeroom teacher by Monday 16th April. (No late entries accepted).

As the College pays a $7.00 entry fee per student, a firm commitment is required by students who enter.

Further information is available from:
Mrs Rochelle Taylor, Faculty Head of Science;
Mrs Shelley Keightley, Faculty Head of Mathematics.

2012 Science & Mathematics Competitions

I ______________________________(name of parent) give permission for ______________________ (student’s name),
Year _______ Homeroom _______ to participate in the following competitions at St Brendan-Shaw College.

Science ☐  PLEASE TICK COMPETITIONS TO BE ENTERED
Maths ☐

Parent’s Signature: ………………………………………………….
Student’s Signature: ………………………………………………...
Palm Sunday Pilgrimage
Sunday 1st April

All students, staff, family and friends are invited to join with the rest of the Tasmanian Church to celebrate Palm Sunday Pilgrimage! This is an event for all ages to mark Palm Sunday, World Youth Day and to celebrate our Catholic Church. Featuring special guest and singing sensation, Fr Rob Galea, along with: pilgrim walk; free kids activities; food; drink; police escorted Street Procession and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Buses will be available from around the state! Experience the energy and Join in the Fun at this massive event. For more information and to Register go to: www.cymtas.org.au or contact Rachelle on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au

Palm Sunday Pilgrimage: Volunteers

Palm Sunday Pilgrimage doesn't happen without the help of wonderful and dedicated volunteers. We are currently looking for people who can volunteer their time and/or skills as: walking marshals, clean-up team, lunch preparation, manning stalls and pick-up and delivery of equipment. If you feel you can help in any of these ways, please contact Rachelle on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au

Uniform Shop

Tuesdays/Wednesdays
10.00 am — 4.00 pm

LOST PROPERTY

The box contains 3prs black school shoes, 9prs sandshoes. Navy/Maroon Jumpers, Polo Tops.
ALL WITHOUT NAMES. If not collected by Easter we are off to Vinnies.

Mrs Sue Arrowsmith
Uniform Shop Manageress

An Invitation for women to a day of retreat

Mums, have the school holidays left you feeling drained? The Mersey Leven Parish offer you the chance to relax, replenish and renew with a day of retreat on Saturday 31st March from 10am until 4pm at MacKillop Hill, Forth.

There is no cost and lunch is supplied. Bookings are required.

Phone: 6428 3095 or email: rsjforth@bigpond.net.au or for more information contact Amanda Cleary-Schofield (6429 1162) or Belinda Chapman (6426 1835).