I would like to be able to confirm Term dates for 2013 as soon as possible. However, the Australian Education Union and the State Department of Education (DoE) are continuing to work towards a common position on the introduction of a four-term year. As soon as this has been achieved, and the DoE has confirmed the end-of-term breaks, I will be in a position to provide some certainty.

Our student numbers have grown significantly, with current enrolments steady at 741, compared with 698 students at the end of 2010. The formal process for students seeking enrolment in Year 7 for 2013 will begin shortly, with visits to our Catholic Primary feeder schools. The first Wednesday evening (18 April) after the Easter holiday will provide an opportunity to gain specific information on the College as well as provide a tour of the College. Students who are interested in enrolment in other Year levels are also welcome. If you have children who you wish to attend the College, please join in on this Information and Open evening.

Congratulations to:
- Matthew and Nick Towns and Laura Woods (see articles in this newsletter);
- The Junior Debating team on their recent win against Scotch Oakburn College; and
- Our NSATIS Basketball team for a winning start to the season.

Last week’s Commissioning ceremony provided an opportunity to formally present our prefects with their badge of office, as well as to commission them to discharge the responsibilities that come with this position. All students were commissioned with the responsibility to promote learning as a top priority in their life, and to be counter-cultural and not accept bullying and violence in our school. It was appropriate that the ceremony coincided with the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

On this theme, I acknowledge Harmony Day that is championed this week. I was an interested viewer of SBS’s Insight program on Tuesday night. The focus was racism, and I resonated with the observation made by one participant, that racist attitudes are minimised when one comes to know an individual. Fear was another element. At the end of the program, I switched channels to catch the late Jim Stynes commenting that fear holds us back, and that once we conquer fear we can achieve so much. Food for thought, and much that we can apply to our own relationships.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal
**Year 7 - 10 Interim Reports**

Interim reports will be written after Easter and sent home towards the end of the first week back. The report will give a statement on Progress to Date, and Application and Attitude for all subjects. An opportunity will be available for Parent-Teacher interviews on Thursday April 26 from 3.30pm until 6.00pm.

Mrs Helen Williams  
Deputy Principal—Learning & Teaching

**IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS—2012 SCHOOL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

The Devonport City Council immunisation team will soon visit the school to administer vaccinations for Grade 7 and Grade 10 students that may be due.

- Grade 10: Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (1 dose course)
- Grade 7: Hepatitis B (2 dose course)
- Grade 7: (Girls only) Human Papillomavirus (3 dose course)
- Grade 7: Varicella (1 dose course)  
  (only available for those if they have not had Chickenpox)

The team will be returning to the school later in the year to provide the second and third doses.

Consent forms are now being distributed to students in the relevant grades. Please return your consent form (completed in blue/black pen) to the school office no later than Monday 2nd April.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding immunisation, please contact the Devonport City Council Health Department on 6424 0576 directly, not through the school office.

Thank you

Mr Richard Chapman  
Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care

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**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: pilgrimage 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 email: 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.

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**An Invitation for women to a day of retreat**

The Mersey Leven Parish is offering an opportunity for women (especially mothers with a young family) to spend some time in reflection away from busy, everyday life 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 (64 291162) or Belinda Chapman (64 261835).
Last Tuesday, the Ministry Leadership Group travelled to the MacKillop Hill Spirituality Centre for a prayer service as part of a statewide pilgrimage during Lent organised by Catholic Youth Ministry Tasmania. The gathering was one of 14 stops on the pilgrimage, each of which represents a Station of the Cross. All local Catholic schools were represented and participated in the service. Fr Felix led the service and we began by praying the rosary. Below is a report on the morning from a Year 10 student.

On the 13th of February, the Ministry Group left on the bus to go to MacKillop Hill to commemorate the Stations of the Cross. When we got there, we were welcomed by Father Felix and made our way over to the large cross where the service was being held. Many different schools were represented that day. Before we began, we were handed our own rosaries. We were each given a passage to read out loud from the five Sorrowful Mysteries, which were then followed by the Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Whilst we were standing there, I was captivated by the beautiful view and it reminded me of God’s beautiful and creative handiwork.

After the service we had a photo taken, walked inside the church and had morning tea. Unfortunately, we couldn’t stay for long, so we thanked everyone and got on the bus back to school.

The service was actually quite beautiful and I am certain that we all thoroughly enjoyed our experience at MacKillop Hill that morning. We were all encouraged and look forward to sharing this experience with more friends and peers.

By Elora Woods

On Monday night Laura Wood (Year 10) represented the St Brendan-Shaw College community in the annual Lions Youth of the Year competition. As part of this endeavour Laura competed against two other students both of whom are Year 12 students. Laura performed brilliantly and placed second by only the slightest of margins. Laura impressed the judging panel with her standard of excellence in public speaking, the manner in which she represented the College and the commitment with which she spoke. Both the afternoon judging panel and the larger evening audience of Lions Club members and their guests were equally impressed with the pride with which Laura wore her College uniform, the poise and skill with which she delivered her prepared speech, the passion and intelligence she exhibited during her interview process and Laura’s skill during the impromptu section of the competition. In her prepared speech, Laura balanced her strongly researched argument for the status of refugees in Australia with personal warmth and empathy.

Laura so impressed the Lions Club and the Northern Coordinator for RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment), Robyn Lamprey, that she has been offered to attend an annual weekend leadership camp for outstanding Year 10 students from across Northern Tasmania in May. Laura’s enrolment in this camp will be subsidised by the Rotary Club of Ulverstone such was their positive impression of Laura. The College community congratulate Laura on her success and we are sure she will gain much from the camp, leading to more positive life experiences and skills with which Laura will benefit herself and the College community.

By Ms Lara Watchman

MacKillop House Head
Round 4 of the NSATIS basketball competition saw LCGS travel to Devonport to take on the mighty Saints. With Tyler Kelly out with an ankle injury, Ethan Hind made his long awaited debut after also recovering from a foot injury that has kept him sidelined until now. Matt Zerna got things rolling scoring 6 of the first 8 points and helping set up numerous scoring opportunities. When the time came for Ethan to hit the court, he spotted up and nailed a three pointer, much to the delight of the crowd. The team played excellent team basketball in the second half to run out eventual winners by 18 points. Special mention to Angus Morgan for his intensity and a real willingness to have a go, it was great to see. Today the boys headed to Marist and then next Monday is our last roster game. This is against St. Patricks College and should be a close encounter so as many spectators as possible to help support the boys would be appreciated. Thanks to Mr Hubble, Cameron Hingston (Umpires) and to Mrs Cook and Mrs Zerna for their assistance on the score bench.

Recently Nick and Matthew Towns flew to the South Island of New Zealand to participate in the town of Cromwell in two international shooting competitions. These competitions were the New Zealand Nationals and the FITSAC International 2012.

Both boys performed with skill and talent displaying their natural aptitude for their chosen sport but their stellar results are also a reflection of their commitment and passion for shooting. Nick successfully placed 2nd in the FITSAC International and second in the B Grade overall for the two events. Matt placed Second in C Grade overall for the two events. Congratulations to both Nick and Matthew for placing 2nd and 2nd in the world for their shooting prowess!

We have the following equipment to give away to any member of the school community:

- 7 Desktop Slimline Computers with LCD Monitors, Keyboards and Mice
- 2 Full height tower systems (ex Servers)
- 20 CRT 17" Monitors (older style but in very good condition)

When last in use all equipment was in fine running order, however all equipment is offered under the following conditions:

- All equipment is offered on a "As is Where is" basis.
- We cannot offer any support of any kind in regard to the equipment.
- All equipment is available immediately and must be removed by Wed 28th March.

To secure any of the equipment please contact Phillip Kennedy by phone at 64247622 or email at pkennedy@sbsc.tas.edu.au

Mr Phillip Kennedy
Network Manager
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 of 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 and Mathematics Competitions
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I _______________________________(name of parent) give permission for ________________________ (student’s name), Year _______ Homeroom _______ to participate in the following competitions at St Brendan-Shaw College.

Science          Maths

PLEASE TICK COMPETITIONS TO BE ENTERED

Parent’s Signature: ………………………………………………….

Student’s Signature: …………………………………………………
On Friday 8th March, the College held a Breast Cancer support fundraiser for the McGrath Foundation. It was a very successful day with many students and staff wearing pink showing their support.

Over $460 was raised, thanks to everyone that donated to the cause.

The Staff v Students cricket match was held over 2 days at lunchtime. The students ended up winning by 11 runs, levelling the Staff v Students Sports Shield 1-1.

It was a great day and thanks again to everyone that brought something pink and donated.