The Lord gave them bread from heaven. Psalm 78

The College has been researching the possibility of a phased introduction of tablet devices, such as iPads. At this stage, in addition to the improved internet access capabilities that were introduced at the beginning of the year, we would need to expand our wireless network infrastructure at a significant cost. This, together with the reality that iPads do not replace computers, means that it is unlikely that the College could provide both computers and iPads. While there are still some technical difficulties that need to be resolved before a final decision can be made, we are considering placing an iPad on the booklist for Year 7 in 2013. Quite apart from educational advantages, we are mindful of a broad range of factors in coming to a decision, including matters of cost and durability. We are exploring ways of removing some existing costs on the booklist, as well as accessing e-texts at a reduced cost to parents. The improved wireless network would also allow the possibility for students in other year levels to bring their own computing devices for educational use, and policies are being drafted to allow this to proceed. Our improved internet access will also provide the possibility of students using “the cloud” as a free, internet based storage facility that would allow them to access their school files from anywhere that they have internet connectivity, thus removing the need (and risk) of using, emails, or USB devices to transfer files from a school account. As soon as we are in a position to communicate our plan, I will do so. In the interim, I am happy to speak to parents that have a view on this and wish to raise it.

I have included an article from Michael Grose, ex-journalist and director of a company called Parenting Ideas that I have permission to reproduce. These are aimed at parents and I am considering subscribing to this group which would allow us to make a large variety of articles available to our parents via this publication, as well as from our website.

The Year 11 camp, Tia na Nog, and Year 12 retreat are running concurrently this week. This was done to minimise the impact to their academic program. I have visited both, and will be at the retreat again this evening. It is always pleasing for me to get feedback from the people who provide the meals and other support at these venues. They recognise the fine qualities of our students, something that we see every day. I thank SBSC personnel who volunteer to run these camps, especially Mr Kamil Douglas who coordinated the programs and is leading the Retreat, and Mr Chapman who is leading Tia Na Nog. I want to thank those parents who have ensured that their son or daughter has attended.

I received a letter from the Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, to advise us that Bradley Gale, who graduated last year, has been awarded an Australian Vocational Student Prize for 2011. This is yet another award that a VET student from our College has received and we pass on our congratulations.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to play in the North West U14 Girls Thunder Basketball Team to compete in National titles South Australia in the first week of October: Georgia Davenport (7 D6), Zoe Sharman-Wilson (7 M6), Kiara Bellinger (7 L1), Brooke Jones (7 M1), Erin Hingston (7 L5), Amy Joseph (7 M7), and Keilee Lynd (7 L1).
On Sunday the 29th of July Dance students at the college were given the opportunity to work with Jason Coleman, one of Australia’s leading choreographers and Judge on the television show *So You Think You Can Dance*.

All together there were 40 dancers from St Brendan-Shaw College and Devonport High School that took part in the workshop. Students were also lead through a workshop by young up and coming dancer Kyla Bartholemuez.

Students participated in 2 workshops on the day in the genre of Jazz and Contemporary Dance. The four hour workshop was a highlight for all of the Dance students which left them excited by the many opportunities that await them when their schooling ends. While the girls were extremely sore the following Monday, the workshop produced some fantastic highlights and was overall a very successful day! Thank you to all of the dancers that made the event so worthwhile!

*Miss Josie Emery  
Dance Teacher*

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Our six Japanese exchange students landed safely in Tasmania on Saturday and we started classes at St Brendan-Shaw College on Monday morning. The students have settled very well into school life thanks to the help and support of Miss Sherriff and their host students - Tom Lamprey, Reilly Sullivan, Emma Taylor, Jacqui Mercer, Yasmine Dick and Clara Morf.

Our Japanese students have been working on Tasmanian cultural awareness and English verbal communication. Four of the students have birthdays that fall within the four weeks they are staying with us - so we will make it memorable by celebrating - *Otanjoubi Omedetou (Happy Birthday)!!*

*Mr Gerry Peters  
Teacher*
ENTERTAINMENT™ BOOKS FUNDRAISING
LAST CHANCE!

The Entertainment™ Book fundraiser assisting our World Challenge students travelling to Cambodia/Laos in 2013 is rapidly coming to an end.

The book contains hundreds of valuable offers, with discount vouchers and deals valued at over $15,000 from many of the best restaurants, arts, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Please be advised that we will only be taking orders until Friday August 10, 2012.

Should you wish to assist with our fundraising and have not received an order form, please contact Mrs Emma McIver via email emciver@sbsc.tas.edu.au or via telephone at the College on 6424 7622.

Books will be available for collection from the College (once payment is processed) or sent home with your son/daughter if you prefer. Please be sure to include the name of your child and their Homeroom on any order forms.

We thank you for supporting our World Challenge expedition!

Mrs Emma McIver
World Challenge Coordinator
**THE SCIENCE EXPERIENCE**

*The Science Experience* is a three-day hands-on science, engineering and technology program, which will be conducted again in Australian universities (UTAS Launceston & Hobart Campuses) in January 2013 for students who will be entering Year 10 in 2013. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, together with interesting presentations by our leading scientists and engineers.

UTAS, Hobart 15-17 January 2013  
UTAS, Launceston 29 – 31 January 2013

All transport and accommodation to the program is the student’s responsibility.

It is a Rotary Youth Services Project and fully supported by the Australian Science Teachers Association. The cost of the three-day program is $110 (includes GST). Local Rotary Clubs generously cover this fee for applicants after being contacted by the College.

Further information and application forms are available from your Science Teacher, Mrs Taylor or the following website:


*Any Year 9 student is welcome to attend.*

Mrs Rochelle Taylor  
Faculty Head of Science

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**UTAS OPEN DAY**

Sunday 26 August 2012 10AM – 3PM

Bring along your family and friends and explore the Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses.

At Open Day you will discover what life at UTAS is really like and find out information on the many of courses we offer, listen to inspiring presentations, take tours of the facilities and enjoy free entertainment and hands-on activities throughout the day.

For more details contact the Uni Info Centre on 13UTAS or visit [www.utas.edu.au/openday](http://www.utas.edu.au/openday)

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Tuesdays/Wednesdays 10.00 am — 4.00 pm  
Cash Cheque Layby Eftpos

**LOST PROPERTY**

Please come in and check if any items are yours.

Mrs Sue Arrowsmith  
Uniform Shop Manageress

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**Christmas Card Design Competition**

The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office is once again offering students of all ages the opportunity to design the Office Christmas Card.

All entries should be on A4 paper and given to your Principal by October 12.

On the back of your design, please write your name, school/college, grade/year and age.

The winning entry will receive a prize, be used as the Christmas card for 2012, and feature in the Connections supplement of the Tasmanian Catholic magazine.
Tir na nOg—Year 11

Year 12 Retreat
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes, an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.