College Events

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News From Our Principal

This week is an opportunity for us to celebrate the contribution of Catholic education to society. We are a significant sector, and we constantly seek to provide better education, in a values based environment where the development and well-being of the whole person is our focus. At St Brendan-Shaw College, we have articulated a set of core values to guide our actions, have the pastoral care of our community as a high priority, and seek to nurture a positive environment. In this Year of Grace, we acknowledge, that it is God that empowers us to be the best we can be, and re-affirm Jesus as a model of strength, compassion and justice. Faith is what our God asks from us. This is a difficult concept, but I favour the following description from author, Morris West: *The act of faith is not a leap from darkness into light. It is an affirmation that light exists beyond the darkness*. (A View from the Ridge)

As part of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support, an initiative that we have come to approach in a more formal way, we have come to identify a guiding set of 3 expectations that we can build upon, adding to our Core Values. I am pleased to introduce the following, by which our community will come to be known and identified:

**At St Brendan-Shaw College we strive to:**
- do our best;
- be safe; and
- value diversity.

The next steps are to describe what it looks like to live up to these expectations in various places (for example, in the classroom what behaviour would indicate that you are doing your best; being safe; and valuing diversity), and then to teach these behaviours. These expectations, and our core values, provide a common language that emphasises learning, both academic and social.

This week we have reinforced the College’s uniform expectations with our students. Parents can work with us by checking that students wear their blazers to and from school.

More difficult is the matter of clothing that is associated with a school team, but which is being worn as a replacement or addition to the uniform. It is never intended that such items can be worn as part of the academic uniform (Year 12 leavers jersey’s being an exception) and this, also has been communicated to the students. To overcome this in the future, I wish to explore some form of additional item that can serve both purposes. I believe that the majority of our students are doing the right thing and I thank them and their parents.

Our community wishes to express its support for Tania Rataj and her family. Mrs Rataj has been on extended leave supporting her daughter, Charlotte, who was diagnosed with Leukaemia earlier this year. We are holding a fund-raising day later this term. In addition, any person who wishes to register in the community run being organised by Devonport High school can do so through our Caritas Centre.

Congratulations to:
- Holly Swain-Harvey (9G1) who competed in the State Competitions for Irish Dancing on Sunday 5 August in Hobart. She participated in five dances, achieving a first and a second placing.
- Our Year 9 Football team who are competing in finals in Stanley today.
- Our Year 10 Football team who are competing in finals in Burnie tomorrow.

Reports are currently being prepared. With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, which uses assessment against standards, it is important that the community develops a greater appreciation of the meaning of the A to E achievement system. Perhaps the simplest message was one that I heard on a radio-news broadcast late last week. The phrase: “C” is for celebration encapsulates the attitude that society must embrace.

A second edition of the Parenting Ideas is attached at the end of this newsletter.

*Mr Frank Pisano*
*Principal*
**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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**The St Brendan-Shaw College**

‘Arts Faculty’ presents…  
*A collection of works from Drama, Dance, Music and Art*  
To be performed….  
When: Thursday the 16th August  
Where: Genesis Centre  
Time: 7:00pm Gallery  
7:30pm Performances  
Cost: Gold coin donation

Please come and support ‘The Arts’ as they showcase work from throughout Term 2.

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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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**Men and Abortion**

Remember that you are not alone. Rachel’s Vineyard retreats are here to help all those that are hurting, and run weekend retreats. These provide a chance to step back in safety, and offer our hurt to God. The next retreat is on the 7th – 9th of Sept 2012. If you, or someone you know, has been touched by abortion and would be interested in this, please phone Anne Sherston on the confidential phone line 62298739 or email [rachelsvineyardtas@aapt.net.au](mailto:rachelsvineyardtas@aapt.net.au)

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**Mouthguards**

- Mouthguards have a definite role in preventing injuries to the teeth and face and for this reason they are strongly recommended at all levels of football.
- Dentally fitted laminated mouthguards offer the best protection. ‘Boil and bite’ type mouthguards are not recommended for any level of play as they can dislodge during play and block the airway.
Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

You will be pleased to hear that the consultation process and writing of our new document *One in Heart and Mind, Strategic Directions, Towards 2016* is now complete.

So many members of staff, parents and senior students, priests, religious and Governing Council and Board members across the Catholic education community in Tasmania were involved in helping to set these life giving directions. We thank you wholeheartedly for your valuable contribution.

We are committed sharing the resultant document with you all. Therefore you are invited to attend one of the following open meetings to celebrate the journey we’ve made together and to receive a copy of the published document.

- **Burnie at Stella Maris Catholic School** on Monday 13 August from 7 - 8 pm
- **Launceston at St Finn Barr’s Catholic School** on Wednesday 15 August from 7 - 8 pm
- **Hobart at the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office** on Thursday 16 August from 7 - 8 pm

Members of the Writers Group will attend and join with you in celebrating the production of the document and the accompanying DVD. We will show the DVD and many will be able to see a brief glimpse of themselves. We will also hear the blessing of Archbishop Adrian Doyle for the work done and yet to come. People will have time to read and respond initially to the document, and then we will have a simple celebratory supper.

We extend a special invitation to all - priests, religious, principals, teachers, students, parents and the wider Catholic community whether you were able to be part of the consultation meetings in July or not. All are welcome!

Warm wishes

[Signature]

Dr Trish Hindmarsh
Director

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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
Keeping kids safe in a cyber world

Social media sites have taken cyber bullying and harassment to a new level. Here’s how to keep your kids safe when online.

Cyber bullying is one of the biggest, safety issues facing young people today. Bullying and harassment online is now commonplace. For instance, over a third of teenage girls have been sexually harassed via the Internet.

The emergence of social media sites has seen cyberbullying go to a new level. Messages and images can now spread like wildfire reaching a huge potential audience in the time it takes to upload an image or shoot off a text message.

Once the family home offered young people an escape from schoolyard bullies. Now the cyber world is so invasive that their bedrooms offer no guarantees of safety any more.

The cyber world is enticing. Young people have always wanted to escape from their parents’ world. In the past they hung out in shopping centres and pool halls. Parents tried their best to keep an eye on where their children were and what they were doing.

The online world is now the shopping mall of the 21st Century. Parents have the same responsibility to help kids stay safe in the online world as they do in the real world. ‘Stranger danger’ and accompanying safebehaviours are just as relevant in the online world as they are in the real world.

Parents should use the same offline preventative strategies to maximise their children’s online safety as they’ve always used. These strategies include: teaching children about the right way to behave online; don’t let them spend all night in the cyber world; and ask questions about what they are doing and where they go when they’re online.

Parents need to remind kids that things in the online world can spin out of control very quickly. A written message or an image can be circulated electronically so rapidly that the scope and scale of cyber bullying can be greater than any other form of bullying.

The following seven key messages form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids. They should be taught to kids so they become second nature, just as the messages about stranger danger were absorbed by an earlier generation.

1. Respect others. Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss with kids the types of messages and images that can cause harm to others when sent. Teenagers often walk a fine line with what they do and say to each other offline, yet it’s relatively harmless. The same type of behaviour online however can be a different story.

2. Think before you send. Remind kids cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. A text message or image sent to just one person can be passed to a potentially unlimited number. Once they are sent they’re almost impossible to erase and take back.

3. Treat online passwords like your house key. Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However there are some things, such as online passwords that they don’t share, not even with their best friend.

4. Block bullies. Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages and addresses online. Similarly, they can block text messages from bullies as well.

5. Don’t reply to harassment. Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides responding to bullying behaviour often simply encourages the bully to continue.

6. Save the evidence. If kids are bullied they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as proof if the bullies are brought to justice.

7. Tell someone. The insidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don’t seek help, as they think there’s something wrong with them. Talk with kids about going to a trusted adult, when they feel their rights or safety have been violated. They should report online bullying to the appropriate service provider.

Sticking the proverbial hand in the sand regarding kids’ use of communications technology is no longer an option for parents. Savvy parents need to learn as much as they can about children and young people’s online lives so they can respond to situations appropriately.