Happy fathers’ day to all those who fill this important role, in the many different ways that it can occur. I have attached an article from Parenting Ideas, to which we now subscribe, that is appropriate to this time. I will include a second on a similar theme next week.

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council (TCSPC)
The Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation (TCSPFF) is being reconstituted as the Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council, with a motion to this effect to be put to the AGM of the TCSPFF on Saturday 20 October 2012. The AGM will be held at St Finn Barr Catholic School in Invermay. The College will be represented by Mrs Lynne Bennett, Chair of the College’s Parent Forum, and me. The establishment of the Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council has been endorsed by the Archbishop who will be its Patron.

I have met with Mrs Bennett with a view to re-badging the College’s Parent Forum. It is important that parents have a representative association to provide a voice. The Parent Forum was meant to provide this; however, many parents are not clear about what role they can take in this. School P & F associations are well recognised by parents as their representative association. St Brendan-Shaw College has sought to provide a forum for parents on educational matters rather than on fundraising. This remains a focus, but by adopting a more traditional P&F structure, the association is more easily identifiable.

Given the move to the TCSPC, now is a good time to affect this change. An open meeting for parents has been scheduled for Wednesday 10 October in the College’s Library commencing at 7:00pm. It is hoped to be able to present an initial constitution for the SBSC P&F at this meeting. I encourage parents to attend.

It is important for parents in Catholic schools to have a representative voice on matters that affect education in Tasmania and nationally. This is a necessity at all times, but particularly in the present political and educational climate when the future of school education is so much under discussion.
French Exchange Student

Margot Drouet has been a member of our College community for the last three months. She is from Brittany, France and lives only five hours from the much loved city of Paris. When Margot first came to join 10A she was the centre of attention as everyone wanted her to speak in French because the language is so beautiful. She was fast at making friends with just about anyone that she came across. During her time with us she has been involved in many activities that are not offered at her school in France. Margot sewed a stunning Australian flag to perfection with the guidance of Mrs Arthur and built a fabulous chest of draws with helpful direction from the Applied Tech teachers. Back home in Brittany Margot’s hobbies are rock climbing and sailing. She showed off her techniques at our school’s Rock Climbing Club where she has become a valued member. Margot also had the chance to explore Tasmania with her wonderful host family. Two of her highlights were when a possum bit her on the finger and when she discovered a new love for hot chocolate from Anvers. Margot brought her French tradition of playing cards to Tassie and taught many ridiculously fun games to her friends. Margot will be missed terribly by everyone that had the pleasure of getting to know her and we wish her all the best for her future in France.

‘Gros Bisous’ By Anne Colliver
Thursday September 6th is our second school Social for the year. As parents, here is a checklist you might want to go through if you are signing your own child or another parent’s child into the Social:

Do I know where my child will be in the time leading up to the Social? If they are not with me, are they with a responsible adult who I know? – Most issues at our previous Socials have centred around students who have gathered as a group before the Social without a responsible adult present.

Am I and is my child fully aware that normal school rules apply at our school socials? – That means we treat each member of our College Community who is at the Social with dignity and respect. Students who fail to do so will have their parents called to come and collect them.

Do I know what my child will be wearing to the Social? – The College reserves the right to exclude any student from the Social who arrives in inappropriate dress or who changes into inappropriate dress during the evening. If in doubt, ask beforehand to avoid embarrassing situations during the evening.

Have I organised how my child will be getting to and from the Social? -- The Social begins at 7:00pm and ends at 9:30pm. Students should be picked up from the Genesis Centre at 9:30pm.

Am I and is my child aware of other things about the Social? – Water and lollies are available for sale at the Social. Upon arrival, any bag must be placed in the allocated space. Security will be present during the evening. Students need to stay in the Genesis Centre between 7:00pm and 9:30pm.

As stated in the letter attached to this newsletter, no student will be allowed into the Social without a parent signing them in. If a student is being signed in by a friend’s parent, it is expected that the friend’s parent has permission to do this from the other parents.

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**Uniform Shop**

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

Blue/White S/S Shirts $20.00
Grey/Navy Shorts $27.00 $30.00
Grey/Navy Socks $13.00 $8.00

Mrs Sue Arrowsmith
Uniform Shop Manageress

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**TERM 2 SOCIAL!**

**THEME: TV CHARACTERS**

**WHEN: THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 7.00-9.30PM**
(Please note change of time!)

**WHERE: GENESIS CENTRE**

**COST: $3 COSTUME,**
**$4 NO COSTUME**

Snakes and Water available to purchase on the night

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**Australian Netball Players Clinic**

Australian Netball team players Cath Cox and Rebecca Bulley visited the state for a series of clinics. St. Brendan Shaw College hosted the Devonport clinic on Friday 24th August. A number of students from years 7 – 12 from the College participated in the two training session and then had the opportunity to ask questions, get autographs and photos with the players. The students who attended the senior clinic are pictured to the right.
CITY OF DEVONPORT EISTEDDFOD 2012 – SUCCESS AGAIN!!

Another year of wonderful talent, fabulous results and students who represented the College with dignity, commitment and honour. Our first success came with the humorous duologue of Sarah Miller and Caitlin Hendrey taking 3rd place against serious competition, separated from equal first place by one point. Character recitals again presented strong competitors ranging in age from 16 – 13 with Year 7 student Anais Wood receiving a highly commended.

The following day SBSC received numerous accolades in all sections they entered;

TimeWarp Teams reigned supreme taking out both places(no 3rd place awarded) and honourable mention in their sections;

1st Place SBSC Team C
Thomas Lamprey, Clancy Leary, Joe Fisher and Ryan Smith

2nd Place SBSC Team A
Charlotte Hillier, Simeon Guenther, Monica Hill and Reilly Sullivan

Honourable Mention SBSC Team D
Jessica Applebee, Jemma Dabner, Holly Swain-Harvey and Olivia Anderson

With a top score of 92, sadly our students were beaten by 0.5 points for the Katie Becker Memorial Prize which will be awarded for the next 10 years in honour of Katie’s contributions to drama and the Eisteddfods of 2010. The awarded team were from Ulverstone High School who competed in the afternoon session and were extremely touched by the trophy and medals but also the quote on Katie’s trophy “It’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years”.

SBSC then went on to further wins with Duologues in a class of 15 competitors. Reilly Sullivan and Charlotte Hillier took 1st place with an original script by the duo, and 2nd place was taken out by Jye Read and Sam Indge with a Monty Python script.

The day was completed with a beautifully performed one act play “Forever, Lucy, Forever” with the ensemble of Sarah Miller, Elora Wood and Sam Indge which triumphed in the One Act Play section and with this received the Vida Lane Memorial Prize.

I must commend the students for their commitment and talent, and the sheer delight they were to spend the day with. They were, as always, a credit to the College and a testament to the benefits of the performing arts and a strong work ethic. Congratulations to all of our representatives;

Kaitlyn Wood  Eli Walker  Justin Reid  Cameron Hingston
Nick Quinn  Ethan Barker  Jamie Martinez  Ben Ruffles
Joe Fisher  Jack Allford  Rochelle Guilbert  Max Edwards
Timothy Sheehan  Sam Simpson  Dayna Compagne  Daniella Pizzarani-Rand

This year two groups entered the Devonport Eisteddfod and represented the school with integrity and humility. The first group were entered in the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble and I am thrilled to announce that the girls placed second. Congratulations to Elora Woods, Maddy Aylett, Amy Cawston, Sian Boyd, and Georgia Richards.

The second entry was the Drum Circle and they were entered in the Percussion Section. I am extremely proud to announce that they came First. Congratulations to, Sam Quinn, Rohan Fordham, Cohen Anderson, Connor Hinrichsen, Bianca Stebbeings, Jessica Applebee, Lillian Robins and Kelsy Ikin. Your dedication to this group is greatly appreciated and all your hard worked paid off. Well done to you all.

Miss Lara Watchman
Drama Club Coordinator

Mrs Jacqueline Austin
Music Department
Year 9 Pathways Week

Last week saw our Year 9s participate in their first Pathways week. Instead of doing Pathways as a subject within the timetable, all Year 9 classes were put on hold for the week while the students studied Pathways in a one-week block.

DAY 1—Camp Clayton

On Monday all Year 9s travelled to Camp Clayton. The day began by listening to the inspiring journey of Ken Gourlay who circumnavigated the world non-stop, alone and unassisted in an Australian record time.

We then heard of more travels, this time from Mr and Mrs McIver who used the story of their travels around the world as an example of what we all must do to achieve our goals and dreams.

Mr Douglas challenged all Year 9s to challenge themselves with a 30-day challenge, doing something for 30 days to become better people.

In a packed day, the students also did some core Pathways worked and were introduced to their Pathways planner.

“Visiting Camp Clayton and listening to many guest speakers was inspiring and unforgettable.”

“On Monday listening to people speak was interesting. I loved Mr and Mrs McIver’s travelling story, it’s always been one of my dreams to do something like that.”

Chess Club

On the 13th of August, 9 students travelled to Launceston to participate in a coast-wide chess tournament. The tournament was held at Launceston Church Grammar, with 5 Open Secondary schools competing. With our brains ready to go, we departed St. Brendan-Shaw at about 7:30am. After a rather jaunty bus trip we arrived in Launceston at about 9:00. We all participated in seven games each, at 30 minutes maximum per game. Out of the 5 Schools that competed in the tournament we managed to come third, with an overall score of 16½. Congratulations to Cameron Hingston, Toby Martin, Tyler Jones, Zac Parnell-Fitzgerald, Alex McCall, Eddie Delphin, Nic Ivory, Ben Ivory, and especially Patrick O’Shea, who won 5 out of 7 matches, who had the highest score out of all of us! Thank you also to Ms Sheehan and Mrs Delphin for helping out on the day. We had a great time and we can’t wait for our next tournament!

By Nic and Ben Ivory
Day 2 and 3—Hollybank and Reflection Day

Tuesday and Wednesday saw the year level split in half, with half participating in Hollybank Treetops Adventure and the other half participating in their Year 9 Reflection Day, with the groups switching over on the Wednesday. The Reflection Days were run by Mr Douglas and Mrs Judy McIver. During the day the students had an opportunity to think about their future and what sort of person they want to be.

“I learnt a lot about myself from the Reflection Day, which made me look at my own values and beliefs and how I cope with difficult challenges.”

“Reflection Day was relaxing and fun. The activities were fascinating and motivated me to look into what path I’d like to take one day in the future.”

“The Reflection day was good, the topics were captivating.”

At Hollybank the students were challenged to fly through the tree tops on the high wires. This proved to be a difficult experience for those who were not comfortable with heights, but everyone successfully completed the activity.

“I loved the Hollybank Treetops and the way that it put everyone out of their comfort zone. It forced people to conquer their fears and was a real challenge for many to complete.”

“On the second day some classes went to Holly Bank Treetop Adventures to fly through the trees. I found this experience really fun and I would say it’s one of the best things I have ever done.”

“I absolutely love the Hollybank trip. It was a ton of fun and I already want to go back again. It was so much fun and it was amazing to be so high up and ‘fly’ across the trees.”

“My favourite day was when we went to Hollybank. I had never really done something like that before and it was really cool to be up in the sky. I can’t wait till we do our next pathways week later in the year. It was really good to be away from school for a week and just have fun with my peers.”
Day 4—The Amazing Race

The Thursday saw the Year 9s gather at the Devonport Surf Lifesaving Club for the start of the Amazing Race. From there they were challenged to solve clues and perform challenges as they moved around Devonport in their groups. Mr Ryan had put together a formidable course for the students and their volunteer leaders and although there was no overall winner the students learnt a lot about what was actually around the city of Devonport.

After a BBQ lunch we came back to school for some final work in our booklets and a chance to gather together and review the week.

“The Amazing Race was pretty impossible and the track we had made it really difficult to get through. We managed to go around pretty much the whole of Devonport on foot, because the bus wasn’t easy to catch.”

“Thursday was that Amazing Race and my group had good people but we sucked at it, and we didn’t catch a bus once, which was not by choice! It was exciting but really tiring I think my legs could of fallen off at the end.”

“The Amazing Race was a really great idea and allowed many to work with different students and teachers.”

THANKS

A big thanks goes to all who contributed to the running of the week. A number of teachers and volunteers (including parents and ex-students) were involved to make it all run smoothly. We look forward to our next week at the end of the year.

“I have become much better friends with people I wasn’t really friends with before and I loved that we weren’t with our friend “groups”. Thank you for challenging us and putting us out of our comfort zones! And I thank you so very much for all the time and effort you put into organising our week of pure fun! I thank the other teachers also.”

“The guest speakers that spoke on Reflection Day and Monday were really good, they all had different stories and were all about challenging yourself. I learnt a lot about myself in the week, I found out that I am no longer scared of heights and I think I worked out what I want to do when I am older. Thank you for organising the week.”

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care
Being a great dad

Modern dads want to be close to their kids. They want to know what’s going on in their kids’ lives and they want to be hands on.

Today, involvement in their kids’ lives is the mantra of most fathers. Most men want to be more than breadwinners, and want to share in as many aspects of parenting as practical. They want to know what’s going on in their kids’ lives and they want to be hands on.

In fact, many dads tell me that they want a better relationship with their children, particularly their sons, than they had with their own fathers. Sadly, many men still don’t enjoy a close relationship with their fathers, but they are determined to change things with their own kids.

Here are seven ideas to help you form close relationships with your kids, and maximise your effectiveness as a parent and a partner:

1. Find something in common with your kids
Dads related better with their children when they have something in common. Finding that common bond can be tricky though. Many men relate to their kids while being active, and teach many important lessons through games and play. But if sport is not your bag, find something else that you and your kids have in common.

A common interest is a great help for fathers who live apart from their kids who are looking to maximise the time they have with them.

2. Tell your sons you’re proud of them
Boys want their dads to be proud of them. They just yearn to hear their dads say, “I’m so proud of you and what you do!” Some dads struggle getting those words out! It’s not so much that they are not proud, it’s just that many dads want their sons to be better. Some dads need to be careful not to push their sons too hard or turn every game into a lesson. That’s when boys turn off their dads.

3. Don’t wimp out on discipline
Dads are traditionally the kings of play, but they can go missing when it comes to discipline. They get their kids excited in a game before going to bed, then they expect their partner to settle them down. Both parents can take their share of managing children’s behaviour.

4. Treat your daughters well
There are strong links between close fathering and the healthy development of girls. Dads teach their daughters strong lessons about how they should be treated by males. So dads need to treat their daughters respectfully so they learn to expect this treatment in their future relationships with men.

5. Say goodbye Superman, hello Clarke Kent
Adolescent boys are programmed to challenge their fathers. It’s part of growing up. Author John Marsden refers to this phenomenon as the ‘old ram, young ram syndrome’. Verbal jousting matches are a popular father-son game in which boys take great delight in proving their fathers are fallible. A dad at this stage needs a sense of humour as well as a willingness to stand back and allow other mentors in to his son’s life.

6. Support your partner
Fathers may play an integral part in the lives of their children but they also have a profound effect on the quality of mothering that children receive. A woman who can share the emotional and financial burdens of child-rearing with a supportive partner is more likely to be a loving, affirming mother.

7. Change as your child changes
They’re children one day and teenagers the next. The most effective dads are those who change their parenting to suit the needs of their kids at each stage of development, rather than stubbornly hold to outmoded ideas of how they think their kids should be.

Fathers who are little apprehensive or lack sufficient confidence should become involved in as many aspects of parenting as they can. The best way to learn about parenting is by doing it.

By being alert, watchful and listening to their children fathers can learn all they need to know about parenting.

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