News From our Principal

Last Friday provided a fitting farewell for our College Leavers, the Year 12 class of 2013. The day began with a solemn liturgy. I was particularly moved by an address that Jordan Smith gave to his peers. My address at the final assembly was on the theme of happiness, and that this finds those who live ‘the good life’ – not in the colloquial sense of this phrase, but by living a life of goodness. I had planned to say that my hope for our leavers was that Catholic education in general, and St Brendan-Shaw College in particular, had equipped them with the skills and values to achieve this. As I experienced the liturgy that morning, I knew that my hopes had been realised in these fine young men and women.

Over the past few months significant refurbishment of the undercover area has been underway. So far we have seen the removal of a wall that separated the existing undercover area from an enclosed space that had housed the PE office and fitness room prior to these moving to the Nazareth Centre. This has had new flooring, ceiling and paint, and new furniture has been provided as a cafeteria-style space for students at recess and lunch. It also provides a welcoming area for senior students to use during study lines. The Honour Boards that were hung in the Genesis Centre hallway, and had limited exposure to students, now adorn the walls of this space. A door has broken into what remains of the old Squash court. It has been suggested that this space has potential to house some display on the History of the College. (see pictures on page 3).

Current work will see the wall and windows that separate the undercover area from St Mary’s Courtyard reglazed with larger windows, and larger, bi-fold doors installed, allowing greater traffic flow between the inside and outside on spring and summer days. This will provide a much more welcoming environment for students to enjoy their recess and lunch.

The canteen is also being extended. With the retirement of Mrs Cole at the end of last year, the College explored options for providing canteen facilities to our staff and students. Entering into a relationship with the local Bizzi Bee shop has proved to be successful. The facilities that our seniors sought from the Bizzi Bee, including eftpos and some food options have been catered for onsite.

Mr Frank Pisano
Principal
“Members of minority groups, in particular, can find themselves confronting poverty, and the discrimination they face may drive inequality even further. This is the case in Australia and around the world. Global research estimates that two-thirds of the people in extreme poverty live in households where the head is from an ethnic minority.”

From the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Social Justice Statement 2013-2014: Lazarus at our Gate: A critical moment in the fight against world poverty.

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**Senior Exams**

Our prayers and thoughts are with our senior students who begin their exams on Monday 11 November and finish on Friday 22 November. We hope that they achieve the results for which they have aspired and gain fulfilment from their hard work.

Families can help students by ensuring that they eat well and have enough sleep while preparing for exams. Some will get grumpy. Bear with them! Many students like to study with background music. If this is the usual way to learn, then continue to do so. However, practise some preparation with silence too as the exam room will have minimal noise.

Come early to the exam so you are not panicking and frustrated. Make sure you bring your pink exam slip. Don’t listen if your friends are going over notes while waiting to go into an exam. Cramming does not improve results! Read the TQA Exam Guidelines thoroughly and if there is a reason for not sitting an exam seek medical attention or ring and ask for Mr Hicks or me for assistance.

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**Year 10 Students Need Your Help**

We are looking for parents or friends of the College who may be able to help us give our Year 10s a great experience during their Mock Interviews in November.

In particular, we are looking for about 15-20 adult volunteers who would be available to give of their time on Wednesday 20th November. During this time the students will be participating in mock interviews for a particular job advertisement for which they have chosen to apply. We will have an interview panel interview each student. The process will include a list of interview questions, so you do not need to be an experienced interviewer.

So if you are able to give a few hours of your time and you would like to know some Year 10s a bit better and help our Year 10s build on their strengths in the interview process, we would love to have your help.

If you’re able to assist, please fill out the slip below and return it to the College. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Mrs Tanya Rataj
Careers and Pathways Coordinator

(Please return to Mrs Tanya Rataj)

I would be willing to volunteer to help during the following times (please tick):

- Wednesday 20th November 10:50am – 1pm
- Wednesday 20th November 1:30pm – 2:50pm
- OR
- Wednesday 20th November 10:50am – 2:50pm (lunch will be provided)

Name: ___________________________ Contact phone number: ___________________________

Connection to the school: (e.g. My son, Fred, is in Year 10):

__________________________________________________________________________________________
Jump Rope for Heart
Next Tuesday 12th November, all Year 7 students will be participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program. Students were issued with sponsorship forms last week and are encouraged to seek sponsorship for the day. The funds raised from the Jump Rope day go to the Heart Foundation to help in the fight against Cardio-vascular Disease. On Tuesday, all Year 7 students are required to wear their HPE uniform to school and return all form and money to their core teacher on this day. All money and sponsorship forms should be returned in a sealed envelope clearly marked with name and the amount of money enclosed.

High School Cricket
Due to low numbers, the High School Cricket roster will not run in term four. There is the possibility of a roster being run in term 1 and 4 next year if there is enough interest. To fill the void, the College will conduct some 20 / 20 matches after school between now and the end of the year for interested players. Listen to the notices for more details.

Certificate III in Sport and Recreation
For any Senior Students interested in the HPE Sports Trainee position for 2014, please see Saturday’s paper for details. Alternatively, go to www.findstaff.biz for further information.

Mr Steve Ryan
Head of Health & Physical Education
NOTICE IN REGARDS TO OUTSTANDING FEES

At the current time, there are many fee accounts overdue for payment. The College is reliant on up to date payment of fees and it would be appreciated if parents could attend to payment as soon as possible.

SBSC Netballers travel to support the Diamonds

On Saturday the 5th of October, 14 students travelled to Melbourne under the supervision of Mrs Jo Aherne, and Ebony Charlessworth. We departed from Devonport, and arrived in Melbourne to some much needed sunshine.

After settling in to our hotel rooms, we went to the Crown Casino. Next we ate half of the food hall; we found our way downstairs into the 'Infinity’ room, where we let out our inner child. King Pin Bowling was a highlight for some, with scores low, singing loud and some creative bowling techniques on show.

Sunday the 6th was an early start to venture to the Eureka Sky Deck, where many faced their fears of heights. We then walked to the South Warf DFO’s where we did some retail therapy. After a long day of walking and facing fears we decided to head back to the Casino for some food and relax by watching Grown Up’s Two at Village Cinemas.

Monday had finally arrived, which was the day that everyone could not wait for. We started by catching a train out to Glen Waverly where we had the best experience at’ Bounce’. We spent over an hour, trying and learning new skills on the trampolines. After leaving Bounce everyone was on a high, you could not wipe the smiles off our faces.

After using all our energy at Bounce, we decided a chocolate fix was needed. We went on to find a ‘Max Brenner’, where everyone went all out and ate as much chocolate as possible! We were all starting to get more and more excited for the night ahead. When we reached our hotel the excitement kicked in as it wasn’t long until the big game. Everyone got dressed up in yellow and green to support the Australian Diamonds.

The fast and intense game of netball had everyone on their feet. To our advantage Diamonds took the lead in the second quarter, and continued this lead until the final minutes of the match. We were lucky enough to be put on the big screen as well on live TV throughout the Australian National Anthem and match. Our group photo even made it to the Telstra website! But the most exciting and biggest highlight of the trip for all of us was meeting many of our favourite players, as well as getting photos and signatures after the match.

Unfortunately Tuesday came quickly, which meant it was time for home. A big thank you goes to Mrs Jo Aherne for making this trip possible. We could not have asked for a better group of girls to have been involved in this trip, many bonds were created and lots of laughs were shared.

Shea Steven and Abbey McCormack
CALLING ALL MEN

The women from Country Women's Association Challenge you to enter the

“MAN CAKE COMPETITION”

To be held in conjunction with the Devonport Agricultural Show.

What do you have to do? It's easy.

Buy or make a cake and decorate it using an agricultural theme for your decoration.

To be judged by Ben Milbourne

Prize donated by CWA is a free ticket to the Show dinner cooked by Ben and Daniel on the evening of 29th November.

Entry form and decorated cake to be delivered to the Joan Byron Building at the Devonport Show grounds on Thursday 28th or by 10am on Friday 29th

Name: .................................................................................................................................

Address: ..............................................................................................................................
Tolerance: a vital ingredient for your child's success

Kids who accept differences in others are setting themselves up for success in the world of diversity that they will enter.

Want your child to be successful way past the confines of the school gate?

Then you need to make sure your child is tolerant of individual differences and accepting of children and adults who look and act differently to them.

There’s no doubt that success in today’s world depends on the ability to understand, appreciate and work with others. The child who is open to differences is likely to have more opportunities in school, in business and in life in general.

Schools are diverse places

Walk into any school ground in Australia and you’ll witness diversity firsthand. You’re likely to see children from many different cultural, racial and family backgrounds. You’ll also see kids with different needs and diverse ways of expressing themselves. Some kids will wear their hearts on their sleeves, while others will be taciturn and quiet. Tolerant kids are accepting of these differences. They make friends with children and young people who may look and act differently to them.

Intolerance breeds bullying

Intolerance, or prejudice, is at the heart of a great deal of the bullying that occurs among children and young people. Kids who look and act differently or who are more isolated often experience bullying for no apparent reason other than the fact that they are ‘different’. Whole-hearted acceptance and even appreciation of differences is a preventative bullying measure that we can all support.

Tolerance starts at home

Kids learn attitudes such as tolerance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents. While adolescents are strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their attitudes to other people. In short, if you want your child to be accepting of differences – whether they are racial, cultural, behavioural or in sexual orientation – then make tolerance a family trait. Here’s how:

✔ Help your child feel accepted, respected, and valued. When your child feels good about himself, he is more able to treat others respectfully.

✔ Model acceptance. Kids learn what they live so make sure you welcome differences in others, and be sensitive to cultural or racial stereotypes. It also helps on a practical level to discuss prejudice and stereotypes when they occur in the media.

✔ Challenge prejudice or narrow-minded views. Sometimes kids, knowingly or unknowingly, can say the cruelest things about others. As a parent respectfully remind your child or young person about the impact that a narrow view can have on his or her own behaviour as well as on those it may be directed towards. Intolerance of diversity is an attitude that parents should make a stand against.

✔ Answer kids’ questions about differences honestly and respectfully. Teach your kids that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.

✔ Respect individual differences within your own family. Your ability to accept your children’s differing abilities, interests and styles will go a long way towards establishing an attitude of tolerance in the children themselves. By valuing the uniqueness of each member of your family you are teaching your kids to value the strengths in others, no matter how diverse.

Modern Australia is such a wonderful culturally-rich place. This diversity is part of its magic. One way to make sure our children fully appreciate this richness is to fully embrace tolerance in everything we do.