News From Our Principal

Last week both Mr Hicks and I travelled to Campbell Town for a meeting of Principals and curriculum coordinators. I thank Mr Chapman who wrote the front page article last week, and provided such a thought provoking article.

The responsibilities and accountabilities that the modern school and teacher faces are quite extraordinary, and public appreciation of the work that occurs in every school is not helped by unquestioned media statement using phrases like: “slipping standards”. Often, the justification for these are comparative results on international standardised testing. Unfortunately, the data is often used out of context. As a very simple example, the most recent (2012) PISA results again identify Finland as the best performing, non-Asian jurisdiction in Reading and Science (6th and 5th overall), while it was the fifth non-Asian jurisdiction in Mathematic (12th overall). However, contact hours for teachers in Finland are more than 25% lower than for their Australian counterparts. Furthermore, Shanghai China is the top ranked country; however, China’s education system is not an inclusive system such as Australia’s. This is not to suggest that Australia’s educational achievement should not be the focus for continual improvement. But “school bashing” is not the best way to achieve this.

In much the same way, the focus on our students wearing the uniform well and with pride is something we always want to see improve. I like to use every encounter as an opportunity to educate. When I speak to a student who cannot see why they should follow uniform expectations, I try to have them appreciate that, when an individual belongs to a community, they often need to forego personal wants for the community’s benefit. However, what they reap by being identified as a member of the community will more than compensate for this. This is a difficult concept for students to understand. By being gently persistent we seek to raise standards without building resentment that negatively impacts on an attitude to learning in the classroom. This is a perspective that is supported by the research which has shown that this technique has better outcomes than a punitive or aggressive stance.

Congratulations to Mr Hamish Chapman who won the Tasmanian Surf Lifesaver Championships State Title, the Open Swimming and Open Board events and also came 2nd in the Open Ironman event. Mr Chapman is replacing Mr Ross Hubble who is on a Rotary sponsored Teacher exchange program to Taiwan. I thank Mr Kamil Douglas who, in addition to being the Coordinator of Ministry and Religious Education, is acting as Lyons House Head during Mr Hubble’s absence.

We welcome the College’s Governing Council who will be meeting at the school next week. I hope to be able to travel to Launceston next week to support our NSATIS Swim Team who compete next Tuesday. Thanks to Mrs Bramich and Mr Lenton who will travel with the team as coaches.

The College Board has a vacancy to be filled from a nomination that we receive from the parent body. If you, as parent, knows of a person who you believe would be a good person to join the Board, please contact my PA, Mrs Banham, to obtain a nomination form and directions about the nomination process.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom - Colossians 3:16
School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support

This week: in Specialist Rooms

At St Brendan-Shaw College we strive to:

Do our best - by helping others out with new skills, trying new things and sharing our equipment.

Be safe - by using equipment as instructed, wearing protective clothing and reporting any concerns.

Welcome diversity - by accepting that everyone is talented in different areas, listening to other’s point of view and keeping an open mind.

“An international development plan beyond 2015 will need to increase commitment to reducing extreme poverty and injustice for Indigenous peoples around the world. The Australian Government should ensure that justice for Indigenous peoples is a priority in our overseas aid policy and in our own country, in accordance with the principles and recommendations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Central to the Declaration, which Australia endorsed in 2009, is a commitment to work in genuine partnership with Indigenous peoples and ensure their fully informed consent before introducing policies and programs affecting their communities.”

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

Uniform
With the weather starting to cool down it is now time for me to mention a couple of points about uniform.
1. From Monday 17th March it is expected that all students are wearing their blazers to and from school. That means that during Afternoon Homeroom, students should be putting on their blazers and having it on out at the bus layby or as they get into their parent’s cars to go home. We will be speaking to students who fail to do this and we encourage all parents to support us in this endeavour. If a student does not have their blazer for a genuine reason we would ask parents to supply a note.

2. It is not acceptable for students to be wearing additional pieces of clothing for warmth. Thankfully this hasn’t happened this year, but if a student wears a jacket or hoodie for warmth, it will be confiscated. Students have their school jumpers for warmth and may wear clothing underneath their uniform which isn’t visible. Students are also welcome to wear their winter uniform at any time. A reminder that only the winter uniform is to worn in Terms 2 and 3, so I encourage parents to start to organise that in the coming weeks.

Immunisations
Wednesday 19th March will see our Year 7s and 9s having their first round of immunisations. We ask all students who are being immunised to make sure they have had something to eat and drink in the morning before being immunised. This will help to prevent any reactions and allow the session to run smoothly.

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care

Are you on Facebook?
If you are, like us, St Brendan-Shaw College, on Facebook and stay up-to-date with all of the latest happenings around the College as well as any messages and reminders for students and parents.
U/17 National Cycling Championships

Morgan Gillon (9 G6) won a silver medal in the U/17 Scratch Race (30 laps) at the National Cycling Championships.

Morgan crossing the finishing line second. Match up Sprint that Morgan won. Morgan receiving her silver medal on the podium.

MERSEY LEVEN CATHOLIC PARISH
HOLY WEEK & EASTER CEREMONIES 2014

DEVONPORT: Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Good Friday: Commemoration of the Passion 3.00pm
Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 7.00pm

PORT SORELL: St Joseph’s Mass Centre
Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10.00am
Easter Sunday Easter Mass 8.30am

LATRODE: St Patrick’s Church
Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11.00am
Easter Sunday Easter Mass 10.00am

SHEFFIELD: Holy Cross Church
Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11.00am
Easter Sunday Easter Mass 11.30am

ULVERSTONE: Sacred Heart Church
Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7.30pm
(Adoration till 9pm followed by Evening Prayer of the Church)
Good Friday Commemoration of the Passion 3.00pm
Easter Sunday Easter Mass 10.00am

PENGUIN: St Mary’s Church
Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11.00am
Easter Sunday Easter Mass 8.30am

TEEN FITNESS CLUB!!

Get your teenagers motivated with our Teen Fitness Club!!!

Group Exercise Classes such as Boxfit, FatBlastr and Cycle, which are specific and targeted to the 12-15 year old age group.

The Teen Fitness Club runs Monday to Friday 3:30 – 5:00 pm and all day Saturday.

To ensure their safety, fitness staff will be rostered on to supervise the teens using the equipment at the Centre.

Teen memberships are available and for more information please contact Splash on 6423 3007.

Uniform Shop

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
10AM — 4PM

New Rowing Suits now in stock $65.00
Football / Soccer Tops $53.00
Football / Soccer Shorts $25.00
Football / Soccer Socks $ 8.50
Numbers $ 2.50 each
Second Hand Boots $15.00 - $25.00
In 2014, the Science Department will provide an opportunity for science students to challenge themselves by taking part in the national ‘Big Science competition’.

The Big Science Competition, sponsored by Rio Tinto, is an hour-long competition open to students of all abilities at three difference levels: Junior (Years 7 and 8), Intermediate (Years 9 and 10) and Senior (Years 11 and 12). Questions (developed by Australia’s leading test developer, the Australian Council for Education Research) are aligned to the Australian Curriculum - Science and test students’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well their science knowledge.

Each student will receive a Certificate as well as detailed feedback on their performance in the competition. Each participating student also goes into the draw to win prizes including iPod Touches, iTunes vouchers and Movie vouchers. Our school will receive a comprehensive report for each paper level showing how each student performed on each question, the percentage of students in the cohort who answered correctly, and a comparison with the national results. Each participating school also goes into the draw to win interactive science tools for the classroom.

The Big Science Competition will be held Period 1, Friday 23rd May 2014. Entries need to be in by Monday 14th April (see below for the entry form). We will trial the on-line version this year.

The Science faculty will pay the entry fee for any students who would like to enter. To access sample questions or to find out more about the competitions, please visit their website: www.asi.edu.au. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Head of Science, Mrs Kelly Hicks (khicks@ebsc.far.edu.au).

(Please return to Mrs Kelly Hicks via the Caritas office)

I wish to enter the ASI Big Science competition.

Name: ___________________ Grades: _________ Homeroom: __________

SBSC MUSIC TUITION 2014

The College will be offering students the opportunity to receive private music tuition during school time. It is our belief that instrumental proficiency can be greatly developed by supplementary individual music lessons and that these enhance learning in the music classroom.

Specialist music teachers will be available to offer private lessons to students on a weekly basis. These lessons will be conducted during school hours and remuneration will be arranged between the teacher and the parent/student. The recommended rate for a registered itinerant teacher is approximately $25 to $30 per half hour. Students usually come out of class for a 30 minute lesson once a week. Any student may participate, whether they are studying music as a subject or not, although if there is an overwhelming response, students who have chosen music as a subject will be given first preference.

The Instruments we are hoping to offer are:

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<th>Guitar</th>
<th>Drums</th>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Flute</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>trumpet</td>
<td>Euphonium/tuba</td>
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<td>Violin</td>
<td>Cello</td>
<td>Trombone</td>
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If you are interested in your child receiving specialist music tuition at the school, please complete the attached form and return to the Music Department, via the College office. It would be appreciated if forms could be returned by Friday the 28th February, 2014, so that the programme can get underway promptly.

Please return this form to the Caritas office.

I am interested in my child participating in the Itinerant Music Programme.

Name: ___________________ Instrument: ___________________

Year Level: ____________ Homeroom: ____________

Telephone Number: ____________ Email: ___________________

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: ___________________
The Australian Navy Cadets, TS Mersey located on River Road, Ambleside is looking for new cadets 12-19 years (Must be turning 13 in year of joining).

The unit has undergone major staff changes and is currently re-building our numbers. We parade on a Friday Night between 1830-2130 (6.30pm – 9.30pm) and cost is $3.00, uniform supplied.

If you have children or know of children that would like to join or interested in coming for a look to see what it’s all about please feel free to call for more details or call on down during a Friday Night Parade.

Set Sail on the Voyage of a Lifetime, learn about sailing and seamanship, develop leadership skills and learn how to communicate effectively.

Develop confidence, pride and self-discipline whilst having an ocean of fun and making loads of new friends along the way.

Children will participate in camps and community activities and also have the chance to travel interstate and overseas.

LIEUTENANT SHAUN HUMPHRIES 0414527754 shaun.humphries@cadetnet.gov.au tsmersey@cadetnet.gov.au

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Are you interested in Busking for the Spreyton Primary School Apple Festival on 13th April?

If you have a talent and would like to busk for a small fee of $5, please fill in the form below and return with payment to Spreyton Primary School front office by Friday 28th March. Indicate below your preferred time and we will let you know your allocated 30 minute time slot and where you will need to set up. Please bring everything you need.

Name: 
Age: 
Contact Phone: 
Brief Description of Talent: 
Preferred Time between 10.30 and 1pm: 
Postal Address: 

I, _______________ Parent / Carer, give permission for my child _______________ to busk at the Spreyton Primary School Apple Festival on 13th April 2014. The cost involved is $5 

Signed _______________
Managing kids who won’t take no for answer

Kids can be very strategic at getting you to agree to what they want. But two can play at that game!

Ever had a child who keeps asking for a favour or a treat over and over until they get the response they want? These kids generally use one of two strategies. They may either nag or hound you until they get an affirmative response or they seek out another adult who will give them the answer they want.

Pester power wears you down!

From a kid’s point of view, the first method, which is based on persistence, is generally very effective with tired parents and sole parents who are more vulnerable to this type of behaviour.

“All right, you can have the ice cream. Anything for some peace and quiet,” is a response that most people who have spent time around children are familiar with. The same applies to adolescents: “Okay, you can go to the party. Just stop nagging me about it!”

Playing one parent off against the other

The second method is a little more devious but very effective and usually occurs in dual parent families. You know the situation. A child’s request for a treat, favour or outing is turned down for good reason (“No Jessica you can’t have an ice cream now. Wait until after dinner”). The child then goes to the other parent (without sharing the conversation they’ve just had with you) in the hope that he or she may well give them the positive answer they are looking for.

These situations can drive parents crazy and are indicative of two people operating on different parenting planes.

If it happens every now and again then it is no big deal. However, if one parent is always granting a child his or her wishes without consultation or thought about what the other parent thinks, then it’s probably time to step back and reflect on how you can both work better together.

One “no” is enough

Be firm with a child or young person who goes to another parent in search of a ‘yes’ after they have received a knock back.

“Where did you get that ice cream from? I already said no.”

“Daddy said I could have it.”

“I am sorry but you should not go to Daddy after I said ‘No’.”

If in doubt, defer

The other technique that you can use when one parent tends to give in more often is to agree to defer to each other whenever a child or young person asks something tricky.

“Okay Jessica, I’ll just check with Dad and get back to you.”

This strategy can be wearing and even artificial but it’s helpful in bringing the other parent into the picture and it also demonstrates that you are double act.

It’s the smartest way to manage teens as they have a propensity to corner you into making quick decisions. The principle here is to control the timing of your responses and not be railroaded into snap decisions.

Take it in turns saying “no”

Most dual parents play good cop/bad cop, with one being the disciplinarian or hard-line manager and the other more the play director. That tends to be the way of families. This is wearing on the bad cop so it helps if you can swap roles (or even backbones) occasionally so that the ‘bad cop’ parent gets a break. Sole parents play both roles, which is draining.

Managing children who won’t take no for an answer demands team work, a willingness to hold your ground and, most importantly, good communication skills. The aim is to reach a point that when you say “No, not this time” (or however you say it), your kids actually believe what you say.