News From Our Principal

For a more up-to-date (and perhaps even more comprehensive) insight into life at St Brendan-Shaw College, I would encourage you to “like” us on Facebook. Recent posts include a sneak-peak at preparations for the Senior Ball on Saturday 24 May (including dance practice) and a taste of a theme of Resilience that is being presented to our students through Assemblies. Life at our school is varied and rich. To assist in getting our messages out to the College (and wider) community, we have appointed Ms Arlette Bruggeman. Ms Bruggeman has extensive experience in the field of promotions both here and abroad and is developing a role that will ensure that we can communicate to our stakeholders in a more comprehensive manner.

Next week, on Thursday 22 May, Elevate Education returns for the second round of study skills seminars for our Seniors. The first was well received by the Year 10 to 12 students. In addition to presenting to Year 11 and 12 Students, our teachers will participate in a session, followed for a special invitation to Parents of Year 10, 11 and 12 students. The purpose is so that all three groups: students, teachers and parents, can have a common understanding, and the skills can be supported and reinforced at home. The Parent session is for one hour from 6:30pm on 22 May. At the end, we will provide a succinct overview of key information for Year 10 Parents to assist in early planning of a senior course of study. This will include: the requirements to achieve the Tasmanian Certificate of Education, and a Tertiary Entrance Score and what an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) is and how it is calculated. In addition, some basic tenants on subject selection will be shared. This will be of interest to Year 11 students as well. An SMS will be sent early next week with a reminder and a request for an RSVP so that we can choose the best venue. Look out on Facebook for this information and the venue.

This week’s budget is being analysed by Catholic Education’s peak body: the National Catholic Education Commission. As more information is released I will endeavour to communicate this via Facebook and this publication.

This week sees our Year 7 and 9 students’ participate in the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing. I have been given a book on choosing schools, and I am enjoying it in these early stages, especially given how it explores the historical beginning of the provision of education in Australia. The Introduction included the following:

At the moment, parents have just two information points (for helping to choose a school for their children), the average NAPLAN results of the school and the amount of fees you need to pay. …... The only trouble is that the NAPLAN score tells you exactly nothing about the performance of a school"

Which brings me full circle. Of more value is the richness of life, as evidenced on our Facebook page. I was asked to meet with some prospective parents earlier this week, with a question about the social supports our school offers. It was such a lovely way for me to finish my day … talking about how caring and supportive our school community is. This was further evidenced by reports of our VET students’ Work Placements, with three reports (that I am aware of) of students caring and supportive our school community is. This was further evidenced by reports of our VET students’ Work Placements, with three reports (that I am aware of) of students being described as “the best” that employers have worked with. One has the potential of an apprenticeship offer.

Next week will see the builders move onsite for the commencement of the extension and re-development of St Brendan’s Block – exciting times.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

-1 Corinthians 13:6
“The Government and Opposition want to stop the boats and thwart the people-smugglers. But does this require such cruelty? Could not the same goals be achieved by policies, which were less harsh, even humane – policies which respected not only our international obligations but also basic human rights? Can we not achieve a balance between the needs of people in desperate trouble and the electoral pressures faced by politicians? We believe we can; indeed we must.”

From the Statement by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on Asylum Seekers; 8 May 2014

Deputy Principal - Pastoral Care

RESILIENCE

At assembly on Monday I continued a conversation with the students about building their resilience. The two main messages were:

- That we will believe what we think about ourselves, so it is important that we think positive things about ourselves and not be caught in constant negative thinking about ourselves.
- That we need to have 6 senses, and one of these is a sense of self-worth. That is, we know our strengths, skills and abilities and we value ourselves.

All members of the community present at the assembly were challenged to tell the person next to them one thing they were good at.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME: Over the next two weeks, let your children know what you see in them that is good, and say some things to them that you think you are good at. A bit of positivity about ourselves goes a long, long way.

Find out more from www.beyondblue.org.au.

Here are some positive thoughts we can all work with...

National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS)

Together with 56 other Tasmanian Schools, the College has been randomly selected to participate in the National Child Oral Health Survey being conducted around Australia.

Approximately 200 randomly selected students from Years 7, 8 and 9, will receive a reminder letter from the NCOHS today.
School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support

This week: at the bus shelter

At St Brendan-Shaw College we strive to:

**Do our best** - by waiting in an orderly manner, wearing our blazers and putting rubbish in the bins.

**Be safe** - by using the crossings, following teacher directions and keeping clear until the bus stops.

**Welcome diversity** - by helping those who can’t easily get on the bus and letting others go ahead of us.

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Health & Physical Education

8A Get Active

In the build up to cross country, Mr Ryan’s 8A HPE class have gone online in a push to motivate students into being active outside of school. Using Active Globe (www.activeglobe.net) students are able to set goals in terms of physical activity, log their time spent being active and see, on a Google map, their progress. Last Wednesday the class were set up with Active Globe accounts and as a class set the goal of getting to Hobart. By Tuesday, as a class, we had covered 137 km of the 280km journey.

Individual students also set their own goals and are on the way to achieving them. Once the class hits Hobart, we will decide upon a new goal and get moving. As students reach milestones on the way to achieving their goal they receive digital certificates to mark their achievement.

*Mr Steve Ryan*
*Head of Health & Physical Education*

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Year 8 Reflection Day Report

Last Thursday the 8th of May, Mr Douglas’ and Mr Chapman’s Year 8 Religious Studies classes spent the day at the Ulverstone Surf Life Saving Club participating in their Reflection Day. The students participated in a range of activities throughout the day from quiet and meditative moments to hands-on and group based activities.

The focus of the day was about being thankful for that which we are blessed to have in our lives, that we are stewards of the earth upon which we live and what that means for us, appreciating the amazing creation that each of us are, and that we are each uniquely gifted and talented. Usually, each class would have their own Reflection Day but on this occasion (as both of these Reflection Days had been postponed last term), just as the classes shared the day, Mr Douglas and Mr Chapman shared the role of facilitating the day and both they and the students found the day to rewarding and enjoyable.

*Mr Kamil Douglas*
*Ministry and Religious Education Coordinator*
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The annual St. Vincent de Paul school Non—Perishable FOOD DRIVE has begun! We kicked it off yesterday with a “bean eating with chopsticks” contest. Mrs Kelly Hicks took out the win for the teachers while Max Green won for the students! Please bring in cans, dry noodles, boxed milk and fruits and anything else that will not spoil for our collection.

All proceeds help our Community directly by being contributed to the local Vinnies food pantry. Each House competes against the others for valuable House points, and this year much more is at stake. The winning house will not only earn their number of cans/points BUT, they will also earn half of the other Houses points on top of it. We are talking about possibly winning with 300 points and getting an additional 200 points from the other three Houses. Now is the time to clean out the pantry at home.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Patty Barratt
Teacher

The Australian Mathematics Competition

All students are invited to participate in the 2014 Australian Mathematics Competition. The emphasis of the competition is problem solving and aims to be accessible to all students. There are three separate papers, Junior (Years 7 and 8), Intermediate (Years 9 and 10) and Senior (Years 11 and 12). The time allowed to complete the paper is 75 minutes. Each student will receive a Certificate and a detailed report showing how they performed on each problem. Prizes are also given to students receiving outstanding results.

The Australian Mathematics Competition will be held on Thursday 7th August. The Mathematics faculty will pay the entry fee for any student who would like to enter. Students who wish to enter need to complete the section below and return to Mrs S.Keightley via Caritas by Friday 30th May.

To access sample questions or to find out more about the competition, please visit the website, www.amt.edu.au. If you have any questions please contact the Head of Mathematics, Mrs Shelley Keightley. (skheightley@sbsc.tas.edu.au).

Please return to Mrs Shelley Keightley via Caritas by Friday 30th May

I wish to enter the Australian Mathematics Competition.

Name: ___________________________ Grade: _________ Homeroom: ______________
TASDANCE PERFORMANCE EXCURSION

Last week our Year 9, 10, and SS Dance students went to see the TasDance performance - our own Lachie Hansen (Year 10) was in the production!

Ball - Dance Rehearsals Photos

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

The UTAS Futures event is coming to St Brendan Shaw College on Tuesday 20th May from 8:50am – 11:00am. This event is for all Senior Secondary students.

Whether you are already thinking about coming to university; are not sure about coming to uni; OR even if you don’t think that university is an option for you, this is your chance to explore options available for study at UTAS, and also learn other important details about university including information on scholarships, accommodation, prerequisites and alternative pathways to uni. We would love you to join us... you never know what you might discover!

The morning commences with a short general information session, followed by a series of presentations from UTAS Faculties and the Australian Maritime College for you to choose from.

In order to attend the presentations that you are interested in, you are asked to put your name down on a booking sheet. These are available now, along with the program schedule.

Mrs Tanya Rataj - Careers and Pathways Coordinator

Enrolment Interviews
Year 7 (2015)

Monday 19 May,
Monday 26 May and
Thursday 29 May

Application form required prior to the Interview

For more information contact: (03) 6424 7622

Griffin House 2014 Fundraiser

UGLY SWEATER DAY

Wear your ‘ugly sweater’ for a cause on Friday May 16th, 2014.

Gold Coin donation
BBQ, Lunch on the day

All funds raised go directly to the Beyond Blue Foundation.

Don’t have an ugly sweater? Get yourself to vinnies!
A near new Blazer is missing with Sam Wells’ name on it. Please return if found.

Devon Netball Association Inc

2014 NetSetGo! Winter Program

commences

Wednesday May 21, 2014

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Cost: Registration fee of $60.00 (includes NetSetGo! pack). This fee should be paid to the Netball office (Spreyton) and registration forms completed.

Time: 5.00pm till 6.00pm 5 - 8 year olds (kinder to Gr 2)

Where: The program will be run indoors, in the Spreyton Primary School gymnasium. Access from Bay Drive, which is behind the school.

Please contact the Netball office to reserve place for your child.

HPE Classes—Cross Country

In the build up to Cross Country, the HPE classes may be using external facilities to familiarise themselves with the course. All parents of students in Years 7-10 should have received a letter that was sent home with students on Tuesday.
I am in transition and it has happened way too fast. I hope I am prepared. I am now the mother of a high school student. Entering high school is a phenomenal year of change for parents and youth. Actually, it was the first week that really made its mark. Suddenly my daughter has her own laptop, email addresses and a smart phone.

When I was her age I had a fairly simple transition. I simply walked across the parking lot and turned right towards the high school instead of left for the primary school and the transition had occurred. That was one of the privileges of a rural education – not the norm for most youth as they make the change from primary school to secondary college. Back then, thoughts of laptops and phones with internet connection were non-existent, or at least only possible in the realm of movies like Star Trek. Fast forward to today and our kids are carrying these devices around in their backpacks.

With all this technology comes a great deal of responsibility for youth and their parents. I know I expect my children to use their manners, show respect and treat others as they would like to be treated. I expect this in the real world and I expect this online – constantly and consistently. Social netiquette is exactly that: online rules and guidelines that match real world rules and guidelines.

Here are some guidelines you can teach your child to help them develop social netiquette:

**Don’t be an ‘open book’**

Giving away too much information, too soon, to people you may not really know can put your child at risk. What you need to know and understand is that your child is now hanging out in the biggest possible public place there ever was. Placing themselves online and being an open book can make your child a target. Once they have put themselves out in this public place, they are accessible to billions of people. Even with tight privacy settings and all the awareness in the world, that post, that photo is out there; chances are that sometime, someone out there is going to make a derogatory comment about something they put online. I’m not saying that is right, but I am saying that is bound to happen. Be prepared for that, and talk to your kids about what to do when it does. We recommend they do not respond, let a trusted adult know what has happened and do not re-enter that conversation.

**Building your personal brand**

In a world where social media rules, we have all become brands. Everything we do online is either adding or detracting from our personal brand. Does your child want their brand to be like a Nike or Coca Cola: a top shelf brand that people want to buy into because it is seen to have value? Everything your child says, ‘likes’, reposts, comments or retweets on social channels tells others what they are all about. Online presence is not only about the content that they provide themselves – it is also about what’s written or posted about them by others. Today’s first impressions occur on the internet.

Your child’s personal brand will take them further than any education or university degree. In today’s world an individual’s online reputation is far more believable than anything they can provide on a piece of paper. A comment on a piece of paper doesn’t have a lot of weight, but what others can see about them on the internet – now that is ‘real’. A strong personal brand will allow your child to move between opportunities with ease.

**Housekeeping required**

Your child’s personal brand will also outline any of their personal and professional achievements. Setting up and maintaining social networking requires constant work. Work with your kids to maintain a clean house, so to speak.
Keep social networks tidy and tight. Some apps make it very easy to connect with people they have never met. Have a conversation with your child about why ‘quality friends’ should win over ‘quantity of friends’. Are they connecting only with real life face-to-face friends? Who will stand beside them if they don’t, and things go wrong?

Mistakes will be made, and our aim is to minimise the slip-ups our children will make. The first thing is to reassure your child that you will be there to help if something goes wrong or gets out of control. Yes, we may be angry at first, but your child will need your support; we may be disappointed, but we will get over it. Let your child know that you are far more likely to respect them for being upfront about issues rather than trying to bury any mistake they have made.

Even the most insignificant online actions can have an influence on how your child will be perceived. Take a proactive and preventative stance – spending the time now to help your child navigate their way through their new digital world, and to help them attend to any stains and spills that might happen along the way, will pay off in the long run. Learning how to edit, block and delete content is a great place to start.

**Encourage kids to T.H.I.N.K.**

This is an ‘oldie but a goodie’ and it works every time. Work with your kids to have them answer these five simple questions before they post. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? And is it Kind? If your child can answer yes to those questions, then certainly they can consider putting their material online. But even a single ‘no’ to one of these questions means they will be pushing the boundaries of social netiquette.

Times certainly seem different these days, but the rules are still the same. Be nice in public, make a first good impression, tidy up your mess and think twice before speaking.

So far the transition has gone smoothly and we have both settled into the new demands of online learning and the world of ‘bring your own device’. Being the mother of a high school student is a privilege, and I welcome the new challenges it will bring.

Catherine Gerhardt

‘eSmart Schools has found the content in the Kidproof Safety program to be a valuable and credible resource on cybersafety for schools’
The Alannah and Madeline Foundation