News From Our Principal

The College is well served by its Board. The Board membership consists of:

- four Ex-officio members being: the Principal; a Priest or Nominee of the Archbishop; and one nominee each of the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph
- seven Ordinary members.

The ordinary members are comprised of 3 people who are nominated by members of the Board, and four people who are nominated by parents at the College.

Ordinary members are appointed for three years, from 1 April to 31 March. This is a change resulting from a revision of the College’s constitution by the Governing Council.

At present, there are no vacancies on the Board for Parent nominees. There are, however, vacancies for a Board Nominee, and a nominee of the Christian Brothers and the Board is working with the Governing Council to fill these vacancies. If you believe that you know of a person whom the Board should consider, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

The Board also has two sub-committees: Finance and Capital Works and Maintenance. Membership parameters for these subcommittees are more flexible. If you believe that you know of someone who has particular expertise in these specific domains, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Last Saturday’s Senior Students’ Ball proved to be most enjoyable. A large number of staff joined the students who were so well presented. The Ball committee need to be commended.

Congratulations to past scholar (2005-2010), Nick Cooney who has been selected to represent Australian Boxing at this year’s Commonwealth Games. He will compete with the support and best wishes of all of us.

Congratulations to Mr Peter Douglas, Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, who has been appointed Head of School Services, North replacing Dr Sandra Harvey. Peter will take up the new role in mid-June. Congratulations, also, to Mrs Christina Gretton who has been appointed Acting Principal from that time.

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At that time Jesus said ‘I praise you, father, lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, father, for this was your good pleasure’. —Matthew 11:25-26

Christianity taught us that love is worth more than intelligence. - Jacques Maritain
“Three years ago Pope Benedict challenged the world, in its response to the financial crisis, to put the focus on those living in poverty:

*Where human lives are concerned, time is always short: yet the world has witnessed the vast resources that governments can draw upon to rescue financial institutions deemed ‘too big to fail’. Surely the integral human development of the world’s peoples is no less important: here is an enterprise, worthy of the world’s attention, that is truly ‘too big to fail’.*

*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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**Deputy Principal - Pastoral Care**

**RESILIENCE UPDATE**

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

- That another of the *senses* we need to have is a sense of belonging, that is we need to feel we are valued, needed and accepted by others.
- The groups that we belong to need to be pro-social (e.g. families, school, Church, sporting clubs) and not anti-social (e.g. drug-dealing outlaw motorcycle gangs) for the belonging to actually build resilience.

All students were reminded that they belong at St Brendan-Shaw College, that the staff value and care for them and they are important to the school.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME:** Over the next two weeks, perhaps discuss at home the groups that you belong to or have belonged to and what you got out of being part of these groups.

Find out more from [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au).

Here are some positive thoughts about belonging we can all work with…

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*Some people care about me.*

*I feel like I belong here in.*

*I feel part of my family.*

*I have some close relationships.*

*There is someone I can talk to if I have a problem.*

*I like being part of the group.*

*Mr Richard Chapman*

*Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care*
School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support

This week: when representing the College at outside events

At St Brendan-Shaw College we strive to:

Do our best - by wearing appropriate attire, showing sporting behaviour and being mindful that we are representing the College.

Be safe - by playing within the rules, following teacher instructions and following road rules.

Welcome diversity - by accepting differences within the community and showing compassion where we can.

Lions Youth of the Year Quest

A quest can be long, difficult and time-consuming but it can also take you to the most wonderful places. When I decided to participate in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest I did not realise just how beneficial it could be. For 50 years the competition has been running and has helped to encourage numerous individuals within that time, including our former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. The focus of the competition is not ‘to be the best’ but ‘to do your best,’ just as our College motto states.

This year, we had three students participating in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Sarah Howard and Tarsha Jago entered in the Devonport Lions Club round and myself, who entered in the Ulverstone Lions Club round. Tarsha and Sarah, having spoken extremely well, but were unlucky not to continue. I was fortunate enough to progress on to the Regional Final in Burnie, followed by the State Final in Kings Meadows. This led to me being chosen, as the State winner to represent Tasmania at the National Finals. I was quite excited and deeply honoured.

It was in our Term 1 school holidays that I travelled to Tamworth, located in between Brisbane and Sydney. Tamworth is known as the ‘Country Music Capital of Australia’, home to the Golden Guitar monument. Needless to say I was expecting everyone to be carrying guitars and wearing cowboy hats. Surprisingly, this was not the case and the rural town proved to be rather huge in comparison to Devonport!

For the fourth time, I was interviewed by a panel of judges whom asked me some difficult questions. This was less intimidating than having to speak to an audience of 3000 Lions members at their National Convention. Each contestant was asked two impromptu questions. The first was regarding the issue of Australia’s ageing population and the second being what qualities it takes to prosper. We also had to present a prepared speech. Mine was on valuing Indigenous Australians.

The standard of state competitors was high, being the best from around Australia. Unfortunately I did not place at the Final but all national contestants received $500 each and a trip to New Zealand for an international youth camp this December.

People often say that it is best to focus on the journey, and not the destination. In the case of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest, this is definitely true. Having competed in the quest for three years now, I have had the opportunity to analyse my life and aspire to be a better person through many ways. The Quest has allowed me to meet some wonderful people, improve my confidence, learn how to prepare for an interview, increase my public speaking skills and travel throughout the State, to Tamworth and now Rotorua. When you get to Year 10, 11 or 12, take the quest to take a ride of a lifetime.

Laura Wood
Student (12 M4)
This week contains significant dates of reconciliation for all Australians.

27 May is the 1967 referendum date where Australians overwhelmingly voted to take s127 out of the Constitution, the most important legal document in Australian law. S 127 of the Constitution denied Aborigines the right to be counted in the census. To be not counted meant that the Government did not need to take their needs into consideration when planning their budgets and policies. S51 xxvi also was changed where it was amended so that the Federal Government could make special law for any race including for the first time the Aborigines. This section is still under review for the next referendum. (see below)

June 3 was the date of the High Court’s 1992 landmark decision on Mabo. The first time in the 200 year history of European settlement that the English concept of native title replaced “terra nullius” (the land belongs to nobody) and gave Aborigines the right to their land.

The week is not about Aboriginal Rights. It is about reconciliation and everyone being treated the same. This is a time to acknowledge and appreciate each other.

**RECOGNITION REFERENDUM**

A new referendum to change the Constitution and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original inhabitants is being prepared by parliament in Canberra. Recognise, a group making sure that all Australians understand the proposed change to the Constitution, gave out information at Agfest to many people and held many interesting conversations with people with widely different views. One of our families from SBSC was photographed finding out about Recognition.

Mrs Margaret Shearer
Aboriginal Student Support Teacher

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**Vinnies Canned Food Drive**

An update on the Vinnies Canned Food Drive reveals that students are slow to follow the attitude of President Obama, “Yes we CAN!” Nonetheless, the Lyons House proves to be the exception, exhibiting that they, indeed, can bring in cans.

This is the fourth week that the Vinnies Canned Food Drive has been running and at present, the Lyons House has raised the most with 55 cans! It is believed to be the relentless encouragement by Mr Hubble (the Lyons House Head), which has motivated the students.

At the end of Term 2, the food from the food drive is collected by the local Vinnies volunteers who compile it into food parcels for those families in need of it this winter. On average, 35 families from Ulverstone to Devonport rely on these parcels each week. All cans brought in by students are to be taken to their designated House Head directly or given to Vinnies students in morning homeroom.

To advertise the drive, every Friday the Vinnies club has been aiming to hold various challenges for students at lunchtime. These challenges all involve the use of non-perishable food to promote the numerous items that can be brought in for the Drive.

Last Friday on the 23rd of May, we held two activities. The first, was guessing how many Weet-Bix were in the box and the second was attempting to throw beans into empty cans. Winning students were offered a prize ranging from lollies, passport signatures, purple slips and canteen vouchers! The student who guessed the correct number of Weet-Bix was Sam Watson with the guess of 84 bix. Congratulations Sam!

We hope to see more students at this Friday’s challenge. The theme is: Can Stacking!

By Laura Wood
Vinnies Secretary
Hello students, teachers and St Brendan—Shaw College community.

For those who don’t know my name is Grace Tenaglia and I am a Year 10 student at the College, even though I haven’t taken a single lesson at the SBSC this year. I am currently an AFS exchange student on a 6 month program in Sicily, Italy. I am in my 4th month, so the life of an AFS exchange student has become as normal as it gets.

Life as an AFS Exchange Student...... How do I begin to tell you how amazing this experience is?

Since early 2014 I haven’t stopped having a ball, honestly life as an exchange student is everything I dreamt it to be and more, in Italy I am a part of a family of five, one little brother who is 10 years of age, one sister who is 16 years age and my Italian parents. You’re disappointed aren’t you? Where is my big Italian family? Well I haven’t finished yet, the cool thing about living in the southern part of Italy is that most of the family e.g. aunts, uncles, nan’s and pop’s, live in the one apartment block together, so I do have my big stereotypical Italian family.

I go to a scientific school here. In Italy, the ‘high school system’ is split into different types of schools. For example if you wanted to be a chef you would go to a cooking school, if you wanted to be an artist you would artistic school. I am in the 2nd year here in Italy, to make all you Australian students jealous, my school days are only 4 or 5 hours a day, but they are six days a week.

Italian home life is really laid back, lunch is served at 2pm after us kids have gotten home from school. Afternoons here involve cooking with my Nona, AFS meetings, studying with my sister and seeing my friends. Unfortunately there is something very wrong with time in this country. I get home from school, eat lunch, do something and look at the time..... It’s 8pm and dinner is in an hour, it’s crazy. If I was to pick my favourite thing about home life in Italy it would be Sunday lunch times. It’s the one day that I can count on, a meal with the whole family and amazing food cooked by Nona (Italian word for Nan).

I have made many Italian friends as well as friends from other countries such as Americans, Swiss, Finish, Greenlandic, Chinese, New Zealanders, Thai, Germans and Brazilian. The list is almost endless, this was something I didn’t expect, and these friendships have really put the icing on the exchange student cake.

This is directed at the parents of the students considering an exchange program. I know you are worried, I know you can’t bear the thought of them leaving, but this experience is really one of a kind. It has opened the door up to so many new opportunities and has made me grow into a more confident person. It also made me appreciate life in Australia. It’s given me the opportunity to develop some lifetime friendships, with people from all over the world.

So when you sit down and have the family discussions about the AFS exchange program, think of the positives. I wish I was there to tell you about this amazing lifetime experience, it is so worth it, I encourage anyone that is thinking about it, to take the next step and experience the AFS exchange program.

Grace Tenaglia
Student
(10 L7)
Mr Frank Pisano handed a fundraising check to Caritas for $5000 during assembly yesterday. The students did a great job caring for other and fundraising such a large amount.

This is the new idea of Mr Ross Hubble to have homeroom per house in the lunch area where he serves breakfast. This nice bonding idea gave the students a nice hot cup of milo in the early morning.

This was the Year 8 Football team that played in Sheffield last week.
The ConocoPhillips Science experience is a three day hands on Science activities program being conducted in 32 universities and tertiary institutions around Australia. In Tasmania, the program is being offered at UTAS Hobart (Jan 13-15) and Launceston (Jan 27-29).

These programs are designed for students in years 9 & 10 and are designed to engage and inform students about science and technology as well as heightening their interest in a wide range of Science disciplines. We are lucky enough to have sponsorship support from the Rotary Club of Devonport North for the three day sessions.

Details of the program can be found at www.scienceexperience.com.au or from Mrs Hicks in the Science Faculty office.

Mrs K Hicks - Science Faculty Head

Uniform Shop
OPEN ON TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
10AM — 4PM

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Entries are invited for the annual CHOCOLATE WONDERS OF WEARABLE ART COMPETITION

From the extravagant to the highly imaginative, adults and young people are invited to share their passion and join in the fun of creating a fantastical chocolate inspired wearable art costume to adorn the human body.

ENTRY IS FREE with the resulting showcase of wearable art amazing and astounding patrons attending Chocolate Winterfest, Latrobe on Sunday, 10 August.

The costume judged the winner will be awarded a family accommodation package at Shearwater Resort - the perfect place to unwind, indulge and refresh.

Information packages are available online at www.chocolatewinterfest.com.au/taking-part.html or phone 6421 4650 for a same.

REGISTRATION OF ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UP UNTIL JULY 25

World Challenge Expedition
Nepal 2015

On Tuesday May 27, students from Years 9 and 10 were involved in a presentation by World Challenge. In conjunction with World Challenge, the College is hoping to run an expedition to Nepal in November/December 2015.

On Monday June 2, we will be hosting a Parent Information Evening in the Genesis Centre at 6:30pm. A representative from World Challenge will be available to provide additional information to parents and students and answer any questions regarding the expedition.

Parents of Year 9 and 10 students should have received a letter in the mail about this. If you plan on attending the Information Evening, we kindly ask that you complete and return the RSVP slip to either Mrs McIver or Miss Sushames at the College as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming interested parents and students at the Parent Information Evening.

Mrs Emma McIver & Miss Renee Sushames

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. (skeightley@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: _________
What bullying isn’t, and what to do when it happens

Bullying should not be confused with teasing, rejection, random acts of violence or physicality and conflict. While children will often tease or fight, this bickering should not be confused with bullying.

Bullying is a word that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people bullying is associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40% of people have experienced some type of bullying in the past.

Bullying is an insidious behaviour that transgresses children’s natural right to feel safe and secure. It can adversely affect their learning, emotional well-being, further peer relations and their sense of self.

Bullying takes many forms and guises including, physical and emotional abuse, intimidation, harassment and exclusion.

It now has a well-publicised cyber-dimension which has moved the goalposts for many kids. In the past children could escape bullying behaviours they may have experienced by being at home. Cyberbullying now means that kids can’t escape the bully like they once could.

Bullying is not the domain of one gender. Girls bully just as much as boys but they do it in less physical ways. While boys use physical intimidation or verbal abuse to wield power, girls are more likely to use exclusion or verbal sarcasm to assert themselves.

Bullying should not be confused with teasing, rejection, random acts of violence or physicality and conflict. While children will often tease or fight, this bickering should not be confused with bullying.

Bullying is about lack of power as one person is powerless to stop the teasing or physical abuse. Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person by another person or group.

If you think your child is being bullied then handle with care as children often don’t want to admit that they are on the receiving end of bullying.

Some kids keep it close to their chests so it helps to be on the lookout for warning signs such as: items being stolen, changing the route to school and withdrawal from usual activities.

If your child is being bullied:
1. Listen to their story: Children who are bullied need someone to believe their story. Take them seriously and avoid dismissing complaints as tell-tale. Use common sense to differentiate between bullying and more random, non-selective antisocial acts. Kids can be nasty to each other, yet this doesn’t constitute bullying.

2. Deal with their feelings: A child who is bullied probably feels scared, angry and sad. Boys are more likely to display anger and girls claim they feel sad. The degree of emotional intensity is an indicator of the amount of bullying. Recognise and validate their emotions. Let them talk about how they think (remember boys respond better to ‘think’ language) and feel. It’s normal to feel sad, scared or just plain confused.

3. Get the facts: Get a clear picture of what happens, including who is involved, the frequency and what happens prior to any bullying. Get your child to be as specific as possible by asking good questions. An accurate picture will help you determine your next course of action.

4. Give them coping skills: With a clear picture you can start giving your child some help about how he or she may deal with bullying including using avoidance strategies, being more assertive and changing poor body language.

5. Get the school involved: Bullying is best handled when parents and teachers are involved. Approach your school through the appropriate channels, make yourself aware of your schools’ anti-bullying procedures and programs, and be willing to work within these guidelines.

6. Help build your child’s support networks: Kids need a group of friends to support them when they experience bullying so look for practical ways to broaden friendship groups.

7. Build their self-confidence: Provide children with systematic encouragement. Let them know through your words and treatment of them that they will get through this period.

It’s worth remembering that children who experience some form of bullying often come out stronger and more resourceful because they have experienced difficulties and they know they can defeat them.