



St. Bernard's College

"To Stand on Life-Giving Ground"

Newsletter February 2023

Kia ora koutou

As our year begins we are enjoying not having to focus on disease prevention and epidemiology. We are enjoying being back to being entirely focused on our core business of learning and growing and building success. We have met with you to find out more about your sons and to set some goals for your son for the year. We have had our Year 13 overnight retreat and our Year 9 camp. We have had our first whole school liturgy on Ash Wednesday and sport is up and running and the timetable has settled down. Long may this stability last!

Our 'New' Chapel

We have almost completed our seven year rebuilding and renovation program at the college. In that time we have had the gym extended and renovated, a new five lab science block built and we have built a new 'main block' incorporating a library, breakout spaces and IT and teaching spaces. This year the gym will be having its floor replaced with a properly sprung wooden floor and we are progressing turning our Te Reo Māori space into a Whare Rūnanga.

In all of this we have been without a Chapel and while our Faith is lived out in our day to day work and our everyday interactions, it is also important to have a physical place that symbolises what this community is about. We have taken the nicest room in the college and repurposed and renovated that. It is a beautiful space but it is still a work in progress. Thank you to those of you who are able to donate to the Marist Community Development Trust. It is this money that we have used and continue to use to develop this space.

Simon Stack
Principal



DAY ONE SBC 2023



Start of Year Powhiri



New Staff

We welcomed a whole lot of great new staff at the start of this year.

Mr Roy McGrath is the college's first new Deputy Principal in over 20 years. He comes to us from his position as Assistant Principal at Wainuiomata High School having taught before that in Japan. Mr McGrath has taken over responsibility for curriculum and pastoral of the senior (Years 11 – 13) school.



Ms Hannah Gould is with us for this year while Mr Palamo is on a secondment. Ms. Gould comes with a background in professional acting, theatre direction and play writing as well as teaching experience at HVHS, Tawa College and South Wellington Intermediate. She tells me that she loves teaching boys because they forgive and 'move on' quickly. Dance is her absolute passion.

Mr John Pesefea is also a highly experienced educator who has held roles as deputy principal in the primary system. He has taught in a secondary context at Rotorua Boys High where he also led the Pacifica mentoring program and ran a dormitory. Mr Pesefea is teaching Physical Education and says that he enjoys helping boys grow into outstanding young men. It is rewarding to be so involved in helping them shaping their futures.



Ms Ava Nourian is a first year teacher who is originally from Iran. She trained as a Montessori teacher before finishing her secondary teacher training in 2022. Ms Nourian is teaching mathematics up to senior levels.

Mr Julian Emmanuel is a highly experienced Mathematics teacher originally from South Africa who has been teaching in New Zealand for a number of years – most recently at Upper Hutt College. He tells me that he loves teaching mathematics because he loves numbers and helping students think 'outside of the square'.



New Staff



Ms Lily Davies is a teacher who is new to the profession. From the South Island, she studied English at University because she loves story-telling. She became a teacher of English and Drama because she enjoys helping others build the confidence needed to tell their own stories.



Mr Pelasio Filo has previously worked as a youth worker for Challenge 2000 and in that role had a fair bit to do with our boys on retreats. He trained as a Religious Studies teacher in 2022 and leapt at the chance to come to us as his first full-time teaching job.



Dr Te Manawa Murray-Dunn is another highly experienced teacher who also has a wide experience of working with youth having whāngai-ed over 50 young people over his career. He has taught at Wellington College, Porirua College as well as international American Colleges in China. He tells me that he loves teaching English because “the words light up”.



Mr Alo Faamoe has been employed part-time to help Mrs Emma Bull in our careers and pathways department. Mr Faamoe has come to us from the banking sector and is also a small business owner. Mr Faamoe tells me that he moved into this role at our school because of his desire to empower young people to make the transition from schooling to the ‘real world’.



Finally with Mr Cavill’s departure at the end of last year, we welcome **Mrs Wendy Tukapua** as our new Sports Director. She has come to us after 4 years as a sports co-ordinator at HVHS. Mrs Tukapua is already well known to many of our community through her extensive involvement in community sport over the years.

Ash Wednesday



English

"School" by Penehe

School is like a place where you can study, so you can work alone, or go with a buddy.
It sounds so cheerful, funny and loud
and tastes like glory that makes you proud.
I see people who're rushing this way and that, but don't worry people cause Mr Stack's got your back.
I felt so nervous, scared and afraid but when you get used to it you'll feel so upgraded.
School.

"School" by Kavell

School is like hard
It sounds like pencils drawing
and tastes like wood
I see a lot of boys
I feel tables, clothing
School.

"School" by Aaron

School is like a place to learn
It sounds like a place with so much talking
and tastes like good food
I see new people
I feel that it is a great school
School. I love it here

"School" by Hendrix

School is like a box of chocolates.
It sounds like learning.
and tastes like canteen food.
I see lots of new people.
I feel pride.
School.

"School" by Harper

School is like A prison cell
It sounds Very noisy like a zoo
and tastes like a rotten egg
I see lots of people
I feel excited
School.

"School" by Jesse Rivera

School is like a chore.
It sounds chaotic daily
and tastes like grass and concrete walls.
I see students interacting in various different ways .
I feel happy when I'm with friends though.
School.

"School" by Elijah Ursua

School is like Waiting room for going home.
It sounds Disorganised and erratic
and tastes like a pack of Fruit Burst.
I see a community amongst the Chaos.
I feel relieved once "it's" over.
School.

"School" by Eden

School is different.
It sounds like " Don't ask me "and "Don't get it wrong"
It tastes like the soggy chips from the canteen.
I see stress, anger but also happiness and laughter
I feel confused, but I'll get used to it.
School.

"School" by KEANU

School is like A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE FRIENDS AND LEARN.
It sounds LIKE PEOPLE ARE HAVING FUN AND MAKING FUNNY JOKES.
and tastes LIKE FRESH AIR.
I see PEOPLE WANNA GO HOME.
I feel HAPPY IN THIS school.

Year 9 Camp/Retreat

"IT FEELS LIKE HOME NOW" was the comment made by a student new to our college after our first Year 9 combined retreat and camp. GOAL ACHIEVED !

Nothing could dampen the boys' spirits, (but I could not say that about the state of their clothes after 2 days at Silverstream Retreat Centre in wet weather).

With Year 13 leaders serving our boys delicious kai, teaching them our school waiatas, karakias and haka - our new tradition of a combined retreat and camp to build a strong brotherhood had begun. Watching positive changes over the two-day period from a Teacher's perspective was remarkable, heart warming and reaffirmed that this is what our students need to build life long friendships, see the character traits needed to be a Year 13 Leader and aspire to these.

LOVE GOD – LOVE SELF AND LOVE OTHERS in action – it was spoken, sung, demonstrated, and repeated !

The boys had to face many risks – both big and small; sharing cabins with unfamiliar faces, learning large group skills, staying away from home for the first time, eating new foods and cleaning up their cabins even when they thought they had cleaned them ! I strongly believe that being brave is taking a risk – our boys took many risks, and they were very brave! Much aroha to Mr Boon for his hard work with the organisation of this new tradition, our Year 13 Leaders that showed what a brother at SBC is and does, and our staff who at 12:45pm were walking with weary eyes and wobbly legs ensuring our boys - after consuming and sharing copious quantities of lollies, biscuits and Dorito's would eventually sleep soundly.

Paulina Watson Year 9 Dean (Camp Mother)



REGISTER NOW

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SBCOBA

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ST BERNARD'S
COLLEGE OLD BOYS
REUNION



FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
17TH - 19TH MARCH 2023

REGISTER: WWW.SBOB.ORG.NZ



SBC OLD BOYS

Community News



Next Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, we will teach rangatahi to prep, cook and serve some awesome easy recipes to help them gain knowledge and independence. At the end of each session, rangatahi will take away a meal to contribute to their whānau. The sessions are free, we just need to know who is coming! Check out the poster, pass onto all rangatahi and email sheree.bint@vibe.org.nz if you have young people keen to attend.

This term we are excited to bring to you our very own careers expo in partnership with Sacred Heart College. This expo is part of our school wide careers across the curriculum programme and it is certainly an event not to be missed.

On **Tuesday, March 21st from 4-15 pm - 7.30pm** SBC will open its door to over 50 exhibitors to share with our students and the families the huge range of pathways and opportunities available.

In the coming weeks I will be sending more information home including resources and the agenda of all the various workshops and information sessions happening so you can prepare and make the most of this opportunity.

Better still, you won't need to worry about dinner - grab a sausage and a drink and support our Relay for Life BBQ fundraiser

To keep up to date with all the latest information, [visit this link](#) and make sure you are connected to our **Instagram Page @sbc_careers**



FREE! FREE! FREE!

The VIBE Nurse will be onsite Monday & Wednesday

Free and confidential appointments at the college.

Come to the school office or use the QR code to make an appointment at school or contact VIBE on 566-0525 to make a FREE doctor's appointment at VIBE



Term Dates

Term 1	31 January – 6 April
Term 2	24 April – 30 June
Term 3	17 July – 22 September
Term 4	9 October – 12 December

Marist Community Development Trust

The Marist Community Development Trust (MCDT) was set up to support, preserve and enhance the Special Catholic Charism of St Bernard's College, the essence of the school.



St Bernard's College has opted into the Government Donations Scheme, there is no longer any payment request from the College for course costs.

Family donations can still be made to the Marist Community Development Trust, when making an online payment please use your son's name and MCDT as the reference, bank account **ASB 12-3142-0164653-000**.

Any amount will be gratefully received and will be paid back to the college to support Special Character initiatives which can't be funded from operational funding.

All donations qualify for a tax rebate from the IRD, receipts will be issued in early April.

Calendar Alerts

February	
28	SBC Athletic Sports
March	
1	7&8 Day Bay Picnic
6	Staff PLD school ends 1.15pm
17-19	Old Boys Reunion Weekend
April	
6	Easter Liturgy 11.30am
6	Last day of Term 1

Full school calendar is available at www.sbc.school.nz

Uniform Shop

Thursday 1pm – 4pm

Check out our online ordering

www.sbc.school.nz



2nd hand uniform is now sold at the college Uniform Shop during opening hours

We would still really appreciate any donations of quality second hand uniform, please drop off to the main office.

FREE VIBE Consultation

The VIBE nurse is at SBC each Monday and Wednesday

See the office to make a **Free and confidential** appointment .

Free appointments with a doctor are available at the VIBE Clinic.

They can be made through the nurse, *or* directly with VIBE:

Vibe:566-0525 **IT'S FREE!**

Reminders

Leaving School During School Hours

If your son needs to leave school during the day please follow these steps.

- Send him with a note explaining why he is leaving
- He needs to get that signed by his dean
- Bring the note to the office when he is leaving.
- Sign out.

Payment Of School Charges

The school prefers all school charges to be paid directly to our bank account: **ASB Queensgate 12-3142-0164653-00**.

Please include your **son's first name and surname, in the reference fields**. Receipts are issued for all payments and given to students in class.

If you are facing financial difficulties please contact The Business Manager.

Contact Details

It is very important that we are able to contact you, especially in case of an emergency. **Please make sure we have your current contact information.**

E-mail

As most of our information is now sent by email.

Please check your settings to make sure we are a trusted sender.



Contact Us

Physical/Postal Address

183 Waterloo Road
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New Zealand

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W: www.sbc.school.nz