Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the College,

Last week the College celebrated our liturgy in preparation for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The liturgy was a fitting way to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was also a time to reflect on what Easter and the resurrection means to each of us.

Throughout the liturgy, students responded to each station of the cross with the words “Guide our actions, deepen our thoughts and strengthen our faith”. These words are a prayer that brings Lent and Easter to life for the remainder of the year. Lent is not only a time of preparation for Easter it is a time of change and renewal. Lent and Easter provide each of us an opportunity to make significant changes our future lives. These events also give each of us the opportunity to renew our relationship with our God.

I encourage all to recognise that Easter is more than one Sunday. It is an opportunity to renew ourselves in Christ and keep this spirit alive in our hearts.

Next Monday the college will be conducting Parent, Pastoral Teacher, Student interviews at the school. These interviews will give parents an overview of their child’s performance in Term 1. These interviews are an indicator as to how each student is progressing. As this is the half way point in semester 1, the interviews offer students the opportunity to consolidate the positive while improving in areas for development.

These evenings also offer parents an opportunity to meet their child’s Pastoral Care Teacher who is the first point of contact for all issues which may arise at the college. This is also a time to reinforce the fact that staff and parents work in partnership with each other in order to provide for the best possible education for students.

I encourage all parents to take advantage of the opportunity provided and to explore all areas of their child’s development not only the academic. The academic performance is one important facet of an individual’s development, however, the college continues to promote all aspects of each student’s growth in order to enable them to be the best person that they can aspire to be. I look forward to seeing parents on Monday April 4th.

This week we welcome Mr Zahra to the College. Mr Zahra will be replacing Mrs Pallister who has decided to leave Good Samaritan for personal reasons. Next term, Mrs Keppel will be taking long service leave and her place will be taken by Mr Andrejev. Mr Dominish will assume the role of acting Year 8 Co-ordinator.

Also this week is Ms Wallis’ last week. Ms Wallis has been replacing Mrs Raco who has been on maternity leave for the last year. We certainly wish Ms Wallis all the best for the future and thank her for her contribution to Good Samaritan.

Last but not least, Miss McLennan will be getting married over the holidays and moving away from the area. Unfortunately, this move means she will no longer be working at Good Samaritan. I wish to thank Miss McLennan for all of her hard work in the library and her contribution to the college over the last 4 years. We also wish her and her fiancé all the very best for their future lives together. She will certainly be missed. Miss McLennan’s place as Teacher/Librarian will be taken by Mr Lozelle. Mrs Skuja will join our staff to be involved in Special Education with Mr Zuman, Mrs Narin and Mrs Brocklehurst.
This is the last newsletter for Term 1. I wish each student a restful holiday and hope every person comes back to the college refreshed and committed to their studies in the second half of the semester. I also wish Year 12 all the best as they continue with their half yearly examinations during this fortnight.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Holy Thursday Absences

It was disappointing to see that a number of students did not attend school on Holy Thursday, which was a normal school day up until lunch time. Students in senior years who did not attend missed five lessons, those in Year 7 to 10 missed 4 lessons and all who did not attend missed a meaningful liturgy. A reminder to all who were absent that all absences must be explained in a note from parents. These should be given to Pastoral Care Teachers on the first school day following the absence.

Uniform—Term 2

All students are required to return to the college after the term 1 holidays in full winter uniform.

JUNIOR GIRLS
College skirt (to be worn to the knee)
White blouse (long sleeve with Peter Pan collar with top button done up)
Burgundy tie
Black tights
College jumper
Black college blazer
College v-neck jumper
Black leather low heel lace up shoes (which must be polished)

SENIOR GIRLS
As Junior Girls
Senior college skirt
Senior over-blouse

JUNIOR BOYS
Long sleeve white shirt (with top button done up)
College tie
College grey trousers (with black leather belt)
Grey or black socks
Grey or black College blazer
College v-neck jumper
Black leather low heel lace up shoes (which must be polished)

SENIOR BOYS
As Junior Boys
Senior college trousers
Senior college tie

Those students who have ordered new blazers for this year should have by now collected them from the college office. Parents are asked to ensure that blazers, like all other uniform items are clearly labelled with their child’s name. It is of concern to us that we often find expensive un-named uniform items left unattended around the school.

Parents are asked to check that uniform items are still an appropriate size and length for students and to make any necessary adjustments or to purchase replacement items if necessary. The uniform shop is open every morning from 7.30 am to 8.30 am and will be open on Tuesday 5th April and Tuesday 26th April from 12.20 pm to 3.45 pm.

Parents are also reminded of our grooming and jewellery expectations which can be found in the college diary. If students are having hair cuts over the holidays they need to ensure they conform with college policy. In particular, please note hair must be of a natural colour (i.e. streaks are not allowed), and extreme shortness, undercuts, steps, mohawk or shaved styles are not permitted. Also the only jewellery permitted is a watch and for girls one pair of plain sleeper or stud earrings. Students who are wearing other jewellery will be asked to remove it.

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The first of our Parent Group (Curriculum) was well attended last night, with 20 parents taking part in an active and informative evening. The theme was ‘Learning Matters, Reading Matters’ and outlined the program that teachers at Good Samaritan are involved in to support the delivery of quality teaching. The College’s Literacy Support Resource Coordinator, Pam Williamson, gave an insight into the importance of reading across all subject areas and explained the Reading Program for students in Years 7 and 8. Our Creative Arts Coordinator Cathy Molloy presented an excellent activity called “Tech Talk” and looked at some of the ways we can use technology to enhance student learning at home.

Judging by the parent participation and the questions asked, all parents who attended would have taken at least one tip or technique home to help their child with their learning. Thank you to those parents who offered suggestions for further meetings.

Parents are invited to attend our next meeting towards the end of Term 2; a firm date will be given early next term.

Mrs B Eljed

Mrs C Peterson
2005 commemorates the 20th annual World Youth Day – an international Catholic faith celebration involving young people from around the world between the ages of 16 and 35 years. World Youth Day was initiated by Pope John Paul II back in 1984. The purpose of World Youth Day is to give young people the opportunity to discover and learn about their faith, through the common experience of pilgrimage, prayer and worship.

World Youth Day celebrations occur annually in each nation beginning on Palm Sunday. However, the celebration is held in a different location around the world every second or third year.

In 2002, these celebrations were held in Toronto, Canada. In 2005 the youth of the world will gather in Cologne, Germany. World Youth Day Week will be held from August 16 to 23, 2005. The grand finale of this week in Germany is an outdoor Eucharistic Liturgy, officiated by Pope John Paul II (health permitting), attended by a crowd of an estimated 800,000 young people from around the world!!!

Several Year 10 / 11 students from Good Samaritan will be attending World Youth Day celebrations in Germany, as part of the Good Shepherd Parish group from Hoxton Park / Hinchinbrook. These students will be exploring France, participating in the “French Roads to Cologne” pilgrimage, prior to arriving in Germany on August 16.

Miss Darmody has also been selected by the Catholic Education Office to attend World Youth Day as one of ten teachers escorting a delegation of 65 students from systemic and independent schools within the Sydney Archdiocese. This archdiocesan school group will be going to Germany via Greece and Turkey, in a pilgrimage that visits the “Pathways of St. Paul”. What a fabulous opportunity!!

Stay tuned for the next update about World Youth Day.

Medieval Day was a great learning experience for all Year 8. Medieval Day took place on Monday 21st of March and involved all the Year 8 students taking a ride in the time capsule and traveling back to the middle ages. We spent the whole day discovering what life would be like in another time. Not only was it interesting, but at time it was a little strange to see how different our lifestyles are. There were many activities that we participated in. These activities included watching part of the movie “First Knight”, learning about heraldry, playing “Damsel in Distress”, competing in a “Squires Run” and watching a show on the Medieval times, run by a man called Tom.

Tom’s show was entertaining. He brought in armour and weapons that resembled those used in the Middle Ages. Some of us even got to try it on and play parts in some of the show. After the “Squires Run” we squires explored the equipment and armour.

For lunch Year 8 all sat down for a medieval feast. There was food of all sorts. There were prizes for the best dressed costume and the winners of the games.

All in all, the day was a great one and we came away with a lot of new experiences. On behalf of Year 8, I would like to thank all the organising teachers who made the day what it was.

By Natasha Perre
**Parenting Corner**

Dear Parents,

One of the “buzz” words of the moment is self esteem. There is no doubt that the ability to encourage our children is one of the most important parenting skills we can develop.

Research indicates and common sense supports the notion that children who feel better about themselves, do better. Self esteem is the key to effectively living?

Michael Grose refers to the “skill of encouragement” and emphasises that for parents to be able to boost the self esteem of their children they must start with themselves and develop an optimistic view of the world.

To achieve this he suggests several steps.
1. Parents must surround themselves with encouragers; people who make you feel good about yourself.
2. Be positive in your own feedback with others.
3. Look for the positive spin on what happens in our lives and ask yourself “what can I learn from this experience?”

Remember, that how you see yourself and feel about yourself has a lot of bearing on how you treat your children. The parent with low self esteem rarely demonstrates “the skill of encouragement”.

All the more reason I suggest to work on positive reinforcement in our own lives to build confidence and to develop competencies that make us feel good about ourselves.

Surely, whatever is going to help our children grow in self esteem is worth working on.

Happy parenting,

**Br Colin**

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**Debating News**

Welcome to Debating News, the fortnightly update on the progress of Good Samaritan’s Debating season. The first activity was the CSDA Debating Accreditation Seminar, on Tuesday, March 29. This was the first time Good Samaritan has hosted such an occasion, where teachers are taught the rules, practices and basics of adjudicating debates.

The evening was attended by staff from OLMC Burraneer Bay, Mary Mackillop College, Wakeley and staff from Good Samaritan. These staff included Mrs. Fegatilli, Ms Flocco, Mrs. Peterson, Miss Samardzic and Mrs. Treloar. The evening was conducted by Mr. Dominish, who used his experience and knowledge to assist the training of potential adjudicators.

The evening featured a trial debate between our Year 10 and Year 11 teams - Bianca Xerri, Chris Sammut and Joshua Kamanaleson from Year 10; Diana Lemos, Van Nguyen and Keith Debono from Year 11. Their debate gave the adjudicators an example of how to make a judgment in the competition, which starts next term.

I would like to personally thank all the students, the teachers who participated, Mr. Lo Cascio, who stayed to welcome and farewell the visitors, and finally, Mr. Dominish for donating their Tuesday night to debating.

Stay tuned for updates - the debating season begins Week One, Term Two.

**Mr M. O’Sullivan**
**Debating Co-ordinator**

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**School Fees**

All fees for Term 1 should be paid by 4 April (Week 10).

Any parents who have difficulty meeting fee requirements should make an appointment to discuss the situation with Mr Lo Cascio.

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**Sport**

Congratulations to the following teams on making semi finals this week.

Intermediate Girls Cricket
Boys -Year 10 Opens Cricket
Boys -Year 10 Opens Basketball

Well done to all teams who have played this term, and represented the college with pride.

**Miss Morrison**
**Sport Co-ordinator**
**CEO**

The CEO is holding a seminar for young drivers next Tuesday April 5 at 6.45 pm for 7 pm.

**ROAD SAFETY SEMINAR FOR YOUNG DRIVERS**

Venue: Heritage Room, St George Leagues Club
124 Princes Highway, Kogarah

If interested please contact: Frank Bottomly, Campaign Organiser on Tele: 0412 127 449

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**Library News**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have helped over the last few years in any way with the Library. It has been a huge job accessioning over fifteen thousand books and your help in covering these books has been a “God send”. The school is lucky to have such parental support.

Mr Greg Lozelle is taking over as Teacher/Librarian and I am sure he will be grateful for your continued support.

Thanks again and best wishes to all,

*Catherine McLennan*

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**Unwanted Books**

Recently the College made contact with Br Michael (a Patrician Brother) who is looking for books which they will use in their missions. If anyone has books they no longer wish to keep please bring these to the office and they will be picked up by Br Michael.

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**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

THE UNIFORM SHOP WILL BE OPEN FROM 7.30 AM TO 8.30 AM EACH DAY.

Every second Tuesday the shop will also be available for students at lunchtime and for parents from 12.20 pm - 3.45 pm

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**LOST PROPERTY**

The ‘Lost Property’ box located in the student foyer has been moved to the Uniform Shop, which is open from 7.30 am to 8.30 am daily and every second Tuesday at lunch.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Monday April 4
  - PTS Interviews

- Tuesday April 5
  - School Assembly

- Wednesday April 6th
  - Year 9 English Incursion

- Thursday April 7
  - SCC Finals

- Friday April 8
  - Term 1 concludes

- Monday April 25
  - Anzac Day

- Tuesday April 26
  - Term 2 begins - P1 Anzac Ceremony

- Thursday April 28
  - SCC Cross Country Carnival

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