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

On Saturday May 28 the College Enrolment Committee conducted interviews for prospective Year 7 students for 2006. The students and their families impressed the team. Also impressive was the ability of a number of these young people to articulate their views when asked questions in relation to school issues. Many of the parents were very supportive of their sons and daughters, emphasising that they wanted their children to get the best possible education from the college. One point that was apparent in discussions between committee members and the parents, was that education is about preparing young people for life. This understanding is integral to the education of young people at Good Samaritan. We also emphasise this must be a joint effort by parents and teachers.

The college recognises that parents are the primary educators of their children and their role in the development of young people is paramount. The guidance, direction, support and love that are provided by parents form the basis of a good stable Catholic education.

For any Catholic College, the role of parents is especially significant to the promotion of each child’s faith development. To promote our students' faith development is a major aim of the school, however, we appreciate this cannot be achieved without the commitment and dedication of parents. Parents must take a lead in this aspect of a child’s development. The college will reinforce and support the foundations that have been established and continue to be promoted by parents. I trust that present and future parents of the college agree with and support this approach.

Last Tuesday evening the college conducted the Year 11 Parent Teacher interviews. During the evening reports were distributed and parents were given the opportunity to discuss the progress of their children with their teachers. A number of students were very pleased with their performance to date, while others were not satisfied that they had achieved to their potential. One factor that was notable for most students was that Year 11 is quite challenging and requires commitment at all times from all individuals. Each student would have to agree that good results are attributable to positive study habits and commitment, which is developed early in a student's schooling.

There is a message for the whole community, not only Year 11 after this evening. The message is - all students need to labour to develop a positive approach to their studies early. This will guarantee that the task of coping with more challenging subjects and an increase in workload can be managed with reduced anxiety, when students undertake senior study.

Over the last few weeks the media has been saturated with the Schapelle Corby trial and the seeming injustice of the verdict and sentence. Many spoke continually of the need for justice. Unfortunately, the media has coloured the facts so much that Australians are unclear of the “Truth”. This case is only one issue of justice across our world. There are many examples of injustice occurring daily which sadly tend to be ignored.

As Catholics we need to consider the social injustices across the world, including homelessness and poverty in our local community, and those events happening in East
Timor and The Sudan, the millions of people starving across the world and the many other examples of peoples’ lack of concern for fellow humans each reflect a need for individuals to promote justice. As Robert Kennedy stated:

*Each time you stand up for an ideal or act to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, you send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.*

As individuals and a community, it is crucial for us to pause to reflect upon how we can sustain others by realistic means and to ask God to support our fellow human beings in their struggles. I ask each member of our community to pray the following prayer to support those who suffer injustice in our world. We can make a difference.

*Lord,*
*You cried out to all*  
*Who are overburdened*  
*to find solace in You.*

*We pray especially for all*  
*who cry out for help,*  
*those victims of oppression,*  
*those under persecution,*  
*those denied human rights.*

*Give rest to tired bodies*  
*and to weary spirits.*  
*Inspire leaders to govern*  
*with hearts of justice.*

*You must think of what is best for each other and*  
*the community*  
*(1 Thess.5. 16)*

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio  
Principal

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### Debating Report

Thankfully, this is not the final debating report for this season. This is because both of Good Samaritan’s senior debating teams have made it to the next round of the competition. This is due to their record of 4 victories and only 1 defeat.

The last round of the regular season, against Holy Spirit College, confirmed the improvement shown in Round 3. The Year 7, 9, 10 and Senior B teams had victories, largely because of the ability of those teams to rebut the arguments made by their opponents. This meant that the teams had these records:

- Senior A: 4 victories, 1 defeat
- Senior B: 4 victories, 1 defeat
- Year 10: 3 victories, 2 defeats
- Year 9: 2 victories, 3 defeats
- Year 8: 1 victory, 4 defeats
- Year 7: 2 victories, 3 defeats

This is the best record of any debating squad in the history of Good Samaritan. Now, onto the elimination rounds, with Senior A debating against McCarthy Catholic College, Emu Plains, this week; and Senior B (hopefully with Senior A) going to the First Elimination Round on Friday, June 17. With this report are photos taken of all of the squads with their coaches.

This Friday sees the Year 12 team debating for their existence at GSCC at 7 pm. Come and support them if you can.

Mr M O’Sullivan  
Debating Co-ordinator

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### Walkathon

The Walkathon is now approximately 2 weeks away. It is essential that all students make a genuine effort to raise $25. This will allow the college to have the funds to purchase much needed shade cloth to cover the area outside the canteen.
Thank you to all parents who completed the Year 6 to Year 7 transition survey. This data will be used in preparation for Year 7 2006. Once the information has been collated, feedback will be given to parents.

Mr D Costin (Year 7 Co-ordinator)

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**Year 10 Assessment Week**

At the end of last week Year 10 participated in their half yearly examinations. The examinations went over a period of 3 days. There were 6 examinations which were of English, Science, Catholic Studies, Mathematics, History and Geography. The examinations were great practice for our trials and School Certificate in which we will participate at the end of the year.

After a lot of studying we finished the examinations with a relief that the weekend was finally here.

**Erin Camden & Adrian Napoletano (Year 10)**

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**Year 10 Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews**

These will be held on Wednesday 29th June between 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm. Semester One reports will be distributed from the office and students are expected to book an interview with each of their subject teachers to discuss the report.

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**Awards**

At the recent school assembly the following students received Silver Awards. Congratulations to:

- Bianca Ruzic (2 awards)
- Melissa Joseph
- Clemen Garno
- Marc Ghignone
- Rosalee Ferreri
- Daniel Smith

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**Year 8 Reading Program**

As mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, many of our Year 8 students have recently finished a reading program. An integral part of the program has been enhancing the student’s “read aloud skills”. Read aloud skills are necessary for a person to become independent in writing, spelling and reading comprehension. Here are some more of the students’ reflections on completion of the program.

“I have gained friends as well as confidence I myself when I read aloud”
“I can read with speed and fluency”
“I have had fun reading at home”
“I am more comfortable reading in class”
“I can make sense of what I read, read quicker and read out loud better”

The students know that the gains they have made during their reading program will only be maintained with continued regular reading both out loud and silently at home. The library has many high interest books for all reading abilities. Ms Williamson also has books that can be borrowed from the reading room. Parents please ask your children what they are reading.

**Ms P Williamson (Literacy Resource Co-ordinator)**

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Thank you to all parents who completed the Year 6 to Year 7 transition survey. This data will be used in preparation for Year 7 2006. Once the information has been collated, feedback will be given to parents.

Mr D Costin (Year 7 Co-ordinator)
Virtual World Tour

Over the last term the Year 10 computing studies class has been travelling the world (virtually). With the help of a digital camera, scanner and the Internet we have been able to edit and manipulate images to put ourselves at exotic locations. Destinations from all over the world including England, France, China, India and America had us visiting prominent landmarks.

The old adage that a picture never lies obviously is no longer true. Where would you like to go tomorrow?

R Galvin
(TAS & Computing Studies)

English Incursion

On the 23rd of May, Year 10 students participated in an English incursion. It was a great experience and gave us all a better understanding of what comes across as true Australian.

A man named Andrea came in and performed a piece of drama outlining the treatment of other races. The performance focused on the life that Andrea experienced as a Greek child living in an Australian society. He used a variety of props, including a slide projector, to show how he and his family adjusted here in Australia. He also used the story of Odysseus to educate us about the Greek culture and their rich history.

This incursion was useful to us as it helped us understand the topic we are studying in English “An Australian Image”. It made us question what actually makes an “Aussie”. Being a multicultural school, this performance taught us the different aspects of being part of a minority group and how our treatment towards others can impact on their well being and happiness, whether we realise it or not.

By Rosemary Pedavoli, Nandreea Patrinjii & Jenny Farac (Year 10)

The Federation of Parents & Friends
Invites all Parents to an evening on LITERACY

What can parents do to enliven Literacy in the home?

Hosted by the Federation of Parents and Friends, the evening is designed to:
- Look at the changing fact of Literacy in the 21st century household
- Give practical advice to parents of Primary and Secondary students on supporting children’s Literacy development.

Registration:
(Reply to pf federation@ceo.sydney.catholic.edu.au or fax to 9564 1111)

Southern Regional Meeting on 22nd June 2005
7.30 pm to 9 pm at Mary MacKillop College
Carnarvon Street, Wakeley

Name: _________________________________
School: _________________________________

Enrolments 2006
St Therese School, Sadleir / Miller

St Therese School is now receiving late enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2006. Vacancies also exist in other classes. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office. Enrolment criteria apply. For more information telephone the school on 9607 7879 between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

School features include quality Literacy and Numeracy programs, Religious Education program, Vietnamese liaison, advanced technology, specialised Visual Arts program and a safe, secure learning environment for the students.

Br Nicholas Harsas fsp,
Principal

School Fees - Reminder

Outstanding Term 1 fees should be finalised with Term 2 fees which are due on 20th June 2005.

Any parents who have difficulty meeting fee requirements should contact Mrs Logue at the college office.
On May 10 and 18, all Year 10 students undertook careers testing by Robert Allwell and Associates. The results of these tests in mathematical reasoning and performance, reading, spelling and written expression and career preference have now been received and students have been given their individual portfolios. The next phase of this process is a career exploration program that is being conducted during Wednesday PC lessons, and a visit to CareerSearch, to be held at UWS Bankstown campus during the last week of this term. As Year 10 students and parents will soon be considering their options for 2006, this program may provide information to help them to make well informed decisions.

Some career events in the near future:
UWS Open Day, August 21 at the Parramatta Campus
University of Sydney Careers and Courses Day, Saturday, August 27 at 9.30 am – 4.30 pm
UNSW Courses and Careers Day, Saturday, September 3
ACU Open Day at Mt. St. Mary campus, Strathfield and MacKillop campus Nth Sydney, Sept. 10

Useful career links:
UNSW subject selection advice:
www.unsw.edu.au then follow the links Future Student, then Undergraduate Program, then Program Selection 2004 UAI cut-offs and application and enrolment information
www.uac.edu.au then follow the links Undergraduate Study, then Admission, then Secondary, then UAI, then Reports and Articles on 2004 UAI, Table 1 has 2004 UAI cut offs for university courses.
www.tafensw.edu.au has information about TAFE courses, admission and enrolment and term dates.

Some scholarship sites:
DET Teacher Education scholarships
Japanese Government scholarship to study in Japan (Monbukagakusho)
www.japan.org.au/Monbukagakusho.htm
Applications close June 28
UNSW Scholarships
www.scholarships.unsw.edu.au
University of Sydney scholarships
www.usyd.edu.au/firstyear/undergrad/study/scholarships.shtml
UTS scholarships
www.uts.edu.au/study/fees.html

Wishing every student every success in their career choices.

Mr S Berry (Careers Adviser)

Please find below a letter from Bishop Julian Porteous:

DO YOU HAVE ISSUES WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

"With the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the Catholic Church has been at the forefront of today’s news coverage. Some of this information may have left you with questions about The Church’s point of view.

So, I am writing to invite you to a series of short presentations about the Catholic Church on what she teaches and why she does so.

Each presentation is created to answer questions, which may not have been properly addressed in the mainstream media. And, it is your chance to hear the Church’s point of view and ask questions of your own.

If you are not a Catholic, or a Catholic who has issues with the Church, this is for you! We would like you to hear it straight from the Church and in doing so be able to clearly establish your own thoughts”.

I hope you will join us. Bishop Julian Porteous

The issues for discussion:
1. Is true happiness possible?
2. After death… what happens?
3. Should we cut out a few Commandments?
4. Should Terri Schiavo have lived?
5. ...And, Sex.

Lidcombe: Dooleys Catholic Club 24 John Street
On 5 consecutive Tuesdays starting 31st May at 7.30 pm
Liverpool: Liverpool Catholic Club 424 Hoxton Park Rd
On 5 consecutive Wednesdays starting 1st June at 7.30 pm
Menai: Club Menai 44-60 Allison Crescent
On 5 consecutive Tuesdays starting 7th June at 7.30 pm
City: Lord Mayors Reception Room Town Hall Sydney Square
On 5 consecutive Wednesdays starting 8th June at 6.30 pm

Speakers include:
His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell, Mrs Anna Krohn, Bishop Julian Porteous, Bishop Anthony Fisher OP.

For further details call the event manager on 9643 3677 or www.rcia.org.au
**Funding of Catholic Schools**

Many parents make a continuing sacrifice. Last year, parents with children in Catholic systemic schools (Parish Primary and Regional Secondary) in the Archdiocese of Sydney contributed more than $96.7m in school fees, building levies and other charges. Parents who choose a Catholic school, having paid their taxes to assist the education of all children, are entitled to government support for their children’s education.

**Telstra - Broadband Offer**

Exclusive Offer on Telstra Broadband

$50 additional rebate for you or your school.

Join any Telstra Bigpond Broadband internet plan and receive 6 months HALF-PRICE plus an exclusive additional $50 rebate to you or our college. This applies to customers who successfully apply for a new Bigpond ADSL or Cable service by 31 July 2005 on a 24 month plan only through Church Resources, a not-for-profit organisation.

You can download a bulletin notice on www.churchresources.com.au/broadband.htm along with conditions and application form or contact Church Resources on 1300 65 13 65.

**Corn on the Cob**

Available - Canteen

Wed, Thurs & Friday - $2.00

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 13th June
  Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- 17th June
  Year 10 Excursions
- 20th June
  Year 7 & 12 Form Photos taken - students to purchase envelopes from the college office
- 21st June - College Walkathon
- 27th June—1st July
  Workplacements
- 28th June
  Year 10 Parent Teacher Student Interviews
- 1st July
  End Term 2
- Years 7,8,9 Semester 1 Reports Distributed

**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

**LOST PROPERTY**

There appears to be a large amount of lost property at the college at present. If students have lost items they should check the Lost Property Box for the item.

The Lost Property Box is located in the Uniform Shop.

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