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

Today the college community came together to acknowledge Br Colin who celebrates 50 years as a De La Salle Brother on Saturday 14 May. Br Stanilaus Carmody was Br Colin’s first principal and was invited to the college to speak about Br Colin. The following is Br Stanilaus’ speech.

“As a shy 16 year old Colin Griffin left home in 1954 to begin his formation with a view to becoming a De La Salle Brother. He knew that during his six years of formation he would see his parents only four times a year for a few hours each time. I wonder how many of you “at that age” would know what to do with your life and have the courage to follow it through.

Br Colin not only did leave his family but he gave up a promising athletic, cricket and football career. His father was a first grade Rugby League referee (but we should not hold that against him). His mother is still a very healthy 89 and is very close to Colin.

Colin is a great sportsman. He played five eighth in the College 1st Grade side, excelled at cricket and was a great 440/880 sprinter. When 30 years of age he needed no persuasion to turn out with the staff rugby side against the college firsts at Mangere. Of course he was well and truly targeted by the opposition forwards built on the scale of Willi Mason. He came off with an injured knee and as a result of that distant injury is about to have a knee reconstruction.

Br Colin’s ambition was to be a humble De La Salle Brother, like his own teachers, giving his life to the teaching of young people. He could never have foreseen that such a humble vocation would lead him to an exciting life in many parts of the world:

(a) He was in charge of colleges in Mangere East NZ and Marrickville. He left both places with an outstanding reputation for excellence.
(b) He was responsible for all De La Salle schools in Australia, New Zealand and PNG from 1982 to 2000.
(c) He served on various education commissions in the Pacific Asia Region from 1985 to 2000.
(d) He studied in Dumbalk, Ireland; St Bueno’s Wales and Loyola University, Chicago.
(e) He was Director of a retreat centre at Cronulla for students and young adults.

In 1959, as a 20 year old, Br Colin could hardly wait to take up his first teaching appointment at De La Salle College, Malvern. From his first day in class it was clear that he was a born teacher - at home in all classes whether primary or secondary. Outside the class room he was a great coach in all sports and a successful officer of cadets. In class and out, the students appreciated his efforts on their behalf.

I was his headmaster when he first arrived at De La Salle. Each Sunday afternoon the entire Brothers’ community would engage in a vigorous game of basketball in the concrete yard. During one such game he gave me a black eye. I like to think it was not intentional.

That which Br Colin treasures most of all is his call to be a De La Salle Brother. He is inspired by the charism of the Founder - St John Baptist De La Salle - and the support and friendship of his Brothers. I challenge you all to pray that God may call many young men to be Brothers and that those who are called heed the invitation.
Dear Parents,

As parents you are always concerned about the wellbeing of your children. In the last newsletter I highlighted the responsibility of parents to support the spiritual growth of their children.

This week I direct your attention to a publication “Healthy Kids: a parents’ guide” which might assist you in understanding some of the more problematic health issues of young people.

The fact sheets cover the following areas:

- Anxiety in Children
- Disruptive Disorders in Children
- Depression in Children
- Anorexia Nervosa in Children / Young People

As well as providing helpful information to assist parents in dealing with the issues, the sheets provide a comprehensive list of CONTACT telephone numbers for further assistance.

The publication is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Filipino and Hindi. Several copies of each of these languages are available at the College (Br Colin) but they can also be obtained from:

- Cumberland Hospital
  Locked Bag 7118, Parramatta BC 2150
  Tel: 9840 3800 or
- The Children’s Hospital Westmead
  Department of Psychological Medicine

I hope this is of some assistance,

Happy Parenting,

Br Colin

-----

Parents Corner

Colin has spent the past 50 years giving his time and energy to his students and others. Now 50 years is a long time - and the younger you are the longer it seems. Yet he continues to carry on his good work with the same cheerfulness, efficiency and untiring zeal.

Let us congratulate Br Colin on his 50 years as a disciple of St John Baptist De La Salle and in the education of youth”. Br Stanislaus Carmody fsc

I take this opportunity to thank Br Colin for all that he has done for so many students at Good Samaritan.

Congratulations Br Colin

Last Friday a beautiful Mother’s Day Mass was celebrated by Fr Noel at Good Shepherd Parish. This was a moving tribute to mothers and was certainly appreciated by all who were present. A special thank you to all mums, grandmothers and carers who were able to attend. Thank you also to Mr Griffiths, Ms Foldes, Ms Benjamin and the choir for their contribution.

Monday last, the staff of the college were involved in staff development across the region. Individual teachers were able to travel to different venues to undertake in-servicing which would enhance their teaching.

The topics covered at the different venues were:
- “Differentiating the Curriculum”, “Integrating ICT into the Curriculum”, “Quality Teaching Framework”, “Hermann Whole Brain Dominance”, “Student Motivation and Engagement”, and “Communication and Boundaries”.

The insights gained at each of the presentations will be incorporated into programs to support students across the college.

Finally, a reminder to all that May is the month of Marian Devotion. Mary is the perfect example of faithfulness and commitment to God. We should all attempt to follow this example and pray that we too can live our lives faithfully.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Pentecost: A Time to Pray

Last Sunday we celebrated the ascension of Our Lord into heaven. This marks the last week of Easter celebrations, which culminate with Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is a key time in the church’s liturgical year because it reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit. We remember how the tongues of fire rested above the heads of the apostles and they were able to communicate with all people, even though they spoke different languages.

During Mass this weekend, we remember the work of the Holy Spirit and ask through Our Lord that the Holy Spirit assist us to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ. We especially ask the Holy Spirit to guide the actions of world leaders in trying to promote peace and unity. Below is a prayer, which we could recite on Sunday to help promote world peace.

Father in heaven, fifty days have celebrated the fullness of the mystery of your revealed love.

Hear your people gathered in prayer, open their hearts to receive the Holy Spirit.

May it come to rest in all hearts of the world and disperse the divisions of word and tongue.

With one spirit in Christ may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen

Mr. K Griffiths
(Religious Education Coordinator)
Congratulations to Joel McTaggart who was placed 6th at the All Schools Diving Championships recently.

Walkathon

A reminder that the Walkathon will take place on June 21st. Any help associated with planning, organisation of prizes, support on the day, provision of lunch or helping to count and collect returns after the event would be most appreciated.

Parents who wish to help should contact Mr Cloran or the college office leaving their name and area in which they are able to offer help.

Debating Report

It has been a good debating season so far, with plenty of willing participants and victories. It has been especially heartening to see so many Year 7’s signing up for the competition.

The two rounds so far have seen Good Samaritan compete against two strong schools, Kogarah Marist and St. Gregory’s Campbelltown. All teams so far have shown great ability and skill. This has been especially the case with Years 10, 11 and 12. Year 11 have had two victories, and Year 10 and 12 have had one victory each.

With the coming rounds against Mt. Carmel, Freeman and Holy Spirit, the pressure continues and hopefully further victories will follow. I would like to conclude this report by thanking the coaches, who have helped increase the profile and collegiality of the debating squads. These are Ms. Fegatilli, Mrs. Treloar, Mr. Dominish, Miss Samardzic and Miss Dangca. They have been giving up lunchtimes and evenings to help the students.

Mr M O’Sullivan (Debating Co-ordinator)

Year 11 Drama Excursion

On the 4th of May Year 11 Drama travelled to the Theatre Royal to see a stage production of “Dirty Dancing”.

We arrived at the Theatre at 1 pm, looked around and took photographs. Then we took our seats and waited to see what was in store for us!

The performance was really good, we all enjoyed it and we witnessed many new theatre techniques.

During the performance we viewed the video feed being shown on screens above the stage area. They used projections to create doors, show food being put on the table and what was going on in the background.

Although the day was very interesting and exciting it would not have been the same without the crazy “lil old lady”, who continued to pop out and follow us everywhere. “She was dangerous” (Megan Brown).

Besides being amazing, Year 11 Drama enjoyed the experience and if given the chance we would all see it again, because we “had the time of our lives”.

Brooke & Amy (Year 11)

Technology News

Printing Quotas  A reminder that a print credit system is in place to manage print-outs performed by students on the college printers. If there is no credit in the student’s account, they will not be able to print. Print credit may be purchased from the library at 10 cents per page.

Student Directories  All students have an allocated network directory which is accessible on all college computers. Students are able to store school-based work in their directory and access their files when needed. These directories should only be used for school-based work and are regularly monitored by the network manager.

Mr Reyes
IT Co-ordinator
**The St Vincent de Paul**

**Winter Appeal 2005**

It is that time of the year again and the De Paul House is appealing to our college community to donate pre-loved blankets and clothing to our local St Vincent de Paul charity. Many of the blankets that were bought and donated over the years have helped a number of people on the cold streets of Liverpool keep warm and we would like to help them and their families again during this winter period.

If you can spare some clean clothing or blankets you no longer use that are still in good condition, please place them in the boxes provided in the student foyer.

All donations will be greatly appreciated by someone in need.

Thanks for your participation and compassion.

**Ms Penina Barry & De Paul Volunteers**

---

**Science Corner**

So did any of you work out the puzzle of the letter “f” in last month’s brainteaser?

The letter “f” in the word “of” is usually pronounced and spoken as a “ov” and so our brains do not register the “f” when we count the total number of “f”s” in the passage. You may have missed one or two of the total in the passage!

In regards to our selected Science Extension students, Burt Bodagh (Mackillop Yr 9), Aaron Colley (Merici Yr 9) and Adrian Cavallaro (Merici Yr 10) are working hard on their chosen area of interest and have begun their investigations. Burt and Aaron are working on Natural Fire Barriers in our local area and Adrian is focusing on his passion for cars. They have committed to Thursday afternoons to complete their tasks and are excelling in many areas related to communication and problem solving. If any student in Years 9 and 10 would like to participate and is willing to remain at school between 3-4 pm Thursdays see Ms Barry as soon as possible.

**Ms Barry (Science Co-ordinator)**

---

**World Youth Day Corner #3**

**WYD is a pilgrimage - What is the significance of pilgrimage?**

**Is pilgrimage relevant to young people today?**

**Why be a pilgrim when we can encounter God by staying at home?**

“At the end of a WYD pilgrimage, baggage of course, would have grown heavier, as is usually the case on such trips. However, the biggest items taken home are graces and memories, and these weigh nothing, pass easily through customs, and can be enjoyed for a long time. These memories and graces have breathed new life into our faith communities and the Church. The youth of the world will be forever grateful to Pope John Paul II for issuing such a daring invitation to go on pilgrimage on WYDs.”

This quote is from the Canadian National WYD Team who wrote a message about pilgrimages as they prepared to welcome the youth of the world to their country in 2002.

The idea of pilgrimage has been close to the centre of Christian vision and piety from the beginning. There is something deep within us that inclines us to make our way to the place where one of the great mysteries of the gospel occurred, or where the Virgin Mary appeared, or where the relics of a saint are preserved.

To find ourselves in close physical proximity to the holy touches something that is essential to our humanity. On pilgrimage time and space seem to collapse. Somehow, as we arrive at the place in question - the grotto, the church, the tomb, the marker - we feel ourselves to be nearer to the reality, not only in space but in time. Something real is indeed at work.

There are three pilgrimage options for the 2005 WYD.

1. French Roads to Cologne - visits France and Germany.
2. Pathways of St. Paul - visits Greece, Turkey and Germany.
3. WYD - Germany only.

---

**Year 10—English Book Refund**

Endeavour Books has notified us that one of the English texts listed on the Year 10 - 2005 Book order is no longer available and as a result has refunded the amount of $18.00 to all those current Year 10 students who had ordered and paid for the text. This amount of money will be deducted from your Term 3 school fees account. A receipt will be taken home by your child.
“Seasons for Growth” is a national pastoral care program designed for students who are experiencing and trying to cope with many changes in their lives, attributed largely to grief and loss. Good Samaritan has been fortunate enough to have facilitated this program over the last four years. The “Seasons for Growth” program uses the analogy of the seasons, autumn, winter, spring and summer - to work through the cycle of grief and loss and runs for approximately 8 sessions (or 4 double sessions). The program operates within a small group setting. These small groups draw together students who are experiencing similar types of grief and loss issues, for example, the death of a close relative or parental separation or divorce. Each session is facilitated within the confines of a safe, trustworthy and confidential environment and is usually held in Br Colin’s office during school hours. The program is facilitate by trained staff members: Br Colin, Mrs Halpin and Miss Darmody.

Previous students who have completed the program have felt assured knowing there are other students out there who are experiencing similar difficulties and have gained a lot from the “Seasons” program. The members within the small group provide a support network for each other, in being open to discuss their feelings about their experience of grief and loss and often suggest to each other strategies to help them cope during these difficult experiences.

Students, who might be in the situation where they have experienced grief and loss as mentioned above, are strongly encouraged to volunteer to participate in the program. However, nobody is forced to participate.

If you have been contemplating wanting to join a program, or you think this may benefit your child, and would like to find out more information, please call into Br Colin’s office to pick up a brochure or ask to speak with Mrs Halpin, Br Colin or Miss Darmody. More information can be found at the website: www.goodgrief.aust.com

Students wishing to participate require parental/guardian permission. Please fill out the permission slip below and return it to Br Colin by the 20th May 2005.

---

2005 “Seasons For Growth” - Program To Start Term 3

2005 SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Name: __________________________________________ Year: _____________________________

I/We give my son/daughter permission to participate in the “Seasons for Growth” program to commence early Term 3 at Good Samaritan Catholic College.

Signed: _______________________________________ Date: ____________________________

Parent Evenings

We are presently trying to gauge the interest from parents in participating in an evening or series of evenings on issues involved with raising teenagers such as Managing Stress, Communication and Conflict Management.

If you would be interested in participating please complete the tear off slip and return to the college office.

---

PARENT EVENING - RAISING TEENAGERS

Name: _______________________________ Child’s Name: ___________________________ PC Class: ____________

(Name of one child sufficient)

• I would attend a one-off evening ☐
• I would attend a series of three evenings ☐
• I would prefer the evenings to be held in: Term 2 ☐ Term 3 ☐ Term 4 ☐

Canteen

As most people would realise our canteen depends on volunteers to be able to operate. The canteen provides a service that most parents and students appreciate and it is widely used by students. We are fortunate to have Mrs Stivala and Mrs Romeo but they cannot operate a canteen for over 900 students on their own. We have a few very generous parents who help out but are in desperate need for more volunteers. Please if you can help out on a regular basis or just occasionally complete the tear off section and return to the college office.

It would be a great shame if we had to cut back on the service offered or even shut the canteen due to a lack of volunteers.

---

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Name: _______________________________ Child’s Name: ___________________________ PC Class: ____________

I am willing to help in the canteen ☐
I am available on:
Mondays ☐ Tuesdays ☐ Wednesdays ☐ Thursdays ☐ Fridays ☐
Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ Occasionally ☐

I can be contacted on Telephone No. : ______________________________
Do school fees cover the cost of your child’s education?

No.

Your school fees are very important, but education in 2005 is an extremely expensive undertaking. Together, the State and Federal governments provide about 80% of the funds for Catholic schools in NSW. For Catholic schools, the remaining 20% is made up by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, assistance from the parish (for Primary schools) and fundraising activities. Even when school fees are taken into account there is a significant gap in the resources available to Catholic systemic schools compared to government schools.

Library

I would like to thank all the parents and students who have welcomed me to the Library over the past three weeks. I hope to continue the excellent work done by Ms McLennan during her time at the school in making the library a place of learning for the whole Good Samaritan community.

We have many new resources in the library at the moment that need to be covered. If any parent could spare some time to cover library books, either at the school or at home, please contact the office.

Thank you,
Mr Lozelle
Teacher Librarian