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

The past fortnight has seen two quite significant events take place at the College.

Last Tuesday evening our first meeting of the Parent Groups took place in the College library. These groups are being established in order to allow greater involvement of parents in different areas of the College. This in turn will allow parents to have increased insight into particular aspects of College life. It is also hoped that involvement in certain groups will enable parents to gain a better understanding of the curriculum as well as the Pastoral needs of the young people at Good Samaritan.

The Groups have now been established and each will have a staff representative and a parent representative either of whom can be contacted should parents wish to be involved.

Unfortunately, parent support on the evening was limited which meant that the groups could not begin, as we would have wished. The aim is to have a staff representative and a parent representative in each group with the direction of the group developed via consensus.

The Staff representatives are as follows:
- **Pastoral Care** - Br Colin & Ms Morrissey
- **Curriculum** - Mrs Peterson & Mrs Wilkins
- **Maintenance** - Mr Grech
- **Fund Raising & Function Support** - Mr Lo Cascio & Mrs Eljed

It is certainly exciting to see these groups beginning. I would encourage as many parents as possible to join the group to which they feel they can make a contribution. This participation will enhance our community as well as the education of the young people attending Good Samaritan.

If any parents wish to join any of the groups, they should leave their name at the college office. These people will be contacted when future meetings are arranged.

Today the whole College traveled to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at Mount Pritchard to celebrate our Opening Mass for 2005. The Opening Mass is a very important event each year as it allows us to look forward to the year together as a united community. The Mass also, reinforces the fact that we are a catholic school and Jesus Christ is central to the life of our College.

Today’s Celebration provided the community the opportunity to welcome Year 7 among us. Each Year 7 student was presented with their copy of the Bible, which again reinforces to all of us what our College values most. The Mass also, gave us the opportunity to present each of our leaders and student representatives with their badges. These young men and women have accepted positions of responsibility which have been bestowed upon them by their peers. I congratulate them on their appointment and assure each of them they have the support of all at the college.

The College leaders and SRC representatives for 2005 are:
- **College Captains**
  - Maria Boulatsakos & Jason Hunt
- **Senior Leaders**
  - Sean Cosgrove, Chantelle Pirotta, Catherine Casuscelli, Xedrix Aguilar, Sheree Vella & Mario Morizzi
- **SRC Representatives**
  - Year 8: Natasha Perre & Ashleigh Pontifex
  - Year 9: Tiana Romeo & Andrew El-Zakhem
  - Year 10: Joshua Kamaleneson, Marc Sztajniger & Amy-lee Wulf
  - Year 11: Lisa Nguyen & Henry Swan
The Year 7 Representatives will be elected at the Year 7 Camp later this term.

Next Monday evening, the College will be welcoming Year 7 parents at information evening followed by a social gathering. I take this opportunity once again to welcome all Year 7 parents to our community, especially those whose families are attending Good Samaritan for the first time.

God Bless.

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

On Ash Wednesday, the College commenced the Lenten season by undertaking house liturgies. Each house identified Lent as a time for prayer, forgiveness and almsgiving. As Catholics we remember our sinfulness and ask God for the strength to remember people less fortunate than ourselves as well as forgiving those who do wrong against us.

Each of our students was challenged to turn away from the sins that weigh us down and develop a sense of harmony within their lives at school and at home. During Lent the College has also commenced its annual Project Compassion appeal. Caritas Australia will again be the benefactor of the money raised and I encourage all students and their families to really appreciate the country in which we live while continuing to be aware of the hardships that people face in other countries. Therefore, during this Lent let us be mindful of the help we can provide by donating a small amount of money each day to the Project Compassion appeal. Donations can be made during P.C classes and the money raised will be given to Caritas.

Below is a small reflection about our life and how we as Catholics need to stop and remember what Lent is all about.

If we were gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilise our soil and dig out the weeds
If we were carpets, Lent would be a time to get steam cleaned
If we were DVD’s, Lent would be a time to clean and adjust the tracking
If we were computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive
If we were highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our potholes
If we were TV sets, Lent would be a time to adjust our focus
If we were silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away the tarnish
If we were batteries, Lent would be a time to get recharged
If we were seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun

BUT WE ARE NONE OF THESE, SO WE HAVE LENT.
The Easter candy will taste sweeter, the Easter flowers will bloom more brightly and the Easter Sunday will shine more warmly if we are better people. All because of how we spend the forty days of Lent.

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Co-ordinator

Like other Houses, Chisholm House came together to begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday with a liturgy. This occasion was also the first liturgy to be lead by the New Chisholm House Co-ordinator, Mrs Mary Sayadi. As usual students prepared a beautiful and meaningful liturgy to assist us as we make our way towards Easter.

Traffic is still a problem in the mornings as parents attempt to drop their children at the College. Parents who drive students to the College are asked to drop their child off in the bus bay rather than come down to the Administration area. We hope this may alleviate some of the congestion.
LITERACY MATTERS

At Good Samaritan Catholic College we are committed to raising literacy achievement across the curriculum. We believe that all students can achieve personal literacy outcomes given time, support and the will to do it on the part of the student. This year a number of initiatives will be introduced across the College to enhance and enrich the student's use of the English language in the areas of speaking and listening, reading and writing. The first of these is our GSCC WORD WISE. This is aimed at increasing the vocabulary of our students. A theme is chosen for the week and a word a day given to the students. At the end of the week students are invited to submit an entry using these words correctly in a set of complex sentences. There will also be a SPELLOFF later in the term using these same words. Please encourage your son or daughter to participate. English, like many other things, can only be improved with practice and having fun with it.

Starting in Week 4 Ms Frisardi and Ms Williamson will be available to assist students every Wednesday at lunch-time in room D7b. The focus of this time will be helping students to develop their reading, writing and comprehension skills. We would invite students to bring along homework and assessment tasks that they need help to interpret, and also any work they would like to have proofread. Apart from this we will have activities available to students who don't have their own work but who wish to develop their language skills. These sessions would be of value to any student who would like to develop a more sophisticated use of English.

Literacy Tip:

What can you do as a parent to encourage good literacy? Encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes every night.

Ms P Williamson & Ms J Frisardi
Learning Support

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BEYOND SCHOOL

Congratulations to Joel McTaggart from Year 7 Merici and Terrence Fernandez from Year 11 Polding for recent outstanding achievements beyond school.

Joel was awarded the “Liverpool Junior Citizen of the Year” on Australia Day 2005. Joel was nominated for his contribution to trampolining and diving over a number of years. Joel now trains at Homebush Aquatic Centre and is concentrating on improving his diving. This is certainly a great honour for Joel.

Terrence Fernandez recently competed in the Australian Tae Kwon Do Open Tournament held in Melbourne. Terrence the NSW and Australian Champion won Gold in the Feather Weight Division.

Both gold and silver medallists will be invited to a training camp for selection to the Australian Team to contest the Asian Games 2005 in Kazakhstan. Terence has received this invitation as a result of his performance. He is now moving closer to his dream of Olympic selection. Well done Terrence!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Lost Passwords

Any student in Years 8 to 12 who has lost their computer/internet password should see library staff for a password change form. Students in Year 7 who have lost their computer/internet password should see Mr Reyes.

Printing

A print management system is in force on the College computer network to environmentally conserve our print resources. Print outs are charged at 10 cents per page. If any students want to add credit to their account, please see library staff.

Encarta 2005

Encarta 2005 boasts a wealth of research material for students to use. It is a great information gathering tool and has quality links to web sites associated with the topic being researched. Encarta 2005 is now available on all college computers.

Mr Reyes - IT Co-ordinator
FROM THE CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR

Senior Information Evening
Tuesday, March 1st
A reminder to parents of students in Years 11 and 12 that this evening provides opportunities for you to have a number of your questions regarding assessment and reporting in the Higher School Certificate year answered. A Board of Studies officer will present information to students on how their results will be reported, and how to understand them, as well as some insight into scaling and the UAI. Year 11 students will receive their Assessment Handbook and an outline given on how to interpret it.

Year 10 Information Evening
Wednesday, March 9th
This evening also offers opportunities for all students in their School Certificate year and their parents to better understand the nature of the testing and reporting at this stage of their schooling. A Board of Studies officer will provide a presentation that outlines the nature of the examinations and what the Certificate that each student receives will look like.

Parent Group (Curriculum)
It was good to see names on the list to join our Curriculum Group. Any other parents who are interested in joining this group are welcome to come to our first meeting (a date will be given in the next newsletter) At this meeting I am hoping to have staff members talk about their participation in the staff development project “Learning Matters” where topics such as “Learning in the 21st Century” and classroom practices that use the “Quality Teaching Model”, have been discussed.

Resource for Parents
If you want to be better informed about the curriculum or just see what resources are available for students at any stage, why not go to the Board of Studies website (www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au).

Some links on the site take you to:
Programs and resources for all subjects
Notes from the Marking Centre (HSC)
“Sydney for Kids” activities to do around Sydney.

COLLEGE PHOTOS

A reminder that these will take place on Monday 21st February.

Students have already been issued with photo envelopes that need to be handed directly to the photographer on the day.

Students are to wear full summer uniform for photos. Girls are to have their hair tied back and all students are asked to ensure that their shoes are polished for the occasion.

YEAR 7 VACCINATIONS

These will take place on Thursday February 24th. Hepatitis B, Diptheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough vaccinations are offered free of charge to Year 7 students.

Unfortunately, they are not available to students in other year groups. Parents should already have received information packs and should have already returned consent forms to the office.

Students are advised to have a good breakfast that morning before receiving the injections.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

As well as the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Information Evenings planned for Years 10, 11 and 12 (refer - From The Curriculum Co-ordinator), we have a very important Information Evening for Year 7 parents this coming Monday February 21st.

This is a great opportunity to find out more about life at Good Samaritan, share any concerns that parents may have and to meet other parents and many of the teaching staff.

All these information evenings begin at 7 pm.
**ROCK EISTEDDFOD 2005**

After last year’s success of winning the small schools division for NSW, Good Samaritan is entering the Rock Eisteddfod again.

We are entering the same division and our theme is titled “An Australian Love Story”.

We are starting our fundraising projects soon, so keep an eye out for more details in the next newsletters but firstly, we are looking for donations of money, large and small. Any donations are welcome, even the smallest donation will help to buy much needed equipment.

If you would like to donate to Good Samaritan’s Rock Eisteddfod campaign, please contact the school office on tele: 9825 9955.

**HSC Mathematics Past Papers with Solutions**

Dear Parents and Students,

For students attempting HSC, revising past examination papers is essential to success. The school is able to purchase a number of past examination paper books containing detailed solutions, produced by MANSW (Mathematical Association of New South Wales) and the Board Of Studies for students to use.

The cost of the books is as follows:
- HSC Course Past Papers $18.00 per course.
- The Mathematics, Mathematics Extension One and Extension Two books contain HSC papers and worked solutions for the Years 1995-2004 and a number of specimen papers.

If students would like to purchase any of the above mentioned books, they should place the correct money in an envelope and hand it in to the school office by Friday the 11th March. Clearly, write the student’s name, maths teacher’s name, the books required and the amount of money enclosed on the envelope.

Andrew Laming - Mathematics Co-ordinator

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**PARENTING CORNER**

Dear Parents,

Hopefully the holidays was an enjoyable if not restful period for you. They provide parents with the opportunity for the “quality” time that is not always available in school time and a chance to remind ourselves of what family is all about. It provides the children with the chance to return to the reality of their studies refreshed and ready to start the year well.

As always education in general and schooling in particular are the focus of much media attention over the holiday period. Examination results and theories about what makes a “good school” abound. The press is presumptuous enough even to nominate the “best” schools. Have you noticed how often they focus on material and external things like, fees, facilities, whether or not there is air conditioning? Only occasionally do they discuss the efforts of schools/teachers to promote good teaching and learning; character building; the level of relationships; tapping into the gifts and learning styles of individuals and the dreaded topic of values. These tend to be too difficult to measure.

Somehow or other most parents are intuitive about what is good for their children and make their choices of school on their own “gut feeling” assisted by local knowledge rather than the so called advice of the media “experts”.

In choosing Good Samaritan you have chosen a school that unapologetically espouses our Catholic faith and values; where the teachers take their professional responsibilities seriously; where the children are safe and cared for conscientiously.

I hope you remain happy with your school. Any concerns can be discussed with Pastoral Care teachers on appointment. Please feel free to telephone me in school time.

Happy parenting in 2005.

Br Colin

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**Request - TAS Department**

We require metal off-cuts, all sizes and all types: RHS, Angled, Round, Pipe, etc.

If you have it—we need it!

Thanks in anticipation.

Mr E Dinkha - TAS Co-ordinator

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**Library - Book Covering Appeal**

If anyone could spare some time to cover library books - please contact the office.

Catherine McLennan
Teacher/Librarian

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WELCOME to
Mr Dan Duong
who joins our staff in the Maths Department
A Brief Theology of the Eucharist

The documents of the Second Vatican Council tell us that Christ is present in the liturgy in four unique ways. These ways are:

1. in the assembled people of God
2. In person of the Celebrant
3. In the Word of God, and
4. Above all, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist  

(c.f. Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy, 7)

The Church continues to remind us that Christ is present in these different and unique ways whenever we celebrate the Eucharist. Let us examine these four ways in which the one Christ makes Himself present.

The Assembly
The first way in which Christ is present is in the assembled people of God. Christ is present when we gather in his name, just as he promised: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Mt 18:20). Therefore, every time we come together to pray and sing in the Church’s liturgy, Christ is present in and with us.

The Celebrant
The second way in which Christ is present with us in the liturgy is in the person of the priest, who is called the celebrant. The priest acts in the person of Christ. He calls the people together, leads them in prayer, proclaims Christ’s word and acts and speaks as Christ did at the Last Supper.

The Word of God
The third form of Christ’s four-fold presence to us in the liturgy is in the proclaimed Word of God. Whenever we participate in the liturgy of the Church, we always hear the Word of God proclaimed in Scripture. Whether the reading is from the Old or New Testament, Christ is present in that Word. At the beginning of St John’s Gospel, we hear that Christ is the Word of God. He is God in human flesh speaking to us. And so each time we hear God’s word, proclaimed in the Scriptures, Christ is there for us and with us.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist
The fourth and supreme way Christ is present to us in the liturgy is in the celebration of the sacrifice of the Eucharist. By the words and actions of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, “given up for you” (Eucharistic prayer). In the “breaking of the bread” the disciples at Emmaus recognised Jesus present with them. Therefore, when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in communion “we become what we eat and drink”, St Augustine reminded the Church in the fifth century. In other words, we become Christ present in the world, sent forth on a mission of justice, mercy and love.

References:
See<http://www.christusrex.org/www/mcil/girm.html>


For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
Canteen

The Canteen will no longer accept $50 notes in payment of lunch orders. Students should endeavour to make payment by using small change.

In-services for Parents

The CEO is holding a number of Parent In-services. If any parent is interested in attending please telephone the College Office (Tele: 9825 9955) for further details.

Centacare’s Post Separation Program begins this term. This is a series of workshops conducted in small group settings:

Milestones for separated fathers. This will take place each Tuesday for 9 weeks starting 22 February 6 - 9 pm. Venue: Centacare Liverpool.

Back on Track covers issues that arise as a result of separation. This will take place each Wednesday for 6 weeks starting March 2, 6 - 9 pm. Venue: Centacare Sutherland.

Roller coasters for children 8-12 yrs whose parents have separated or divorced. This will take place each Thursday from March 17 to May 19. Venue: Centacare Enmore.

College Blazers

Last Tuesday students were fitted for their college blazer. If any student needs to order a blazer, please contact the college office immediately.

Uniform Shop Hours

The Uniform Shop will be open from 7.30 am to 8.30 am each day. On Tuesdays the shop will also be available for students at lunchtime and for parents from 1.00 pm - 3.45 pm.

Lost Property

The ‘Lost Property’ box located in the student foyer has been moved to the Uniform Shop (Open 7.30 am to 8.30 am daily and Tuesday lunch)

Dates to Remember

Monday February 21st
School Photos
Year 7 Parents Information Evening 7 pm
Wine & Cheese

Thursday February 24th
Year 7 Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus & Whooping Cough Injections

Tuesday March 1st
Year 7 Ella Testing
Senior Assessment Information Evening

Wed March 2nd - Fri March 4th
Year 7 Camp

Monday March 7th
GSCC Swimming Carnival

Wednesday March 9th - 7 pm
Year 10 SC Assessment Information Evening

Friday March 11th
Southern Sydney Swimming Carnival

MONDAY
21.02.05
T Golubic
S Copan
N Carver

28.02.05
T Brown
K Malsem
V McTaggart

TUESDAY
22.02.05
T Zanetic
J Mallia

01.03.05
J Napoletano
L Duris

WEDNESDAY
23.02.05
E Nikolic
A Marcocci

02.03.05
G Perre
M Pirotta

THURSDAY
24.02.05
N Michael
G Bartolo

03.03.05
M Marcri
M Damkjancuk

FRIDAY
25.02.05
D Camilleri
A Vantwest
D Caruana

04.03.05
C Walker
M Geranio
T Richardson
S Koutroubas