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

Over the last two weeks Year 12 students have been undertaking their Trial HSC examinations. I have been impressed by the diligence with which some students have approached this challenge. This has certainly been a practical expression of their willingness to aspire to be more which is evident in their study habits and hopefully will be evident in their results.

Year 12 also presented their major works and performances this week. This event certainly proved to be a reflection of the flair and commitment of a number of senior students. This evening was a culmination of the work done by senior students throughout Year 12 and, in the main, these are creations and productions of which some students should certainly be proud. I take this opportunity to congratulate students for the wonderful job they have done in the construction of these works. I also acknowledge teachers for supporting students with their major projects.

On August 5, the college conducted the “Jeans for Genes Day” appeal. This initiative was entirely organised by a number of Year 12 students who felt that they could make a significant contribution to this fundraiser. It is gratifying to note that there is a core of students who are prepared to reach out to others in such a practical manner. I thank these students for their willingness to support others in need. I also thank and acknowledge our community who committed $1,350 in support of this research in order to assist others.

During this week, two very prestigious awards were presented at our assembly. Emma Donaldson was presented with this year’s Pierre de Coubertin Award. This award recognises sporting achievements and the demonstration of endeavours consistent with the aims of the Olympic movement. The recipient has made an exemplary effort to achieve their personal best in all they attempt. The second award, the Gold Principal’s Award, was presented to Bianca Ruzic of Year 11. This award is presented to students who have received three silver awards, which reflect commitment to all aspects of college life. Well done and congratulations Emma and Bianca.

Next Sunday is Refugee Sunday. In order to reflect on the day, I include the following extracts from a liturgy presented by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

“...Let us celebrate the richness of our nation, with its population of people from various countries, races, cultures and religions. Let us pray that we can continue to share Australia with immigrants and refugees; with people who do not look like us; with persons of other faiths. Let us resolve to be inclusive, to welcome the stranger...”
and to create a harmonious and multicultural nation which offers freedom, peace and opportunity to all.

- We pray that the human dignity of each person will be recognised and upheld.
- We pray for refugees that God’s presence will give comfort in their insecurity and that our efforts will offer hope and bring justice.
- We pray for the people of Australia that they be generous in their response to people of other lands seeking refuge in Australia.
- We pray for Australia that it may continue to be blessed with freedom, good leadership and responsible citizens.
- We pray that concern for common good will permeate negotiations among nations and between people.

Amen”.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Walkathon Prizes

During this week’s assembly, prizes were presented for funds raised for the College Walkathon, which was conducted last term. In total, we were able to raise $19,800 for shade cloth at the college. It is our aim to add the shade cloth to the playground area once the building project is completed early next year.

Congratulations to the following prize winners.

Raffle Winners:
Joseph Napoletano, Lisa Petro, Tina Pham, Alison Murphy, Paul Jacob, Mariecar Capili, Jorge Viegas, Vivian Phantharangsi, Anthony Harrison, Ben Ryzak, Michael Sidoti

Thank you to the following students who were our Top Fund Raisers:
Stephanie Visvanandan, Ryan Evans, Alex Carver, Lisa Petro, Paul Tacca, Andy Vo, Nhu Tran, Nathan Role, Anne-Maree Tacca, Reece Walker, Daniella Argenta

There is still a number of students whose walkathon money is outstanding. Students who have not brought in their pledges should supply a note from parents explaining the reason for this failure or bring in the amount owing.

From the Assistant Principal

Student Safety

As you would be aware, over the past few months the media has highlighted several incidents of attempted abductions and assaults on school aged children. In light of these events the college encourages parents to discuss the following safety strategies with their sons and daughters:

- Where possible, students should be in pairs at least when walking home or from bus stops.
- Students should not walk home with loud music in their ears as they may not be attentive to the actions of people and vehicles around them.
- Students should notify their parents if they intend to change their normal route home or mode of transport.
- Students should not accept offers of transport from persons unknown to them or their parents.
- Students should not carry large amounts of money or valuable items.

Silver Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received their Silver Awards at the college assembly this week.

Mitchell Wulf          Catherine Casuscelli
Jimmy Bellavia         Helen Said,
Danielle Carrabs       Emma Donaldson
Diana Lemos x 2        Breannah Mattiuzzo
Bianca Losurdo         Marc Ghignone
Rose Pipicella         Anthony Thepsombandith x 2

Uniform Reminders

- In Term 2 and 3 all students must wear their college blazer to and from school.
- Girls college skirt must be worn to the knee.
- Boys are not to wear any jewellery.
- Girls are only allowed one pair of plain studs or one pair of sleepers in the ear lobe.
- The college woollen jumper is only to be worn with the sports uniform if the tracksuit jacket is over it.

The College Uniform Shop is open every morning from 7.45 to 8.25 am and every second Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 3.45 pm.

R Grech
Acting Assistant Principal

Congratulations

Alex Carver - Year 9 MacKillop who has gained selection on the NSW team to complete at the Australian Road Cycling Championships later this year.

Julia Gonano - Year 7 Polding who was recently won the Judo National Championships in 2 divisions, the U13 and U16s.

The college community is very proud of both your achievements.
Computer technology has become an essential communication medium for education. At the same time the ownership of a computer in the home is recognised as one of the main factors in determination of the digital divide. The CEO is currently examining measures to bridge that divide and is seeking ways in which all families can be assisted to have access to a computer.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a “Home Computer Use Survey” for each family to complete and return to the college office.

Dear Parents,

Greetings once again after a long silence. Certainly during my time of recuperation I had ample time to reflect on the needs of your children, the problems they experience and possible ways of assisting them through these problems.

One area that is not always so obvious and yet commonly exists in young people is DEPRESSION. What is particularly frustrating and even alarming for parents and teachers is that signs of depression are often difficult to detect. Other factors “cover up” for some children. Often those depressed are quiet, not at all disruptive and generally do not cause problems. They usually keep to themselves and are unlikely to discuss their “feelings” with adults. More often than not these children do not recognise the need for help themselves and just try to cope.

Teachers and parents are the key to the identification of this problem. One clinical psychologist refers to teachers as the “frontline” workers who have the opportunity to recognise subtle changes in the child’s behaviour. Parents should listen carefully if a teacher expresses concern about changes in a child’s playground behaviour, approach to study and sporting activities, areas in which parents often have less direct contact with their children.

As in most things associated with adolescents, there is no magic formula but the following checklist might be helpful.

If the child appears to have a significant number of the following symptoms, then it might be advisable to discuss it with your local doctor, PC teacher or school counsellor.

- Loss of pleasure or interest in activities
- Significant weight loss or gain
- Restlessness
- Low energy or fatigue
- Sleep disturbance
- Feelings of worthlessness
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Inappropriate guilt
- Poor concentration
- Trouble-making decisions
- Thoughts of death (stories or dreams) or suicide

The important thing is that home and school need to work together on this. In the next issue I will make some suggestions about how you can help your child in this “hidden area”.

Kind regards,

Br Colin
CAREERS NEWS

Coles Myer Part-time Jobs
Target, K-Mart, Dick Smith Electronics and Tandy are part of the Coles Myer Ltd. Group and are currently recruiting casual staff for the Christmas period. If you are interested, apply on-line at www.careers.colesmyer.com and search under job no. XPO25741.

UNSW Law Parent + Student Information Evening
August 23 RSVP August 19
Interested in studying law? This could be the information that you need! Register on-line at www.law.unsw.edu.au or call Elissa McBain on 9385 1519

RICS Plan 05 Property and Construction Careers Evening
Wednesday, August 31st 5.30 pm
RSVP Belinda on 9293 2895 to find out all that you may need to know to plan a career in property, development or construction. Conference Room, Angel Place 123 Pitt St Sydney.

Scholarships
Many scholarships to Australian Universities are now handled by Universities Admissions Centre, UAC. Apply before September 30th on-line at www.uac.edu.au

UNSW Co-op Scholarship
Worth $13,400.00, these scholarships also involve considerable work placement with some of Australia’s leading companies in areas including engineering, finance and accounting. Get your application form on-line at www.coop.unsw.edu.au, applications close September 30.

Open days
UNSW Careers and Courses Day Saturday, September 3rd at Kensington Campus.
Jules Media, Music and technical production, event and music management college. Saturday, September 10th; RSVP 9638 5955.

Part-time School Based Traineeship Information Evening
Thursday, August 18th, 5.30 - 7.30 p.m. in the Goolongom, 2 Block Wetherill Park TAFE
Find out about exciting programs offered by Toyota (T3), Big W, Macdonalds, Woolworths Fresh Food, K-Mart Tyre and Auto, Sizzler and NRMA Insurance. For interested students and their parents.

Mr S Berry
Careers Adviser

Literacy Matters

READING REALLY DOES MATTER
There has been much in the news in the past week about Literacy, the teaching of reading and how children learn to read.

Reading is a complex process made up of two parts:
Recognising words
Understanding what has been read

The emphasis of reading in the early years is on recognising words (learning to read.) In Secondary School the emphasis is on understanding what has been read (reading to learn.) There are many students who enter secondary school with an inadequate level of reading and understanding to successfully complete their studies. They have difficulties with one or both of the two processes involved. There are various reasons for this. What is important is that early in Secondary school intensive assistance is given to these students to ensure that they can get the most out of their education. If your son or daughter has difficulties in reading life at school can be very stressful for them.

INTENSIVE READING PROGRAM
During the first half of the year this program was offered to selected students in Year 7 and 8. The program explicitly taught word attack skills involving phonics to help children decode words and pronounce them correctly. Vocabulary extension and spelling strategies to help them recognize and make meaning of words, comprehension strategies to increase understanding and reading practice to increase fluency and accuracy. Through interaction with their reading teacher in a small group students gained confidence and became more interested in, and motivated to read. Pleasing to report is that most students improved both their reading fluency and accuracy as well as in comprehension. There students will continue to be monitored over the next 12 months.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Students in Year 7 this year are participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Together with this the GSCC Reading Challenge is also in operation. More about this in the next newsletter.

2005 ELLA RESPONSE
Over the past term Skills classes in Year 7 have focused on explicit teaching of inferential comprehension skills, as this was a weakness in our students that ELLA revealed. Over the next term Skills classes will focus on weaknesses in grammar and writing. Individual key learning areas will also explicitly teach these in a subject context as well. Some students with particular needs in literacy are working individually or in small groups to address these needs more specifically.
Hearing Awareness Week

Hearing Awareness Week is a time to remember to value our hearing and to protect it from loud noise and the permanent damage that follows. We all begin to lose our hearing as we age, but Australian studies have shown that hearing loss is more common in men. Deafness is made worse by diabetes, noise exposure, smoking and drinking.

In the past few years, infant screening of hearing has been introduced for all new born babies in NSW. It is hoped that by earlier detection and intervention, the effects which hearing loss has on the development of speech and language can be minimised.

How good is your hearing? Many people may have some form of hearing loss without knowing. These questions can help you determine if you have a hearing loss. If you answer yes to one or more, you may want to consult a doctor or audiologist.

- Do others accuse you of turning the television up too loud?
- Do others accuse you of not paying attention?
- Do you misunderstand 50 for 15 or 60 for 16?
- Can you hear better with one ear than the other on the telephone?
- Have you stopped attending plays and lectures because it is too much effort to hear what is being said?
- Do you have trouble understanding someone speaking to you from another room?
- Do you have difficulty understanding speech when there is background noise?
- Do you miss the punch line of jokes?
- Do you seem to hear the words but not understand them?
- Do you have a history of ear infections, ear aches or runny nose?

Kay Le Cornu
Itinerant Teacher-Hearing

SPORTING SPOTLIGHT

The sporting spotlight this week falls on the Year 7 girls’ soccer side. Earlier this term 27 girls trialled for the side. Unfortunately, only 15 players could make the side, and the selectors had a difficult task in picking them.

The first game that we played was against MSJ, Milperra. MSJ has a good reputation for being competitive in the SCC Competition. We had some good early chances but failed to capitalise on them. Against the run of play, MSJ scored and we were down 1-0. In true “Samaritan” spirit we never gave up and turned our possession into an equalising goal. Still dominating the game, we failed to get the winner, although it was a great effort to ultimately draw the game.

Our second game was against All Saints Liverpool, the local derby match. Another game that was always going to be tough, we took the lead within 5 minutes, although full credit to All Saints for their fighting spirit in equalising late in the first half. At the beginning of the second half we scored again and were able to win the game.

Congratulations to our team Captain Latoya Walker who has scored all three goals and whose performances have been outstanding this year. Congratulations to all team members who have displayed a pleasing level of commitment to training on Tuesday afternoons, and who have represented the College so proudly and courageously on Thursday afternoons.

The team is:
Latoya Walker (c), Magella Barbuto, Andrea Brocklehurst, Jessica Ciccone, Bela Da Luz, Lana Ferreira, Kassandra Gore, Kerstyn Holder, Madeline Honyi, Maddison Lumme, Nicole Malsem, Domenica Marasco, Elizabeth Si, Chelsey Smith and Taiya Beaver

Special thanks also to Victoria Mammone, Melissa Petracic, Erin Camden and Reece Walker who have been assisting at training and at the games.

Mr D Costin
Team Coach

GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEAD START
Free screening for Liverpool pre-schoolers attending Kindergarten 2006
Vision/Hearing by appointment only
Hoxton Park Community Health Centre
596 Hoxton Park Road, Hoxton Park
Tele: 9827 2202
Commencing in October School Holidays 2005
Tuesday 4th October
Wednesday 5th October
Thursday 6th October
Friday 7th October
Formal school settings are not the only way to develop a child’s literacy skills. You can broaden a child’s interest and skill level by following some of the helpful suggestions listed below:

- Establish a daily “Drop Everything and Read” time for your family when the television is turned off and everyone reads for 15 minutes. When your DEAR time is over, each family member can briefly summarise what he/she read, talk about a favourite part, or share new and interesting facts. Other members of the family can ask questions if they like. Learning to talk about books will improve your child’s reading comprehension.

- Read aloud together every day. Make it fun by reading outdoors in the backyard, at the park, or at the beach. Some parents with older children read the same story aloud to everyone at the dinner table or before bedtime. A family book discussion over the same book is an excellent enrichment. Parents should also allow children to read to them.

- Read and enjoy the same books, magazines and newspapers. Talk about how these readings remind you of something in your life. Ask your child to make connections to the book as well.

- Show your child that reading is fun! Laugh out loud, make comments and share what you read.

- Buy books on tape, and listen to them in the car together. Or better yet, turn off the television and listen to them as a family.

- Give a gift subscription to a magazine that holds lots of interest, one that your child wants to read cover to cover.

- Visit the library together. Apply for a library card. Ask your librarian about special materials and reading programs that are available for your child’s interests and needs.

- Create your own mini-library at home with your family’s favourite books.

- When your child is reading a difficult book, read the text aloud or read together. Go back and re-read for better understanding. Talk about what parts are hard to understand. Talk about what parts are hard to understand and encourage your child to ask for help.

- Make trips away to encourage reading. Read aloud traffic signs and billboards. Show your children how to read a road map and let them help navigate. Select books together that you will take along on the trip.

- Celebrate reading! Give your child a book to celebrate a birthday or special occasion.

- Take your child to the bookstore to look at books about their favourite topics. Make a list of books you and your child would like to read.

- Computer time can be reading time. There are many programs for children that build reading skills. Let your child help you “surf the Internet”. Send letters via email to family or friends who are out of town.

- Provide your child with a reliable home dictionary and encyclopaedia. Encourage children to look up subjects that puzzle or interest them.

- Catch each other reading! Reading is everywhere; and the more we practise, the better readers we all become.

Mrs C Peterson, Curriculum Co-ordinator
**Funding of Catholic Schools**

Do Catholic schools get more funding than government schools?

No.

Catholic schools receive less total government funding than state schools. In the 2003-2004 financial year, government schools received $8,227 per student from Federal and State sources. By contrast, Catholic systemic schools received $5,933 per student from Federal and State sources (2004 calendar year). This means that Catholic school students received $2,294 less per student in government recurrent funding. This difference is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.

**ATTENTION PARENTS / CARERS**

**PARENTING PROGRAM**

**FREE COMPUTER TRAINING**

The “Parenting Program” has been developed for parents/carers starting work for the first time or returning to work after an absence of 2 years. Please call The Learning Lab on 9211 5822 book in to an information session to find out more.

**CENTACARE’S POST SEPARATION PROGRAMS FOR TERM 3**

The following series of workshops is conducted in a small group setting:

**JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP AND GET BACK ON TRACK**

When: Each Monday for 7 weeks commencing August 15 at 6.30 pm to 9 pm
Where: Centacare, 16 Lindsey St, Neutral Bay
For enquiries & Bookings Contact 9390 5366

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**LOST PROPERTY – URGENT**

There are a number of items in the lost property box located in the uniform shop that haven’t been collected.

**If these items are not collected by Friday 26th August – they will be sold through the uniform shop.**

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