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

Welcome back to Semester Two 2005. I hope that all students have returned ready to work and achieve to their potential. I encourage all students to strive to reach new heights.

Recently I was reading about the disappointment of not reaching the heights to which one would aspire. Thomas Edison (inventor of the light globe) stated, “I have not failed 5,000 times, I have discovered 5,000 ways that will not work. If I persevere I will come to the end of the ways that will not work and discover the one that will”. He also stated “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realise how close to success they were when they gave up.”

I reflect on Edison’s statements as our community considers the implications of Semester One reports and we continue parent/teacher interviews. We need to accept the fact that we learn from success and we learn from failure, however, we should not stop trying to improve. As students and parents focus on reports received at the end of last semester, individuals should not be disheartened by disappointments, rather they should continue to learn from these experiences.

I ask all parents to take time to assess what message is being conveyed in the semester report. If the report is pleasing take the opportunity to acknowledge this with each child. It is as essential to be pleased about successes, as it is to recognise areas in need of improvement. Students should discuss results with parents and teachers in order to ascertain where improvement can take place. Parental support of each child is essential if improvement is to come about.

I encourage full use of the parent/teacher interviews in order for parents to gain greater insight into how each student will be able to progress.

I also ask everyone to keep in mind the fact that each student is obliged to continually strive to achieve personal excellence in all that they attempt. At times failure will occur, however, students should continue to strive to achieve. If disappointment transpires, success will be realised in the future.

This term we welcome Mrs Keppel back to the college after her long service leave. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Dominish for taking on the role of Year 8 Co-ordinator, in her absence. I also thank Mr Andrejev for taking her classes. We wish Mr Andrejev well as he leaves our college.

During the last week of Term 2, Fr Peter Fitzgerald announced that he would be taking leave from Good Shepherd Parish. Fr Peter will be praying, reflecting and assessing his future over the next six months. I wish to thank Fr Peter for his contribution to Good Samaritan over his time of association with the college. I ask everyone in our community to keep Fr Peter in their thoughts and prayers over the coming months as he considers his future and his vocation.

As everyone would realise Semester Two can be quite hectic. As we venture further into the semester I encourage all to take the opportunity to ‘slow down’ with the following prayer.

*God of eternity, creator of time
Giver of life and love
Rescue us from those pressures which throw us off balance*
Slow me down, Lord
ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind
steady my hurried pace with the realisation of how good it is to be alive
amid the confusion of the day, give me the calmness of the everlasting hills
break the tension of my nerves and muscles with the soothing images of peaceful times that live in my memory
teach me the art of taking one minute vacations-
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend,
to pat a dog,
to smile at a child,
to read a few lines from a good book.

Slow me down, Lord
and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soul of life’s enduring values, that I might grow towards my greater destiny
remind me each day that there is more to life than increasing its speed, and
let me look upwards to the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Timeless God, steadfast in love, generous and patient with all your creatures. Let the peace of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, be in our lives this day and always. Amen

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Year of the Eucharist

From time to time we experience something that changes the way we look at things. Each weekend, we as Catholics, can experience this at mass when we receive the Eucharist. This year being ‘Year of the Eucharist’ we are called to come to the table and experience Christ. The word ‘Eucharist’ means thanksgiving and this lies at the heart of the Church’s life. In essence, it is the greatest worship we give to God. Therefore we are invited to come and eat at a common table, to encounter Jesus and to celebrate Christ’s life, death and resurrection.

We are invited to experience the Eucharist, which is meant to shape our actions and words for the coming week. As we reflect on this, we remind ourselves that as Christians we are asked to receive and spread the word of Christ.

It might be an opportune time to ask ourselves the following:

- Do we come to share the Eucharist with Christ and with others?
- Do we allow our hearts to be open to change after we receive the Eucharist?

Do we go forth from the Eucharist charged with enthusiasm to do the work of Christ?

We Pray,
Lord, as we come to your table, help us to share in the life of your son, Jesus. May we truly recognise him in the breaking of the bread. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Education Coordinator

Congratulations to our Dancers

At the end of last term our dancers performed at the CGSSSA dance competition conducted at All Saints Girls College, Liverpool.

Our teams achieved:
Second Place in the Tap Section
Second Place in Modern Contemporary
Second Place in Intermediate Jazz

I congratulate the following students for their dedication and commitment as well as a wonderful performance.

Representative Dance Students
Paige Jeffrey
Jade O’Brien
Zoe Martin
Stephanie Scicchitano
Natasha Perre
Ashleigh Pontifex
Denise Hoang
Natasha Ishac
Samantha Short
Annalise Jarrett
Emma Donaldson
Amanda Keeble
Catherine Casuscelli
Breanne Sutherland
Melissa Joseph
Reiko Aguilar

We all now look forward to the Rock Eisteddfod on 25th July. Good luck to all staff and students involved.
The college recently received information from the Australian Government on its National Drugs Campaign which is a prevention campaign and part of the National Illicit Drug Strategy.

You have probably seen elements of it on the television and in the print media. The campaign targets parents of children aged 8 to 17 years and encourages them to talk to their children about drugs - a vital step in preventing youth drug use. Research has shown that among 15 to 17 year olds seeking information about illegal drugs, 33% would talk to their parents. If parents would like to access further information on illicit drugs they can contact the campaign information line on: 1800 250 015 and the website on www.drugs.health.gov.au. Parent booklets "Talking with your kids about drugs" are available in 17 languages.

The college also received information on the Mission Australia’s 2005 Youth Survey which was distributed nationally and gives young Australians, aged 11 to 24 years, an opportunity to comment on a range of issues that are important to them. The responses provide information that assists service organisations to work more effectively with young people. If any students would like to complete the survey they can collect a copy from the office or complete it by visiting the website on www.missionaustralia.com.au/youth survey. The closing date is Friday 2nd September.

Girls in Year 7 and 9 have each received an information brochure on this topic. In New South Wales girls in Year 7 and 9 used to be screened for Scoliosis or curvature of the spine. However, due to changes in health care this no longer takes place, and the Spine Society of Australia has asked all government and non-government schools in Australia to distribute an information brochure for all their girls in these year groups.

Scoliosis is not an uncommon condition and 2-5% of adolescent girls are at risk for the development of a significant curvature. The condition first appears in the age range 11-13 years.

Parents are asked to read the brochure and if they have concerns to see their family doctor. There is more information on the website: www.spinecarefoundation.org if parents wish to access it.

Mrs B Eljed
Assistant Principal

There are a number of important evenings scheduled for this term. Please highlight these dates on your calendars.

Year 7, 8, 9
P.T.S. Interviews (MacKillop, Merici, Polding) Thursday July 28th at 1.30 - 8.00 pm
P.T.S. Interviews (Chisholm, DePaul, LaSalle) Thursday August 4th at 1.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Year 11 - 2006
Information Evening - Wednesday August 10th

Year 11 - 2006
Subject Selection Interviews - Monday August 15th

Year 9 - 2006
Information Evening - Monday August 29th

Also, we have had a good response to the parent evenings on raising teenagers - conflict and self esteem issues. We are looking at a series of evenings early Term 4 and will advertise the

**National Drugs Campaign**

**Mission Australia’s 2005 Youth Survey**

**Adolescent Scoliosis The National Self Assessment Program**

**Year 7 Hepatitis B Vaccinations**

Year 7 students who received the first of these injections earlier this year are entitled to receive the second dose on Wednesday July 27th.

Information packs and consent forms have been sent home and must be returned to the college office urgently.
Over the past few weeks a number of girls’ blouses have been on display in the canteen. These blouses are to be worn over the skirt. At present we are attempting to ascertain which is the most suitable for our students.

These blouses will be on display in the office over the next week. Any suggestions or opinions in relation to which blouse would be most appropriate should be left at the front office.

On behalf of the staff and students involved in the 2005 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, thank you to the students, friends, family members and teachers who have supported the group in any way. Good luck to the performers, backstage members and staff for Monday night’s performance.

Miss M Dangca

The Year 12 Profiles and References Committee together with the SRC have organised for Good Samaritan to participate in Jeans For Genes day on Friday 5th August.

Jeans for Genes day is a fundraising day that the greater community takes part in to raise money for The Children's Medical Research Institute. This Institute has been formed to research the inner workings of ourselves to discover how our genes do work in relation to faults in our genes, which can cause such diseases as Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis and Muscular Dystrophy.

How can OUR school participate in this worthwhile event?

By substituting our school skirts and trousers for a pair of Jeans. (It is not a mufti day; school shirts and shoes must still be worn).

The Year 12 Profiles and References Committee and the SRC, will be visiting each PC class over the next week to promote this cause. A gold coin donation will be collected prior to the day, to ensure those who donate have the opportunity to participate.

Amy Andreata (Year 12)
**Funding of Catholic Schools**

**School funding: the facts**

These are the facts in relation to school funding. In Australia, 2.26 million students (or 68% of all school students) attend state schools and receive 81% of the taxpayers’ funds which go to schools. A further 1.06 million students (or 32%) attend Catholic or Independent schools and receive the remaining 19% of taxpayers’ funds.

**Library**

Just a reminder for parents and students that the library is open until 4pm every afternoon (except Thursdays) for quiet study and research. All students are welcome to use the library's resources and facilities.

Also, if there are any parents who would like to cover books for the library, their help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the library staff for more information. Thank You.

**Greg Lozelle**
Teacher Librarian

**School Fees**

Term 3 school fees will be distributed in Week 2.

Any outstanding Term 1 & 2 school fees should be finalised at the college office as soon as possible.

If you have any enquiries relating to school fees, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Logue at the college office.

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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**

**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.