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

Over the past fortnight I have had a number of opportunities to express my pride in our students. On Sunday May 15, I was invited to the Liverpool Catholic Club for their Annual Mass and Luncheon. At this event our college dux from 2004, Vi Nguyen, was presented with a medallion and scholarship to support her in her first year of university study. This was a wonderful occasion for the college, Vi and her family who accompanied her to the function.

This is the first time that a student from the college has received this award and it is certainly a significant milestone in our history. The Catholic Club has been a generous supporter of the college through the scholarship and provision of funds for a counsellor. We certainly appreciate their continued willingness to support students and projects at the college.

On Tuesday night, 18 May, I had the pleasure of attending the Quota Student of the Year Awards at Liverpool Council Chambers. Lisa Nguyen of Year 11 represented Good Samaritan at this function. Lisa performed in an admirable fashion in the prepared speech and the impromptu speech section of the competition. Lisa was commended for her performance, which was most impressive.

Last week the De Paul House organised our regular college assembly. At this assembly I was delighted to present a Gold Principal’s Award to Chester Tactacan. I congratulate Chester on being acknowledged in so many areas by his teachers. It is certainly gratifying to see students like Chester continually striving to do their best at all times.

Over the last three weeks the college has been accepting applications for Year 7 2006. The applicants were informed at the information evening that Good Samaritan is first and foremost a Catholic college. It is fitting at this time to reinforce this fact. We need to continually stop and reflect on what it means to be a Catholic college that lives by and promotes the values that Jesus Christ taught us.

Paramount to this, is the emphasis on the importance of the dignity of each person. It disappoints me that this has not been mirrored in some of the actions or expressions of some of our students recently.

Students must realise that respect for all members of our community is expected and essential. Respect for others is reflected in the way we speak and act towards each other. The college will not tolerate offensive, rude and inappropriate words and actions from any member of our community. If students use this approach to others they are betraying what our community stands for and is built on. In the extreme they may place their position at the college in jeopardy.

I trust that each person realises that we all have an obligation to respect others and to promote Catholic values in our college. This is a responsibility of each individual attending Good Samaritan Catholic College. I ask all parents to continually reinforce this fact to their sons and daughters ensuring that they are aware of the importance of respect in our community.
Dear Parents,

Recently Mother’s Day reminded us of the importance of mothers in our lives. We are fortunate when we experience their love, nurturing and lifetime support. Last weekend an interesting article appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald highlighting what we probably already knew instinctively. Mothers, it would seem, “set the path to spiritual enlightenment” according to an extensive study conducted by the National Church Life Survey Research. For most church-goers (including your children) their faith is nurtured from birth and developed gradually.

What a huge responsibility this places on parents, who wish to “provide a moral compass” for their children. According to the study the influence of parents is twofold; their faith and how they live out their faith.

The report claimed that parents had the biggest influence on their children between the ages of 10 and 20. So the high school years are a key to their future spiritual development.

As a Catholic school, Good Samaritan seeks to support you in your role as the primary Christian educators of your children. The school provides a sound knowledge base and solid Christian values but the major task of nurturing their faith is yours. Please do not let your children down in this vital area of responsibility. God bless you in your privileged and sacred work of parenting these young people and preparing them for a future that is not always easy or smooth.

Happy Parenting,

Br Colin

Over the next few weeks Br Colin will be absent from the college undergoing knee surgery. I ask everyone to keep Br Colin in their prayers so that he may have a rapid recovery and return to the college in good health.

Finally, last Tuesday I accompanied Br Colin and a group of Year 11 students to St Mary’s Cathedral to celebrate Mass for the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. This was an opportunity to reflect on our Patron Saint and how fortunate we are to live in this wonderful nation. I have included the following prayer for use to commemorate this feast.

We pray for Mary,

Who is a sign of hope and source of unity in Christ for all Australians.
Who is a woman, wife, mother and a person for us today,
Who is our Patroness, showing love and care towards our land and its multicultural people,
Who is model and bearer of the Truth and Light of the Gospel,
Loving God, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, Help of Christians.
Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace, so that we can be people who love and respect each other,
And people who love and respect our land.
We make this prayer through Jesus, your Son, Amen.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio

Parent Group

All parents are once again invited to our Parent Group meeting on Wednesday, June 15 at 7pm. This evening is a good opportunity to find out more about your child’s learning and have some of your questions answered.

Items being discussed on the evening include:
• Understanding how children use the internet and ways we can improve the quality of learning that occurs.
• What is my child’s assessment task really asking of them?
• The Year 7 ELLA test

Please contact me at the college if you have any questions regarding the evening.

Mrs C Peterson (Curriculum Co-ordinator)

Parents Corner

Dear Parents,

Recently Mother’s Day reminded us of the importance of mothers in our lives. We are fortunate when we experience their love, nurturing and lifetime support.

Last weekend an interesting article appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald highlighting what we probably already knew instinctively. Mothers, it would seem, “set the path to spiritual enlightenment” according to an extensive study conducted by the National Church Life Survey Research. For most church-goers (including your children) their faith is nurtured from birth and developed gradually.

What a huge responsibility this places on parents, who wish to “provide a moral compass” for their children. According to the study the influence of parents is twofold; their faith and how they live out their faith.

The report claimed that parents had the biggest influence on their children between the ages of 10 and 20. So the high school years are a key to their future spiritual development.

As a Catholic school, Good Samaritan seeks to support you in your role as the primary Christian educators of your children. The school provides a sound knowledge base and solid Christian values but the major task of nurturing their faith is yours. Please do not let your children down in this vital area of responsibility. God bless you in your privileged and sacred work of parenting these young people and preparing them for a future that is not always easy or smooth.

Happy Parenting, Br Colin

PS Unfortunately, I will be unavailable at the college as from this week as I have to undergo some basic knee surgery. I look forward to Term Three.
Congratulations to the following students who were presented with awards at our recent assembly.

**Gold Principal’s Award**
Chester Tactacan

**Silver Assistant Principal’s Award**
Bianca Ruzic (2 awards)
Burt Bodagh
Haylee Ingle
Vanessa Sposari
Jaimie Selvage
Daniel Smith
Veronica Vella

**Sport Best & Fairest Award Winners**
- Intermediate Girls Volleyball: Paige Jeffey
- Intermediate Girls Cricket: Haylee Ingle
- Senior Girls Cricket: Rebecca Collins
- Senior Girls Touch Football: Veronica Vella
- Under 14’s Boys Cricket: Nathaniel Barbuto
- Year 10 Opens Cricket: Reece Walker
- Senior Boys Cricket: Xedrix Aguilar
- Under 14’s Boys Basketball: Wesley Lizada
- Year 10 Opens Boys Basketball: Justin Belen

Last year, all students in Years 7 to 10 participated in the University of NSW Science competition. The college did extremely well - all students received certificates of participation or achievement. Some students achieved a higher award and their certificates were presented during various college assemblies. The Science Department congratulates the following students for their exceptional effort:

**Credit (≥77%)**

**Distinction (≥90%)**
Kane Spence, Stephanie Guevara, Danielle Froio, Alex Fenato, Christopher Carson, Daniel Parker.

**High Distinction (≥99%)**
- Dino Romeo

**Ms M Flocco**

**Walkathon**
**Tuesday - 21 June**
**Western Sydney Regional Park**

Last Friday, walkathon cards were issued to all students at the college. All students are requested to aim at raising a minimum of $25. The funds raised will benefit everyone in the college as these will be used to pay for shade cloth over the area outside the canteen. Students who raise $25 or more will go into the draw to win a prize from our ever increasing prize pool. These include a TV, digital camera, Karaoke DVD player, MP3 player and a Discman among many others.

Any parental help, either in the preparation of the event, or on the day, would be most appreciated. If parents are able to help please give your name to Mr. Cloran or contact the ladies in the office leaving your name and a contact number.

**Recent Award Winners**

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with awards at our recent assembly.

**Gold Principal’s Award**
Chester Tactacan

**Silver Assistant Principal’s Award**
Bianca Ruzic (2 awards)
Burt Bodagh
Haylee Ingle
Vanessa Sposari
Jaimie Selvage
Daniel Smith
Veronica Vella

**Sport Best & Fairest Award Winners**
- Intermediate Girls Volleyball: Paige Jeffey
- Intermediate Girls Cricket: Haylee Ingle
- Senior Girls Cricket: Rebecca Collins
- Senior Girls Touch Football: Veronica Vella
- Under 14’s Boys Cricket: Nathaniel Barbuto
- Year 10 Opens Cricket: Reece Walker
- Senior Boys Cricket: Xedrix Aguilar
- Under 14’s Boys Basketball: Wesley Lizada
- Year 10 Opens Boys Basketball: Justin Belen

On the 17th of May, our class (Year 11 Industrial Technology-Wood) with Mr Dinkha travelled to Nobby Kitchens in Punchbowl as part of our Industry Study Task.

This experience was beneficial because we not only saw the types of machinery used in kitchen manufacturing, but also saw these machines in operation. We also had a first-hand experience of the industry's workforce.

**Year 11 Industrial Technology Excursion**

**Science**

Steven Mieruszynski, Denis Simione & Grant Drennan (Year 11)
**Debating Report**

This time last year, Good Samaritan’s debating squad was soundly defeated by Mt. Carmel High School. On Friday May 13, that result was turned around. Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 all had victories. This represents one of Good Samaritan’s best ever results in the history of debating at the school.

The following week, at Freeman College, was not as successful for the school. Year 12 won on a forfeit, which continues the unbeaten record of that team. Year 7 also achieved their first victory of the season. The other teams, despite being defeated, competed well. We look forward to continuing improvement as experience increases in the coming seasons.

The final round sees the teams opposing Holy Spirit, Lakemba at the college.

Mr M O’Sullivan
Debating Co-ordinator

---

**Exploring Early Childhood Excursion**

On Wednesday May 18 the Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood class visited the Picnic Point Pre-School and Day Care Centre. Throughout the day, the students participated in activities in each of the rooms in the centre. In the nursery, the children were aged from 0-2 years, the Caterpillars were aged from 2-3 and the Butterflies from 3-5 years. As part of the excursion, we had to evaluate the children’s behaviour in four areas - language, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

We learned a lot about pre-schoolers through our interactions with them. We all joined in the activities and sang songs, painted, made puzzles, built blocks, read books, fed the babies and changed nappies. Playing with the children was the highlight of the excursion. We were able to learn so much about their language development and social behaviour through our interactions.

Many of us came away from the excursion now knowing what we want to do when we leave school.

Ms J Frisardi

---

**From the ESL Refugees Teaching Teachers**

I recently attended a Professional Development Day about Teaching New Arrival Refugees, particularly from African Communities. In the last 2 years around 8,000 African refugees have arrived in Australia and have mostly settled in the Sydney area, so it is certainly a topic relevant to all of us.

The most exciting part of the day was having the opportunity to see a series of presentations, made by Sudanese refugees who are in their first year of a Bachelor of Teaching degree at the ACU. Their presentations covered a range of topics such as: What is a refugee? Why are they Here? Where have they come from? What are Government policies relating to asylum seekers and refugees?

All the Sudanese refugees, some of whom have become Australian citizens, were thrilled to be in Australia and studying at a Catholic University. They spoke of how wonderful it has been, learning about Australian culture and experiencing the Australian lifestyle. Some of the refugees have spent up to 10 years in refugee camps in Africa, where the conditions were horrific and have arrived in Australia with no family and no contacts.

It will be wonderful if Australians embrace these people and recognise the gifts and talents they and other migrants are so willing to share with us.

Ms J Frisardi

---

**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.

\[\text{Parent Evening - Raising Teenagers}\]

\[\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Name:} & \text{Child’s Name:} & \text{PC Class:} \\
\end{array}\]

\[\text{Term 2} \quad \text{Term 3} \quad \text{Term 4}\]

---

*Lauren Camden and Veronica Vella, Year 11*
**Year 8 Reading**

The Year 8 Reading Program concluded this week. It has been a great success thanks to the tremendous work of staff involved.

Below are the reflections of some of the students who participated in the Enhancing Reading Program for Year 8.

“Before participating in the Year 8 Reading Program, I was not a good reader. Now I can read faster and better”.

“I am heaps more confident with my reading. I helped out in a canteen on a Saturday and I was always scared that I would not be able to read what something was if people asked me a question. Now I can read and I am confident”.

“I am not scared to read in class any more”.

“ I have learnt to spell and read better”.

---

**Confirmation Volunteers**

The college had three Year 11 students volunteer to be Youth Ambassadors at Confirmation 2005 on Sunday May 22nd. This involved giving up almost their entire Sunday. The report we received back was that they were polite, efficient and a pleasure to work with. Congratulations and thanks to:

Bianca Ruzic
Jeanelle Bajada
Olivia Genova

Mrs B Eljed

---

**ELLA Results**

As all parents would be aware Year 7 students sat for the English Literacy Language Assessment (ELLA) during Term 1. The results of this test will be sent home to all Year 7 parents over the next week.

---

**Uniform Reminder**

The college blazer is part of the uniform for Terms 3 and 4. All students are required to wear the blazer to and from school. Students who do not have their blazer should have a note of explanation that should be given to their Pastoral Care teacher.

The college woollen jumper is not part of the sports uniform. The tracksuit jacket should be worn on Thursdays. In the event of cold weather, the jumper can be worn under the tracksuit jacket. The jumper is not to be worn without the tracksuit jacket. Students who do not have their full sports uniform should wear their full winter uniform and change for sport.

R Grech

---

**NSW CCC Cross Country**

Students going to the NSW CCC Cross Country representing Southern Sydney on Friday, 3rd June at Eastern Creek Raceway are:

Andrew El-Zakhem
Haylee Ingle
Shannon Grant
Christina Pecorella
What is the issue in education?

The issue is of quality education for all students.

As a Catholic community, we need to campaign for the best possible government schools that are up-to-date and well-resourced; and also for the best possible non-government schools that are up-to-date and well-resourced (and to which parents are expected to contribute financially).

Those with a passion for the education of young Australians need to combine their efforts to ensure that the best possible opportunities are available to all.

Catholic schools are not in competition with government schools. Nor are they necessarily better or worse. They are, however, distinctively different.

Divisiveness that has characterised the education debate in recent years needs to be set aside.

Married Couples - It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. The next weekend is on 22 to 24th July 2005.

For more information call Jim and Maureen Willson on:
Tele: 9345 5402 or http://www.wwme.org.au

---

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

- **MONDAY 30.05.05**
  - N Tummarello
  - E Hobby
  - J Colley

- **TUESDAY 31.05.05**
  - G Gerrish
  - L Duncombe
  - R Criniti

- **WEDNESDAY 01.06.05**
  - D Ingle
  - T Pontifex
  - T Martin

- **THURSDAY 02.06.05**
  - L Bakhos
  - A Morozoff
  - L Napoletano

- **FRIDAY 03.06.05**
  - D Caruana
  - D Segatto
  - R Romeo

- **MONDAY 06.06.05**
  - V Sgro
  - S Fenato

- **TUESDAY 07.06.05**
  - R Parker
  - E Waga

- **WEDNESDAY 08.06.05**
  - R El-Zakhem
  - M Campisi
  - J Roccisano

- **THURSDAY 09.06.05**
  - L Vella
  - C Smith

- **FRIDAY 10.06.05**
  - T Inzitari
  - H Argenta
  - C Nesci

---

**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.