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

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday and has returned to school well rested and ready for another challenging term.

Over the holiday break we certainly witnessed a number of events which were of great significance to us as Catholics and Australians. The election of Pope Benedict XVI was certainly a momentous event that will certainly have great impact on our Church and the future directions to be taken by the faithful. I am sure that each of you will join with me in praying to the Holy Spirit that the directions taken by our new leader will enhance the faith and spirituality of Catholics across the world.

Last Monday the nation stopped to pay our respects to those valiant servicemen and women who served our country in our armed forces. It is fitting to acknowledge that it is 90 years since the first Anzacs took to the shores of Gallipoli in defence of peace and freedom across the Earth. The college took time to pay our respects to these wonderful people at an assembly on Tuesday morning. The ceremony was attended by our own Mr Kevin Maguire who served in Korea and Lieutenant Michael Drake currently serving in the Royal Australian Navy. The ceremony was an appropriate way to highlight those courageous men and women who gave so much in defence of this wonderful nation and world freedom. The ceremony concluded with the planting of a sapling from the “Lone Pine” at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra by Year 11 students. I recognise and thank Mrs Wilkins and students for their organisation and contribution to such a significant event.

One way that each of us can honour the memory of these people is to promote peace in every aspect of our lives. This may be among family, friends, the wider community or across the nation. This approach was also highlighted to students on Tuesday. Lest we forget.

Next Sunday Br Colin will celebrate 50 years as a De La Salle Brother. This is truly a reflection of the dedication and commitment of Br Colin. He has been a tireless worker for both the Brothers and our College. Br Colin’s Anniversary is actually 14th May, this very significant day will be further acknowledged in our next newsletter.

Sunday 8th May is Mothers Day. It is an opportunity for all of us to thank our mums for all the love that each gives us. I take this opportunity to thank our college mums for all that they do in support of their sons and daughters and our college generally. This Friday the college will celebrate a Mothers Day Mass at Good Shepherd Church beginning at 2pm.

As we begin Term II it is a time for students to consolidate the positive beginnings made in so many areas of college life. It is also a time to rectify those areas that needed attention at the end of Term I. I emphasise that assessment is cumulative and it is essential that students work consistently throughout the whole year in order to gain the best possible result and achieve to their potential.

As each of us stops to acknowledge Anzac Day we should pray that we too can be instruments of peace.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred…let me sow love, Where there is injury…pardon,
On the 21st June the college will be conducting a Walkathon to raise funds for shade cloth to cover the area outside the canteen. It is hoped that the walkathon proceeds will supply the majority of funds needed for this structure. Any parental support on the day or with the organisation of the event would certainly be appreciated. If parents are able to help they should contact Mr Cloran or Mr. Lo Cascio via the office.

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Walkathon

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Curriculum

What are my child’s assignments REALLY asking her/him to do?”

“How do I know my child is researching the correct information for his assignment?”

What is an “Excellent” grade for a task?

What is educational research telling us about learning in the classroom of the 21st Century?

If you have often asked these questions and many more in an effort to help your child experience successes at school, then you are very welcome to come to our Parent Group (Curriculum) meetings. These meetings are informal and friendly and are an opportunity for you to have questions answered or keep up to date with directions in education.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 15 at 7.30 in the College Library.

Chris Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

Parents Corner

Dear Parents,

Greetings for the new term as we continue in the partnership of home and school in the education of your children.

The recent heavy media attention given to the death of Pope John Paul II and the election and inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI indicated that, in spite of the constant criticism of the Catholic Church, society cannot get enough about it. People seem to want to know more about our spirituality (practice), and theology (beliefs), our liturgy (rituals) and our leadership.

I have been reflecting recently on whether we Catholics have been as absorbed in what is Catholic and what makes us Catholic. More importantly, do we as adults and parents take seriously the responsibility of being the principal Christian educators of our children, leading them by example in the desire to know more about our faith and in the practice of a faith and heritage that extends over 2000 years.

I think it significant (but scary) that some (even Catholics) consider Dan Brown (the Da Vinci Code and others) as the authority on matters of historical fact and areas of faith over the judgements of credible historians and theologians.

As a member of a religious order that has “the human and Christian education of youth, especially those most disadvantaged” as its mission I would like to feel that you as Catholic parents support our school in this mission.

Let us together do what is best for our children by adequately preparing ourselves for our responsibilities.

God bless,
Br Colin

Year 7 2006 Information Evening

An information evening for parents of Year 7 2006 students will be held at the college on Monday 2nd May 2005 commencing at 7 pm.

Enrolment packages will be distributed at this information session.

Help for Students....

Students are able to get extra assistance with homework, assessment tasks and language improvement at the following times.

Monday 2:50 - 4:00 pm in the Library
Tuesday 2:50 - 4:00 pm in the Library
Wednesday Lunchtime in D7B
WHY GERMANY?

The theme for the 20th World Youth Day to be held in Cologne, Germany, during August is “We have come to worship Him” taken from the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 2, Verse 2. This reference recalls, in Matthew’s infancy narrative, where the Magi or Wise Men follow the star that leads them to pay homage to the Christ child. The Wise Men did not hesitate to leave everything behind and set out along paths unknown to follow the star they had seen in the East. They brought with them gifts, to pay homage - gold, frankincense and myrrh - testament in Jewish traditions, that great things were expected from the Christ child.

The star of Bethlehem showed the wise men the road they should travel to reach Jesus. After wandering for a long time, they encountered Jesus and returned home changed men. Just as it shone then on the stable in Bethlehem, the star shines on God’s house in Cologne. The star wishes to lead the young from all over the world to Cologne for the World Youth Day. In the great Cathedral in Cologne are the honoured relics of the Magi, the wise men from the east, who followed the star which led them to Christ, hence its significance with the theme “We have come to worship Him”.

WYD Fundraising – Mark this date in your diaries!!!

As mentioned in the last World Youth Day Corner, three of our students are travelling with the Good Shepherd Parish to attend the pilgrimage to Germany, via France. These students are Kelly McCue (Year 11), Ashley Hostnik (Year 11) and Brandt Mattiuzzo (Year 10). Our local parish has requested the college’s support in assisting in their fundraising venture outlined below.

What: **Sausage Sizzle & T-Shirt Signing.**
The T-Shirt will be worn by the students during the Vigil Mass in Cologne and blessed (hopefully) by Pope Benedict XVI.

When: **Wednesday 11th May 2005**, held at lunch time.

Cost: **$2** per sausage sizzle

**$2** per name written on the T-Shirt

Funds raised will go to Good Shepherd Parish to assist members of their youth group, Flock, to attend this wonderful opportunity in Cologne, Germany. Please note this date in your diaries to support this venture.

Change of Times at the College

During Term 2 the college will trial new times during the day. The morning pastoral care period will be extended to 15 minutes and the afternoon pastoral care period will no longer exist. A final roll call will be taken during period 6 each day. The school day will now conclude at 2.49 pm.

These new measures have been adopted in order to provide more time for students and teachers to interact during pastoral care time each day, to alleviate congestion and to ensure that the buses depart from the college grounds on time.

Parents picking students up are requested not to enter the college grounds prior to 3 pm. It will now be very difficult to relay messages to students during the day due to the absence of afternoon pastoral care period. With this in mind, parents are asked to contact the college only in urgent circumstances.

Our World

Interest rates...up, down or who knows!

So you have probably heard of the talk about interest rates going up or going down, but do we know the main factors that cause interest rates to go up or down?

The Reserve Bank has targeted an inflation rate between 2-3%. The reason for this is when the inflation rate is recorded at over 3%, Australians are buying too many imports which increase the CAD (Current Account Deficit) and Foreign Debt, which causes concern to both the government and the Reserve Bank. To overcome this problem, the Reserve Bank increases the interest rates, which means we do not have enough money to buy as many imports.

Only a month ago, imports were recorded at a high level, raising concern for the public on increases in the interest rate. On Wednesday, however, the inflation rate was recorded at 2.4% (down from 2.6%), a rate within the inflation target. For this reason it is probable that there will be not be an increase in interest rates.

Whilst this may seem to be the current trend in interest rates, history has proved that many economical factors contribute to the inflation rate, therefore, it is difficult to predict an accurate probability of interest rate changes.

Sharna Strohmayer & Matthew Hutchinson (Yr 11)
Our vision is to strengthen and promote family life that is supportive of each and every member of the family. We are a volunteer based organisation, with the motto “Compassion in Action”.

Outreach has a number of services based in the Liverpool area:

- The Parent Support Program needs volunteers in its education and home visiting programs.
- The Safe Haven provides crisis accommodation for women and children in domestic violence situations. Volunteers help staff provide the necessary support and care.
- Court Support needs volunteers to provide support for families facing the court system.

The volunteer Training Program is an 8 week (Monday mornings for Liverpool venue) course commencing on 23rd May 2005.

Our website is www.outreach.stvincents.com.au

For an application form or enquiries, please phone Outreach on Tele: 8382 6430 or 9822 5980

Applications close 2nd May 2005.

Joel McTaggart from Year 7 Merici who competed in the Combined Catholic Colleges Diving championships at the Sydney Aquatic centre at the end of last term. Joel impressed the judges in his events and took gold on the day. He will go on to represent NSW Combined Catholic Colleges at the NSW All Schools championship next week, where he will attempt to gain selection in the NSW team to take part in the Pacific Nations Championships in Melbourne later this year.

Also, Thomas Kennedy (Year 10 Polding) for making the SICC Rugby League Team. We wish him good luck at the NSWCCC Rugby League carnivals/trials.

How much funding does your child receive in government grants?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER SCHOOL STUDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student in NSW government school (2003-2004 financial year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student in NSW Catholic systemic school (2004 calendar year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Source: CEC NSW Audited Accounts for 2004 as reported to DEST

This funding gap is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.
**Year 11 Textiles & Design Excursion**

**WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL OF FASHION**

On Friday 1st April the Yr 11 Textiles & Design class, with a few extras, set off by train for a day of fun and drawing in the city to the Whitehouse Institute of Design. The girls took part in an introductory fashion design and fashion drawing short course. The course involved such things as geometric analysis drawing of the figure, rendering techniques, and drawing garments on a fashion figure.

We had the added benefit of being able to see the Whitehouse students model their major design costumes as it happened to be marking day for them. They had a design brief which related to history and a set colour palette to work from. Their designs inspired the girls and showed them how to think outside the square.

Each student received a certificate for the short course with two students receiving Highly Commended awards. They were Sandra Jajou and Samantha Assoni. One student was awarded a one week scholarship to be completed in the school holidays at the Whitehouse. The lucky winner was Van Nguyen.

Here are some of the comments from the girls regarding the day.

“The Whitehouse excursion was a great experience. I learnt a lot and my drawings have improved. We saw some great costumes.”

“The Whitehouse excursion was nothing I expected, it was better. I learnt so much and drew things I could never draw before. It was a wonderful experience. I didn’t want to leave. I had sooooo much fun. After this excursion drawing has become my new hobby.”

“The excursion to the Whitehouse was exciting and beneficial. It was absolutely cool. I learnt so much and now I can draw!”

“I thought it was really good and heaps of help with the figure drawing and faces and how to do them properly. I learnt heaps too.”

“It was a really good course to do, even though I didn’t know how to draw it taught me and I am more confident. It’s a great course for anyone to do, especially if your looking at a future in design.”

“Going to the Whitehouse excursion would have been one of the greatest excursions I’ve been on. I learnt more in one day than I would in a lifetime of trying to teach myself to draw. Though the building is old, the lessons taught are great, and the people in it are also great. They are friendly and have a lot to teach. I would gladly go again to do the same course because I know that even though I have already done it I will still learn new things.”

Mrs Harper

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Congratulations to Mr Griffiths and his wife Patti on the birth of their son Liam James.

**Year 11 Science Convention**

Year 11 travelled back in time and were able to experience the complex minds of significant scientists who contributed to the development of microscopes. Mrs Barry’s Year 11 Biology class delighted students and teachers alike by impersonating scientists of the past. Present at this science convention were famous scientists such as Anton Van Leeuwenhoek, Robert Hooke, Hans Janssen, Ernst Ruska, Chester Moore Hall and Robert Brown.

Year 11 enjoyed themselves immensely. The hands on experience allowed the class to present cells, different microscopes from different eras and their knowledge of their scientist. The entire class were eager to imitate their scientist and got very involved in their task. It was a unique experience that we believe should be repeated.

**Year 11 Biology Excursion**

On the 15th March both Year 11 classes trekked to the amazing Mangrove Park at Homebush. Students were able to have first hand experience by investigating the factors that contributed to our environment. Students picked leaves and observed the wildlife present at the park. Although the bus was late, and we managed to get locked outside in the 40°C heat it did not stop us! Both classes enjoyed the day and were disappointed to go home. We cannot wait for the next excursion.

Always willing to learn,

Diana Lemos & Stephanie McPherson (Yr 11)

**Year 10 Open Cricket**

The Year 10 boys played their semi final at the end of last term. Confidence was high as they took on Revesby De La Salle, a team we had beaten in Round 3. Unfortunately we were beaten by 35 runs, but the entire team tried hard and represented the college well. Congratulations to all on a great season.

Mr Costin (Team Coach)
The CEO is holding the following seminars:

**FREE COMPUTER TRAINING PARENTS / CARERS**
The “Parenting Program” for parents and carers starting work for the first time or returning to work after an absence of 2 years. For further information please call the Learning Lab on Tele: 9211 5822.

**RAISING DIFFICULT CHILDREN**
Realistic Behaviour Management for difficult children. For course information call Pastoral Counselling Institute on Tele: 9683 3664. The next course commences May 2005. Venue at 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta. Registration is essential.

**TOUGHLOVE ASHFIELD**
Parents Support Group
For parents troubled by
**UNACCEPTABLE TEENAGE BEHAVIOUR**
Day: Thursday Time: 7 pm
Place: Uniting Church, Friendship Room
Liverpool Road, Ashfield
Supper provided
Find out what **TOUGHLOVE** is, how it works and why parents, who are at the end of their tether, find it so valuable!
More information call Vicki 0419 252 282 or Jane 0432 393 740
Or 1300 856 830 Or visit www.toughlove.org

**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

**CAANEN**
WHAT’S NEW IN TERM 2?
Spinach & Ricotta Rolls
$2.00 available recess and lunch
PRICE INCREASES...
Some ice creams have increased.
Also new prices are as listed below and will take effect from Monday 2nd May 2005
Frosty Fruit - $ 1.50
Icypole - 80 cents
Billabong - $1.10
Milo Cups - $1.80
Lifesavers - $1.50
All Pastas Now $2.50

**LOST PROPERTY**
The ‘Lost Property’ box located in the student foyer has been moved to the Uniform Shop, which is open from 7.30 am to 8.30 am daily and every second Tuesday at lunch.

**MONDAY**
02.05.05
N Tummarello
E Hobby
J Colley

09.05.05
Pupil Free

**TUESDAY**
03.05.05
D Toro
R Parker
E Waga

10.05.05
T Zanetic
J Mallia

**WEDNESDAY**
04.05.05
R El-Zakhem
M Campisi
J Roccisano

11.05.05
E Nikolic
A Zoccoli
A Marcocci

**THURSDAY**
05.05.05
L Bakhos
A Morozoff
L Napoletano

12.05.05
A Pipicella
G Calarco
A Zoccoli

**FRIDAY**
06.05.05
A Van Twest
S Orellana

13.05.05
M Lia
T Inzitari