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

This past fortnight has seen much occur in the college representative arena.

- Two weeks ago our Rock Eisteddfod troupe went to the State Sports Centre at Homebush to perform “An Australian Love Story”. The performance was polished, reflecting a thorough understanding of the theme and the talent which our students possess. Although the college did not win the small schools’ section, the students were commended for their performance. Well done to all involved!

- In sport our Senior Girls’ Soccer Team and Year 10 Boys Soccer Team won their respective competitions. These games were played during Week One and both teams were able to remain at the top of their particular competitions. Congratulations to each of the players involved.

- Last Saturday I witnessed three Year Eleven students Lisa Nguyen, Patricia Lemos and Keith Debono take part in the Model United Nations Assembly. They were most enthusiastic in their approach and each was a worthy ambassador for their country and indeed our college. Their involvement and interest in this event were most impressive.

- At last week’s assembly I had the pleasure of presenting another Principal’s Award to an outstanding student for her dedication and commitment to college life. I congratulate Veronica Vella on receiving this prestigious award.

All of the above are signs of commitment and the readiness of our students to continue to “aspire to be more”. Each also reflects the willingness of teachers to give so much time to support students both in and outside of the classroom. These achievements would not have been possible without the support and dedication of teachers. I am often grateful that our college has teachers prepared to give so much for the students. Thank you to all the teachers and students who do so much at Good Samaritan.

Over the last two weeks, the college has conducted parent / teacher / student interview evenings in Years 7 to 9. These evenings are intended to complement the reports issued at the end of Term Two. I ask parents once again to consider the effectiveness of reports without comments when viewed in conjunction with the parent / teacher / student interviews.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the reports and interviews, I ask parents to respond to the survey presented on the interview evening. Responses should be returned to the college office as soon as possible.

Over the next four weeks Mrs Eljed will be on well deserved leave. We certainly wish her well for this time. Mr Grech will fill the role of Acting Assistant Principal for the period of Mrs Eljed’s absence.

Today we farewell Mr Chapman, who will take up a teaching position at Chevalier College, Bowral. Miss Deborah Sosimenko, who has been teaching at Freeman Catholic College, will join the staff in Mr Chapman’s place. I wish Mr Chapman all the best at his new school and thank him for his contribution to the education of students at Good Samaritan.

As we welcome Miss Sosimenko, we also welcome our new Business Manager Mr John Archer who will begin at the college on Monday August 8.
This week also, the building of Stage 5 will begin at the college. This will incorporate a performing arts centre, twelve new classrooms and two basketball courts. At this stage the construction will be completed in April 2006.

The construction site will take part of our car park, which will mean that parking will be at a premium for the coming months. I ask parents and visitors to be patient and considerate over this period. This situation may also necessitate students being picked up outside the college grounds. More information will be provided as the situation becomes clearer.

This week we also wish World Youth delegates well as they venture to World Youth Day in Cologne Germany. They will meet with Pope Benedict XVI and other Catholic youth of the world. Our prayers go with parish representatives Ashley Hostnik, Kelly McCue, Brandt Mattiuzio and with Miss Darmody who will travel with the Catholic Education Office delegation.

The Feast of the Assumption is celebrated on the 15th August and as Catholics it is important to take time to celebrate and commemorate the significant contribution Mary has made and continues to make, not only in the life of her son Jesus, but also to the life of the church. We pray that her influence continues to guide our thoughts and actions.

We pray,
May the blessing of Mary’s unwavering faith be upon us and may her spirit of prayer live in our hearts and lives.
May the blessing of Mary’s loving service be upon us and may her spirit of praise be on our lips and in our hearts.
May the blessing of Mary’s union with Jesus be upon us and her courage and patience find a home in our lives.
May the blessing of Mary’s mercy and justice be upon us and may we work with her spirit to heal our broken world. Amen

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

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**NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK**

The term ‘Vocation’ is understood differently in today’s society than in the past. The English word ‘vocation’ has its origin in the Latin ‘vocare’ which means, “to call”. Today many people would understand vocations as a call to religious life. Over the coming weeks the focus for parishes, schools and all Christians is to affirm and bring greater meaning to the term vocation. Two Sundays have been set aside to bring awareness to:

- the general Christian vocation of marriage or single life and the ministries of married and single people (August 7)
- the specific vocations of consecrated (religious) and ordained people (August 14)

Firstly, on August 7 we are called to remember that as a married person our vocation is to share a relationship with a spouse, which is self-giving, love-giving and life-giving. This involves a vow of faithful love through the sacrament of marriage and it also asks the husband and wife to foster this love in their children. Being single, is another way we can follow our baptismal promises and live Christian lives through a life of faith and prayer.

Secondly, on August 14 we are asked to affirm the work of the religious people within our community. We are also asked to think about this as an important and integral part of our Christianity. Therefore, we pray that on both Sundays we rekindle our own vocation and ask God to bless all men and women in their vocation.

Mr K Griffiths
Religious Education Co-ordinator

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**Year 7 Hepatitis B Vaccinations**

If any student in Year 7 missed the second dose in this program last Wednesday parents can call Trish on 9828 5944 to find dates and venues of clinics in neighbouring schools. Otherwise parents will need to make arrangements through their own doctors.

Mrs B Eljed
Assistant Principal

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

Michael Damjancuk, Year 12 La Salle
World Organisational Martial Arts Athletics, Germany
7 GOLD MEDALS
2 SILVER MEDALS

Terrence Fernandez, Year 11 Polding
Tae Kwon Do Championships
Vietnam Open Semi Finalist - Ho Chi Minh City
Year 11 2006 Information Evening
Wednesday August 10, commencing 7pm

This is a reminder to Year 10 students and their parents that this evening is coming up. The evening will provide valuable information to support the selection of Year 11 subjects. Subject handbooks will be distributed on the evening along with subject choice sheets. Parents and students are invited to attend the subject market afterwards where questions you may have can be answered.

Subject Selection Interviews
Monday, August 15 – 3.30pm to 7pm

Parents will need to book an interview time to come with their son or daughter on this evening to discuss subject choices for 2006. The interview will last approximately 15 minutes. Students will be allocated to a teacher for the interview, and they will then need to book the interview time with that teacher.

Australian Veterans’ Assistance Trust

Assistance is available to children or grandchildren of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who served between 1961 and 1972, or who have other acceptable full time service in the ADF. This assistance is in the form of Bursaries and Scholarships being made available to children enrolled or planning to enroll in full time tertiary education. Eligibility requirements apply. Further information may be obtained from Christopher Barrett at CEO on 95688265.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

The Senior Girls’ Soccer Team completed the washed out Grand Final on Thursday 21st July. They played Casimir Catholic College and were awarded the Joint Premiership after the game was drawn 1 all in Golden Goal extra time.

Casimir scored early in the game and became very defensive in their play. This encouraged the Good Samaritan team to go on the attack with at least 4 shots at goal before we finally converted with 5 minutes left in the game. The girls continued to attack but were unsuccessful during extra time. The girls played with spirit and pride throughout the season. They continued to encourage and support one another. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team, parents and supporters for their efforts throughout the season.

The Senior Soccer team: Sheree Vella, Sarah Martin, Bianca McGrath, Veronica Vella, Maria Boulatsakos, Vanessa Robson, Stephanie Illufi, Vicky Mammome, Melissa Petracic, Renee Saliba, Laverna Lavulo, Amy Iheakanwa, Nicole Viegas, Claudeine Aad, Linda Boahene, Rahel Goitom.

Mr R Grech (Coach)

WORLD YOUTH DAY FINALLY ARRIVES

As this edition of the newsletter goes to print, approximately 432 pilgrims from the Sydney Archdiocese will be boarding planes to begin the celebration of World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI in Cologne, Germany. As Miss Darmody, Kelly McCue and Ashley Hostnik depart for Greece and France we ask the prayers of our school community for the pilgrimage’s safety and success.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, the three wise men who travelled a great distance, rejoiced exceedingly with great joy as they followed the star which led them to Your beloved Son. Upon entering the stable, they saw the child Jesus with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him.

As our young people undertake this great faith journey from Australia to Cologne for World Youth Day, we ask for Your blessing upon them in their search, as You blessed the hearts of the three wise men. As they begin this pilgrimage from beneath the stars of our radiant Southern Cross, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may our youth be led to an experience of Christ’s love and mercy.

We dedicate and entrust our youth to the maternal care and protection of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Patroness of Australia. We pray that through her intercession our youth may come to worship Him, and in doing so, find the fullness of joy in His presence.

Mary Help of Christians - pray for us.

Amen.

Senior Girls’ Soccer 2005

The Senior Girls’ Soccer Team completed the washed out Grand Final on Thursday 21st July. They played Casimir Catholic College and were awarded the Joint Premiership after the game was drawn 1 all in Golden Goal extra time. Casimir scored early in the game and became very defensive in their play. This encouraged the Good Samaritan team to go on the attack with at least 4 shots at goal before we finally converted with 5 minutes left in the game. The girls continued to attack but were unsuccessful during extra time. The girls played with spirit and pride throughout the season. They continued to encourage and support one another. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team, parents and supporters for their efforts throughout the season.

Computer / Internet Passwords

Students who have lost their computer / internet passwords should see the library staff for a password form. Using other students’ passwords is not permitted.

Mr Reyes
IT Co-ordinator
Careers Resources on the Net
As many Year 12 students are now studying for and completing trial HSC examinations, it is timely to look to some careers advice and support in finding a course or employment. Thankfully, the internet provides a number of useful resources for self assessment, resume preparation and job hunting.

www.myfuture.gov.au This resource is sponsored by the federal government and provides self assessment tools, a resume builder, articles written by career professionals and even a job e-mail service. Registration is free.

http://www.thegoodguides.com.au/ Conducted by Hobsons Group press, this site reviews tertiary institutions including universities and private colleges offering courses for school leavers.


www.jobsearch.gov.au accesses the resources of the Commonwealth’s Job Network. Search by location, job type or industry. Some jobs are only available for Centrelink registered job seekers.

A career in Coastal Engineering? Engineers Australia is currently promoting this career, a mixture of mathematics, science, geography and design, providing solutions for the management and rehabilitation of Australia’s coastal resources. More information at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/nccoe

Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser

Walkathon
The college is at present, finalising donations from the Walkathon held last term. To date, we have raised over $18,000 which will assist in the construction of a shade cloth area at the college. Congratulations and thanks to all members of the Good Samaritan Community who have contributed to this total over the past few weeks. Your efforts in fundraising and participation on the day will help create a pleasant, safer environment for all to enjoy at the college.

Students who are yet to bring their walkathon money in are reminded that this needs to be finalised immediately. See your PC teacher to check the amount that you pledged prior to the day. Prizes will be presented at the next assembly.

Year 12 De Paul Farewell Liturgy
On Wednesday 27th July, members of the De Paul house gathered for a significant event in the life of our college. We took the opportunity to celebrate the contribution that our year 12 class has made to our college in their time at the college. We also took the opportunity to wish them the best of luck as they prepared for their trial HSC exams. Students from each year group across the college participated in and contributed to the liturgy which we sincerely hope will be remembered by our senior students. Ms Barry was invited to reflect on her experiences and memories of the De Paul house and made special mention of the significant contributions that our current students have made towards both our college and our school community. The liturgy concluded with each student lighting a candle and placing it at the foot of our sacred space. Special thanks to all students who took part and to Mr Griffiths, Miss Darmody, Mr Camillos and Ms Barry for the hard work and effort they put in to make the liturgy a memorable event for our class of 2005.

Mr D Cloran
De Paul House Co-ordinator

Merici House Liturgy
Thanking Year 12
On Wednesday 27th July, the Merici House came together to celebrate the continued hard work, effort, and leadership that has been provided by the Year 12s. In thanking them for their efforts, the house set up a sacred space showing the significant nature of the Merici house. This included the picture of St Angela, the House Banner, House Candle, decorative cloth, and of course, our mascot “Froggy”. We concluded with a PowerPoint presentation of the Year 12s throughout the years as they have represented themselves and the House in a positive manner. The entire House now prays for all Year 12s, in particular the Mericians, as they embark on their Trial HSC exams. Good luck to all and thanks for your contribution to the Merici House.

Mr D Costin
Merici House Co-ordinator

Rugby League Update
Last Friday the U16’s boys Rugby League side competed in the Wests Knockout. A Round Robin tournament saw us play three games. We lost our first 24-0, in what can only be described as a disappointing effort. A much tougher second game saw us win 12-6. A courageous effort from all, especially Thomas Kennedy, who scored one try and came across in cover defence late in the game to make a sensational tackle which kept us in the lead. We lost our last game 14-6, although this was also a very courageous effort and the boys left the field with their heads held high. Congratulations to all on an excellent day.

Mr D Costin, Team Coach
On the 25th of July 2005 the Rock Eisteddfod cast and crew travelled to the Homebush State Sports Centre to perform their piece titled *An Australian Love Story*. The cast and crew gave a stellar performance despite all the injuries and mishaps, the Good Samaritan students proved that ‘the show must go on’.

Dino Romeo introduced the performance with great confidence and clarity and as the music started the GSCC team displayed to the other schools that they were serious competition. The cast performed extraordinarily well, especially with all the costume changes required. Afterwards Bianca Giubega, Kayla Bittman, Van Nguyen, Patricia Lemos and Dino Romeo stood on stage and answered a number of questions regarding the performance and the process leading up to the performance itself. The judges commented on our well chosen concept as well as our production elements such as costumes, set, use of stage and choreography.

This resulted in our college winning a total of five awards in the following categories: Concept, Set Design and Function, Costuming Character and Choreography. Our college was also presented with an award for Student Achievement for outstanding participation from three students in particular; Bianca Giubega, Lisa Nguyen and Van Nguyen. They were nominated for this award by Good Samaritan staff for dedication and commitment to the Rock Eisteddfod team.

After a tiring day, staff and students made their way home still buzzing from the performance and knowing that they had performed at their best and to a high standard.

The following teachers should be commended on their support and participation in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge 2005:

Miss Schiller, Miss Hayward, Miss Molloy, Miss Dangca, Miss Flocco, Miss Samardzic, Mr Grech, Mrs Raco, Mr Fairbank, Mr Dinkha, Mrs Peterson, Mr Dominish, Mrs Eljed and Mr Lo Cascio.

Thank you also to the parents, friends and relatives of the students involved for their support and encouragement and to the various companies, local businesses and organisations for the donations made in supporting the Rock Eisteddfod group.
Funding of Catholic Schools

Catholic education comes at a cost for parents in New South Wales

Many parents make a continuing sacrifice. Last year, parents with children in Catholic schools in New South Wales contributed more than $350m in school and building fees. Parents make a continuing sacrifice to send their sons and daughters to Catholic schools.

The Berne Education Centre, Lewisham & Ex Marist Mothers’ Association
Fund Raising Luncheon
Parliament House

Our Annual Luncheon to raise much needed funds for the Berne Education Centre, Lewisham is being held on-
Friday 19th August 2005 at 12 noon
at Parliament House, Sydney
Cost is $70 pp (3 course meal including drinks)
Hosted by: Mrs Jillian Skinner MP
Guest Speaker and MC Radio Personality: Mr Glenn Wheeler

BERNE is a Marist enterprise for students at Risk.

Bookings essential - please telephone Denise 9938 1157 or Jill 9412 2391. Bookings close 7th August 2005.

Free Dental Care for children!
Tooth tip of the month!!

Drink water and eat sugar-free snacks between meals

If you want free dental care for your child/ren, please call the Sydney South West Area Service Oral Health Intake on 1300 55 9393

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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.