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

Last week saw the beginning of the 2005 HSC at the college. The work, effort and hours of study completed by students will culminate in a final HSC result in December. Our students were quite nervous as they approached the examinations, however, they can be sure that their efforts throughout Years 11 and 12 will give them the result that each deserves. Once again, I assure students in Year 12 that our thoughts and prayers are with them as they undertake their examinations.

The building program at the college has been making steady progress as the term continues. The concrete slabs for both buildings have been poured and the brick work has begun. The program itself is on schedule and should be completed by April 2006. At the completion of this stage, the college will have a full complement of classrooms (12 added in this stage) and a performing arts centre.

Last Friday, the college conducted a Mufti Day to raise funds for the Charitable Works Fund for the Archdiocese of Sydney. Through the generosity of students, we were able to raise $911 for charitable works. I thank all students for their contributions by entering into the spirit of the day.

Last week the college received acknowledgement from the Australian Government Department of Veterans’ Affairs with a Certificate of Participation in The Anzac Day Schools’ Awards 2005. This award was presented in recognition of our Anzac Day ceremony which took place this year. I, once again, thank Mrs Wilkins for her organisation of the ceremony and her willingness to keep the Anzac spirit alive in our students.

This ceremony provided our students with a great opportunity to recognise the valued contribution and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and servicewomen.

This week, the college conducted the first parent information session in relation to bringing up teenagers. Thirty four parents were in attendance. The evening provided a forum in which parents were able to discuss and share ideas in relation to adolescent issues. Often we, as parents, need to be reassured that our approach to our children is correct. This evening provided the attendees with such an opportunity.

Prior to the evening, I received a letter from a parent relating to her experiences in raising her children. This parent took time to acknowledge that one of the major factors in bringing up a child is instilling in them faith in their God. Parents also need a willingness to pray when things do get tough. Often, as parents, we do not have all of the answers, however, we should not be reluctant to trust in the power of prayer and the readiness of God to guide us.

Last week the election of senior leaders was conducted among Year 11 students and staff at the college. These positions of responsibility are major roles in the college as these students lead the student body. After a number of pastoral care periods were spent looking at leadership and getting to know other students in Year 11, the vote for 2006 College Leaders was conducted last Wednesday. I congratulate the College Captains for 2006 Lisa Nguyen and Marc Ghignone. I also congratulate the Senior Leadership Group; Keith Debono, Pat Napoletano, Matthew Hutchinson, Van Nguyen, Veronica Vella and Bianca Giubega.

These students have the confidence of both staff and students. I thank each of them for their willingness to accept these significant roles in our college.
This month represents the conclusion to the Year of the Eucharist. The Blessed Eucharist is central to our lives as Catholics and I encourage each person to continue recognising the significance of the Blessed Eucharist and to invite Christ into their lives whenever possible.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Saturday School of Community Languages

Students who are interested in studying their background language when it is not offered at the college, may apply to the Saturday School of Community Languages for a position in 2006.

Courses are available at Liverpool Boys High School and Liverpool Girls High School and commence in early February. These courses are Board Developed Courses and contribute to the School Certificate or Higher School Certificate.

Application forms can be collected from my office. They should be completed and signed, and returned to the college for the Principal's signature and mailing.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

Next Tuesday is All Saints Day. This is a time to celebrate the lives of those wonderful people who are exceptionally holy and virtuous (some may still be living). The following is offered for use on All Saints Day.

Dear Father,
You have given the saints in Heaven eternal happiness and they now live in the fullness of Your glory. Because of their holy love for You, they also care about our families, friends and the church. Thank You for the gift of their friendship and the witness of their holy lives. We ask our patron saints and every saint to intercede for us. We ask them to help us journey safely on the narrow path that leads to Heaven. O Lord, give us their protection. Grant us their assistance in overcoming temptation and gaining the fullness of life with You.
Amen.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

Parenting Corner

I had occasion recently to discuss students’ use of mobile phones in this age of technology, with several parents in the canteen. Obviously in many ways they are a blessing, an easy and instant form of communication and a safeguard for children when they are feeling insecure. No doubt there are many other positive attributes. The same can be said for e-mails, internet access, ipods, chat rooms and “bloggs”. These technological wonders have changed our life styles significantly in such a short time, and almost without us noticing the impact they are having on the lives of our children.

Such advances give young people a freedom that no other generation has experienced. It can also mean, that parents no longer have the control of the social, moral and emotional welfare of their children. Time spent on the mobile phone or computer becomes more important than time spent with the family. Language (hardly recognisable as literate) often borders on the rude and indecent in the extreme. Charity suffers and feelings are hurt without any consideration for truth and appropriateness. It seems that a whole new set of rules around the appropriate use (and non-use) of mobile phones and other accessible technology needs to be drawn up so that normal courtesy and good manners do not suffer.

I do encourage you, as parents, to take a genuine interest in the technology that is absorbing your children. Find out how they are using it and to the best of your ability, model an appropriate use. I realise this is no easy task and that it requires real vigilance on your part. I wish you well in this difficult endeavour.

Kind regards,
Br Colin

Year 12 Commence their HSC Courses

Year 12 (2006) students have now elected their pattern of study for the HSC year, and commenced their respective courses at the college. The first major assessment period will be in Week 9 this term and students have been strongly advised to begin planning their time and assessment commitments carefully to ensure they are able to perform to the best of their ability.
ArtExpress 2006

Congratulations to Cassandra Leigh of Year 12 Chisholm on her nomination for ArtExpress 2006. Cassandra’s work was called “Homage to the Cube” and was entered into sculpture for HSC examination. This work sees a series of five stacked perspex cubes, each one encasing a sheet metal mobile sculpture, increasing in complexity and sophistication in both craftsmanship and conceptual strength.

Miss C Molloy
CAPA Co-ordinator

Technology News

Year 10 Trial Computing Skills Test
A reminder that the practice computing skills test is now available on the college network. It is important that all Year 10 students access this practice test at least once before the 11th November to familiarise themselves with the computerised test.

Year 9 Food Technology

On Tuesday, 18th October, the Year 9 Food Technology class went on an excursion to the National Park for a Bush Food Tour at Bradley’s Head. The students were well behaved and learnt a lot from the experience.

Live 6

Hello everyone, yes we are back! Nathan and Van are giving a short critique to the Good Samaritan community on behalf of all the people involved with the Live 6 Concert.

Live 6 was a charity event hosted by the college in order to raise money for the chosen charities of the 6 Houses. While the talent and acts during the concert were great, the well dressed, handsome and extremely fashionable hosts were even better. (At least we think so).

There were various rock and pop items, which spanned across all year groups including soloists, bands and dancers. There were also acts by the staff. Due to time restrictions one of the staff acts was cancelled but you need not fear for we have been informed that there is a chance that there may be a Live 6 Encore in our midst.

Many thanks to all those involved, especially, the stunning and fabulous hosts, us.

Remember we put the cool in school. Peace out and stay tuned….  
Van & Nathan

Sydney Catholic Schools
Towards 2010 Strategic Leadership and Management Plan

This Plan was officially launched prior to the CASPA presentation, “Entertaining Angels”, last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The plan provides strategic direction for Catholic primary and regional secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney for the next five years. Parents wishing to access a copy of the plan should contact the college office.
National Construction Exhibition, Sydney Olympic Park, November 8-11, 2005

This trade only event will have a careers focus on Tuesday, November 8th to promote the construction and quarrying industries to school leavers. Students and parents will be able to speak directly with apprentices and employers. If interested, please see Mr. Berry as soon as possible to receive an invitation.

Tax Office Cadet Program

Work as a Pharmacy Assistant?
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is currently offering courses (7 working days) for people interested in working in pharmacies, covering aspects such as pharmacy operations, selling cosmetics and customer service. The cost is $595.00. Contact Rosa Sleiman at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch on 9467 7139.

Westmead Centre for Oral Health and Community Clinics Dental Assistant Traineeship Program
School leavers from Years 10 to 12, who have good communication skills, are sought for this program involving a two year traineeship. Please collect an information sheet if interested.

Position Vacant
P&H Jennings Heavy Machinery Glass Pty Ltd require a Junior Storeperson. Permanent position at Wetherill Park. Contact Tele: 9725 4774

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK
AT GOOD SAMARITAN

ABW is a prestigious program involving team work, risk taking and personal responsibility that will be conducted for all Year 10 students during the week of November 21 – 25 inclusive. This is a great week after the School Certificate examinations, when Year 10 students can display their individual entrepreneurial skills by making their team and company the best!

Parents are welcome to become involved too. We need presenters (how to make a presentation), mentors (no coaching involved, but a great opportunity to share the experience with a nice group of young people) and sponsors. If you can help out, please let me know. Many thanks,

Mr S Berry, Careers Adviser

Women’s Prayer Group
A new prayer group has commenced in the Good Shepherd Parish in preparation for Sundays’ Liturgy of the Word. This group is a branch of the “Christ’s” Catholic Community Group. The group will meet every Friday after the 9 am Mass in the Parish Meeting Room. Children are welcome. For further enquiries please contact Catrina Vella 0428 866 622.

Year 12 2006 Retreat

October 10th marked the beginning of our journey as Year 12, 2006. No better way to begin than going on retreat. Our day started with a 45 minute bus trip to the National Park, Sutherland, where the cohort was divided into two groups - our group went to Deer Park, the other to Rathane. The location complemented the theme of the retreat. The retreat began with some high energy games, followed by the “unpacking of our baggage” and the development of our sacred space, all before lunch. Most of us complained that all we seemed to be doing over the three days was eat!!

Highlight activities included: the Amazing race, photolanguage, banner making, reconciliation, trust activities, tile painting, the “God is” reflection, +3-3 statements, Eucharistic liturgy, the dinner where staff served the students, the “rose” reflection and finally, positive affirmations.

Special mention and thanks must be given to Fr. Pat Hurley, from Holy Spirit Parish at Carnes Hill, who gave up his time to come and celebrate the Eucharist with us on the second evening. Thank you to the following teachers who came to the Deer Park retreat - Mr Laming, Miss Schiller, Mrs Wilkins, Mrs Sayadi, Br. Colin, Miss Darmody and Mr Griffiths. They not only gave up their time with their families to attend, but they also set the tone of the retreat to be a friendly and relaxing atmosphere, which made it enjoyable for all.

On behalf of Year 12, a very big thankyou is extended to Mr Griffiths and Ms Foldes for all the time, energy, effort and organisation they put in behind the scenes to make this retreat a success. We also celebrated Mr Griffiths’ birthday on the Monday and hope he had a good day.

Bianca Ruzic, Year 12 2006

At Rathane, we had an awesome time. It also gave us a chance to bond with people in our grade that we had not spoken to before. The retreat it helped us become more focused on what lies ahead of us. Even though the grade was split into two groups at different camp sites, we spent the evenings together. This gave us a chance to reflect on what we had done during the days.

On the Tuesday night, we had a liturgy to celebrate and worship God. By the end of the retreat, we did not want to leave and go back to reality and the hard work of Year 12. We would like to thank the teachers at Rathane, Miss Benjamin, Mr Berry, Mr Costin, Ms Flocco, Ms Foldes and last, but not least Miss Molloy. Thanks for giving us this opportunity and your time.

Sarah Sampson, Year 12 2006
**Literacy Matters**

We do best what we do most. Reading is a skill like any other. It will improve with practice. Here are some astonishing facts from the SPELD (Specific Learning Difficulties) web page:


- Students who read 1 minute per day will read around 8,000 words per year
- Students who read 5 minutes per day will read around 300,000 words per year
- Students who read 20 minutes per day will read around 1.8 million words per year

Students who find reading difficult often find ways of avoiding it. The more they avoid it, the more difficult it becomes and so the cycle continues. Students need to be encouraged to break the cycle and open themselves to the improvements which will flow from more practice.

Teachers can teach the skill of reading to students of all ages but what they cannot compensate for is the lack of practice.

All students are encouraged to read every day as part of their homework schedule. This is an essential tool for building literacy skills.

Pam Williamson
Literacy Resource Co-ordinator

**MacKillop Can Drive**

During Term 3, MacKillop held a ‘Can Drive’ in order to support the Matthew Talbot Hostel at Woolloomooloo. Each PC was asked to donate a can of tinned food that could be used in food hampers for homeless men living in the inner city.

We are delighted to be able to report that the college was generous with donations and that the hostel came to collect the cans last week. We would like to thank everyone that showed compassion for these people and lived out the values of Mary MacKillop in seeing a need and trying to do something to offer assistance.

The ‘Can Drive’ will hopefully become an annual event at the college and we hope that people will remember the valuable nature of the donations. Thank you for your support.

The MacKillop House

**Year 10 Art Excursion**

On the 19th October, Ms Nash’s and Miss Foldes’ Year 10 art classes boarded the bus and set out on a journey to the Art Gallery of NSW. The purpose of the expedition was to view the artworks of one of the most celebrated, colourful and opinionated modern artists, Mrs Margaret Preston.

Born in 1875, she produced numerous paintings and prints in her lifetime. The AGNSW has now set up an exhibition in her name titled, “Art and Life”. The exhibition provided us with an opportunity to explore the art of still life in the form of print making.

After leaving the exhibition and eating lunch in the Domain, we spent the rest of the day visiting other areas of the Art Gallery. When the day had come to an end, we could each say that it was a very informative and interesting experience. It provided Year 10 Art with a first hand experience of viewing and understanding an artist’s work, something that could not be seen in a text book.

On behalf of the two Year 10 classes, we acknowledge Ms Armen and Ms Nash for their organisation and co-ordination of the day.

By: Joseph Boustany, Ashley Azzopardi & Amanda Vella

**Funding of Catholic Schools**

Financial assistance from governments

The Federal Government funds students in Catholic Parish and Regional Schools at 58% of the average cost of educating a student in government schools across Australia. The NSW State Government funds our students at about 25% of government school costs. The difference is made up by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.

**School Fees**

School fees are due by 21st November.

Please note, that Year 12 & 10 fees should be finalised before students sign out. As in past years, tickets for the Formals will not be issued until all financial accounts are finalised or arrangements are made for their payment with Mr Lo Cascio.

Mrs K Logue, Bursar

**Help…..**

The TAS department is in need of fabric scraps both cotton or poly cotton fabrics for textile projects.

If you can help - please leave fabric at college office.
Help for Teenagers with Anxiety and Depression

Do you know a teenager who is constantly:
- avoiding school, parties or unfamiliar social situations
- afraid of trying anything new
- worrying about anything and everything AND is often:
- unhappy and down on themselves?
- feeling hopeless or worthless?

About 1 in every 10 teenagers experiences anxiety at a level which causes them to have problems doing things. These problems make it difficult for them to perform well at school, often mean that they are very unwilling to try anything new, and can cause them to avoid everyday situations because they make them scared. They can also have problems with friendships. Up to a third of these teenagers will go on to experience lasting feelings of depression as well. Here, problems of low motivation and self-esteem can make normal functioning at school even harder, and can increase the risk of drug or alcohol abuse and suicide. These difficulties can make life frustrating for the whole family and can be very stressful and upsetting for parents.

Teenagers with these types of problems can be helped by learning how to manage worried thoughts, face things they are afraid of, and improve their mood. At the Macquarie University Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic, an innovative treatment program tailor-made for teenagers with anxiety and depression is currently being trialled. The program involves a weekly 2-hour session for 12 weeks for groups of 6 teenagers of similar age and with similar problems, in a family context. The cost is $350 (including a $150 bond), although concessions are made according to income.

If you know someone who may be suitable for the program, please contact the clinic directly on (02) 9850-8711. If you would like more information on the program, please contact Dr. Carolyn Schniering on (02) 9850-6741, or Prof Ron Rapee on (02) 9850-8032.

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

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 Fairfield City Council
Families Together invites parents to Puberty Blues
An introduction to adolescence
Presented by Petra Will-Heart
Parent Educator, Centre of Practical Parenting

“Puberty is when the parents are becoming strange”...a famous story by Mark Twain describes this process from an adolescent’s viewpoint.

This session aims to help parents cope better with the challenges of the teenage years and will focus on building a positive relationship with their teenager.

This talk will provide an overview of the developmental tasks of adolescence. Parents will hear about WHY the annoying incidents NEED to happen and that there is actually a reason behind seemingly senseless behaviour.

Conflict
Risk Taking Behaviour
Depression Awareness

Date: Thursday 27 October 2005
Time: 7-9.30 pm
Place: Greenfield Park Early Childhood Education Centre, 57 Devenish Street, Greenfield Park.
No Cost - Child Minding is available
For more information call 9724 7875

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- worried about school, parties or unfamiliar social situations
- worried about anything and everything AND is often:
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- feeling hopeless or worthless?

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