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

The last fortnight has been a time of celebration, both for what has been, and for hope for the future. Last week teachers, parents and students of Year 10 came together at Liverpool Catholic Club for the Year 10 Dinner Dance to celebrate the completion of Year 10 and the School Certificate. This was a joyful occasion for our community and, without doubt, the Year 10 students. They are definitely young people of whom we can be very proud.

It was also gratifying to see the number of staff who attended this evening. At a time when a great deal of marking is taking place and reports are being written, over 50 staff took time to be with Year 10 and their parents. I thank the students of Year 10 and their parents for a very enjoyable evening and I also acknowledge staff for their support of these young men and women.

I thank Miss Walker, staff and students involved in the organisation of this very special event.

It is fitting to also pay tribute to our 30 Year 10 school leavers who will enter the workforce or continue to study elsewhere. We ask God to bless them as they venture beyond Good Samaritan and we wish them every success in the future.

It is with sadness at the end of each year that we farewell staff who have become part of our community. As the year draws to a close so does their time with us. The following teachers will be leaving the college at the end of Term Four, Mrs Wilkins, Mrs Keppel, Mrs Rouse, Mr Fairbank, Mr Thomas, Mrs Nairn and Mr Horner. These people have made a significant contribution to the college with their care and concern for the students and their willingness to encourage students to strive to reach their potential.

Special mention should be made of Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Keppel in their leadership roles. Both have helped to shape the direction that the college has taken and certainly had considerable impact on their respective areas of leadership.

Mrs Flanagan and Miss Penava will also be leaving the college at the end of this year. Mrs Flanagan will be taking maternity leave for 2006 and Miss Penava will complete her temporary appointment. We look forward to Mrs Flanagan’s return in 2007.

I sincerely thank all of the teachers leaving for their support of the students of Good Samaritan Catholic College.

At last week’s Assembly, I had the pleasure of presenting a Gold Award to a very deserving student. Congratulations to Marnie Cooper, of Year 11, on the receipt of a Gold Award. This award is a result of Marnie’s commitment to all areas of school life, which has certainly been commendable. Well done to Marnie!

This is the final newsletter for 2005, a year in which the college has continued to establish its identity, develop and grow. This year has witnessed many challenges for individuals and the community in general.

The major challenge that has been issued to all of us throughout this year has been to “Aspire, not to have more, but to be more”. Many of our students have been prepared to take up this challenge in many areas and I am certainly proud of the number of students who continue to strive to do their best in all aspects of their lives. I pray that as each of us live out Advent, part of the personal preparation is related to being the best person that each can be in all aspects of life. In doing this, we will certainly enhance our lives and our relationships with others and with our God.
As we conclude the year I wish to thank parents for their support of the college and their sons and daughters. It is essential that we continue to promote a partnership that will enhance the education of the young people who attend Good Samaritan. I feel that we are very fortunate to have a parent body which displays so much interest in their children’s education.

Thank you to all the staff at Good Samaritan. The teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that students receive the best possible education that they are able to provide. I am indebted to the staff for their dedication and their continual selfless approach to the students.

Finally, thank you to the students. As a group these people are very welcoming and caring and certainly help to make Good Samaritan the wonderful college that it has become. They often strive to excel, and as a result, I am filled with pride when I consider the accomplishments of our student body.

I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and a safe holiday. I look forward to our association in 2006.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

For all those people who have no homes, no family and limited food. We ask you Lord, to reach out to them in a special way and assure them of your love and protection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The following reflection from my local parish newsletter encompasses the true meaning of Christmas.

A little child, a shining star
A stable crude, a door ajar
Yet in that place, so bare, forlorn,
The hope of all the world was born.

A holy and joyous Christmas to all.

Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator

**Year 10 Award Winners 2005**

**Academic Achievement**
- Joseph Boustany
- Kiara Mudie
- Christopher Sammut
- Amanda Vella
- Bianca Xerri

**Academic Effort**
- Georgina Agostino
- Daniel Camilleri
- Candace Cummings
- Joshua Kamalanes
- Andrew Papallo
- Dino Romeo
- Venessa Sposari

**Special Awards**
- Junior Creative & Performing Arts Award: Vanessa Pretila
- Junior Public Speaking & Debating Award: Joshua Kamalanes
- Junior Sports Award: Kayla Bittman & Reece Walker
- Ruben F Scarf Award: Jared Ingle

**Awaiting the Birth of Jesus**

In this the second week of Advent, it is important that we reflect on the importance of the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah “Like a branch that sprouts from a stump, someone from David’s family will someday be King. The spirit of the Lord will be with Him, to give Him understanding, wisdom and insight. He will be powerful and He will know and honour the Lord. This King won’t judge by appearances or listen to rumours. The poor and the needy will be treated with fairness and with justice.”

I often wonder during this season, when are we like branches on the tree of Jesus? When do we help the poor and needy people? When do we treat people with fairness and justice?

As part of our Christmas Hamper Drive, our students and families have made a tremendous effort to reach out and help those less fortunate than themselves. Our Christmas Hamper Appeal is doing extremely well and as I reflect on the above I am grateful to the Good Samaritan community for being that branch in Jesus’ family tree. Therefore, in a special way I ask you to pray;

This week an article about one of our students appeared in the Liverpool City Champion. This article was a cry for help. Gavin Role of Year 8 Merici needs a pump which provides insulin and keeps his diabetes under control. Without this pump Gavin faces the prospect of going blind by the time he is 20. (The cost of the new insulin pump is $8,000). The college has made a commitment to attempt to raise part of the money through fund raising, beginning with a Sausage Sizzle this week. Any other support for Gavin would certainly be appreciated by Gavin and his family.

If anyone would like to make a donation to Gavin’s appeal, this can be done by bringing the money to the college office and the donation will be passed onto Gavin and his family.

**Help Needed…**
For the past 5 years, Good Samaritan students have participated in the Liverpool Catholic Club Carols by Candlelight Massed Choir with Sister Elanore. This year, our students performed as a “special guest choir” and their chosen piece was “Joyful Joyful” from the film Sister Act II.

With the rain holding off for the first time in years, our students excelled themselves in an energetic performance lead by Renee Saliba, Henry Swann and Nicolle Viegas. Students accompanied their cheerful vocals with funky dance moves that entertained everyone in the audience, even the camels side of stage!

With the temptation just too irresistible, Miss Schiller, Miss Dangca and myself decided to jump up on stage as support for the students, or rather for our chance to be stars...but at the end of it all, it was the following students who stole the show.

Jennifer Awad, Kayla Arndell, Holly Chapple, Onella Hermis, Andrea Brocklehurst, Lana Ferreira, Courtney Worthington, Tara Eastaugh, Stephanie Frendo, Vanessa Pretila, Candace Cummings, Renee Salia, Nicole Viegas, Henry Swann, Aiden Ruiz, Brooke Nolan, Bianca Ruzic, Amy Craig, Melissa Mangala, Carla Severich.

Miss T Benjamin

End of 2005
Please note the following arrangements for the conclusion of 2005.

Thursday December 15
Period 1-4 will be conducted for Year 7, 8 and 9. This will be followed by the End of Year Mass and Award Presentation.
The Mass will begin at 1.15 pm.

Friday December 16
College Picnic at Stanwell Park. This is the final school day for students for 2005.

From Assistant Principal

Endeavour Book Orders
A reminder that these were due into the office by today 9th December. All students are required to have the nominated text books for the beginning of the school year. Orders can still be placed by contacting Endeavour directly but a late fee does apply.

Second-hand Book Market
This will take place on Tuesday 13th December. Students who wish to sell books are asked to bring them on the day, store them in their lockers and bring them to the quadrangle at lunchtime. Students who wish to buy books will need to have cash money and deal directly with those students selling books. Parents are asked to remind their children of the need to take care with any money they have on the day to purchase or from the sale of books. They are also reminded of the need to check the book lists carefully so that they only purchase the correct title and edition. If students manage to buy any of the text books second hand that they have ordered from Endeavour, they will be able to organise a refund when the books are delivered next year.

Parenting Corner

Dear Parents, it is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another year.

Hopefully it is a year where you feel that you have developed even more as a parent. Your children are a treasure, a gift given to you by God.

Use this holiday period to spend more time with them and learn to appreciate the “gift” they are. The greatest gifts you can give them this Christmas are your patience, your time and above all your love. They know that you love them but sometimes we need to express that love more fully in word and action for them to truly appreciate how precious they are in your eyes.

Have a happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for all your support during 2005. I look forward to further contact with you in 2006.

Br Colin

Technology News

Student Directories
As the school year comes to a close, students should begin clearing unwanted files from their student directories. Student directories have a 50mb limit and should only be used for school-based work.

Upcoming Events on Website
The college website will continue to be updated during the holidays. Please refer to our website about upcoming events for 2006.

Mr J Reyes
IT Co-ordinator
Congratulations Terrence Fernandez Year 12 Polding Who was named the “Liverpool Leader 2005 Sportstar” this week. Terrence was invited to attend a special dinner where he was awarded a medal and $500 prize. Joel McTaggart Year 7 Merici was also a finalist.

School Fees Reminder

2005 School Fees are now overdue. A reminder to all parents that it is college policy to withhold reports of those students whose fees are well in arrears.

If parents have difficulty meeting school fee commitments they should make an appointment to discuss this issue with Mr Lo Cascio.

Silver Awards - Recipients

Congratulations

Nhi Tran
Chantal Michael
Carlos Hafed
Matthew De Martin
Marjorie Buedo
Melissa Campisi
Ryan Evans
Adrian Rivas
Andrea Broklehurst
Kimberley Garvey

Careers News

Open Days

UNSW Infoday, 4 January 2006
UAC Course preferences can be changed or late applications made with late fee until midnight on February 2nd 2006. Infoday provides an opportunity for students who have applied and been accepted to attend campus tours and meet faculty members, as well as for students who may wish to change preferences to look things over.

APM Training Institute, Saturday, January 14th, 11 am - 3 pm located at 213 Miller Street, North Sydney, course advisers, lecturers and industry practitioners will be on hand to advise and answer questions.

St. Patricks Business College Cnr Devonshire & Riley Streets, Surrey Hills
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Presentations every hour. Campus tours, refreshments, just a short walk from Central Station. St. Patricks is a Business College with a Catholic ethos that has served the community for decades.

Apprenticeship
Local (Prestons) family run tool making company seeks an apprentice to start in 2006. Applicants from Year 10 or 12 may apply, must be good at maths and self motivated. If interested, write an application and hand this with your resume to Mr Berry as soon as possible.

Applying for jobs with the NSW Government
The state government employs thousands of people in a diverse range of occupations, from accountants and teachers to heavy vehicle mechanics and clerical staff. To apply for a job with the NSW government visit http://jobs.nsw.gov.au/content/HowToApply.html and follow the links.

Applying for jobs with the Australian Government
Visit http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/government/ and browse a selection of hundreds of positions with federal government departments. You may apply online, but be sure to read the policies on EEO, OH&S and employment procedures as government jobs, both state and federal, are very specific in the form in which applications must be made.

Congratulations to our graduating Year 10 and Year 12 students. Year 12 students can access their results from 6 am on Friday, December 16th from the UAC website www.uac.edu.au.

Mr S Berry
Careers Adviser
How are Catholic schools held accountable?

Catholic schools are no different from government schools when it comes to accountability. Because they receive funding from governments and from the community, they are required to provide information on how those funds are spent and on the effectiveness of the school system.

Catholic schools are regularly inspected and approved for registration and accreditation by the NSW Board of studies. The CEO, Sydney ensures that Catholic systemic schools comply with the registration and school standards criteria set by the NSW Board of Studies and the NSW Education Act (1990).

In 2004 the CEO, Sydney was subject to an external review as part of its ten year strategic planning process. The Strategic Management Plan for the next decade of management of Sydney Catholic systemic schools will be launched late this year.

Every year:

- Each Catholic school completes an Annual Financial Questionnaire for the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training. (These figures included Federal and State government grants received, other sources of income, and a detailed statement of expenditure).
- The CEO, Sydney audits all schools internally.
- An external agency audits the schools and the CEO. Currently the external auditor is Sothertons Chartered Accountants.
- All schools report to their local communities.

Uniform / Grooming Guidelines

All students have been issued with a copy of our college uniform and grooming expectations. It is important that all families familiarise themselves with this information before making any holiday purchases and hairstyles etc are organised.

Year 12 2005 Students are invited to a morning tea at school on Tuesday 20th December.
We are interested in your plans for next year, so come along at 10.30 am for a brief reunion!

MONDAY 12.12.05  T Golubic  N Carver
TUESDAY 13.12.05  G Gerrish  R Criteln
WEDNESDAY 14.12.05  R El-Zakhem  M Campisi  L Bakhos  L Napoletano
THURSDAY 15.12.05

Thank you to all the volunteers over the past year.
Your contribution has made the running of the canteen so much easier.
See you all in 2006 and have a good break.
Merry Christmas, Joan & Virginia