Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

There have been a number of events recently which have displayed wonderful community spirit and a willingness of students to use their talents and generosity while making a contribution to the college. The first instance of student support was reflected in the eagerness of so many students to involve themselves in the “College Clean Up Schools Campaign” on March 3rd. During lunch time on the day, 90 students led by the environmental group set about cleaning up the college and its surrounds. This was a true reflection of concern for the environment and others in the community. It is the hope of the college that this positive approach to the environment will extend beyond the college and that each person accepts a role in the stewardship of the environment.

On Monday March 6, the annual swimming carnival was conducted at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. The day was certainly one in which many students entered into the spirit by partaking in events or supporting others in their house. Congratulations to Merici House on winning the carnival. Thanks to Ms Sosimenko for the organisation of a most successful day. Thanks also to parents who were able to attend and offer their support on the day.

Recently there have been reports in the news media related to reporting student achievement and approaches to assessment which all schools need to adopt. At present the college is undergoing a review of approaches to assessment and the grades which are used both for assessment of student tasks and those which appear on reports. Over the next few weeks the staff will have input into the review. This review has been led by the Studies Co-ordinators’ group and has incorporated a great deal of research and information sharing. The new grades are being finalised and will be used on the interim reports at the end of Term One. An explanation of the grades will be included in coming newsletters. This will ensure that parents are fully aware of the meaning of these grades. Any feedback from parents will be most appreciated.

Last week Ms Williamson underwent major surgery and as a result of the surgery she will not return to the college until Term 2 at the earliest. I have assured Ms Williamson that she will certainly be in our prayers during her convalescence. I ask everyone to keep Ms Williamson and her family in your prayers during her absence.

This week I received news that Br Colin has finally been able to obtain a visa to work in Pakistan. Brother Colin left for Singapore last Sunday and arrived in Pakistan later in the week. He will return to Australia in six weeks to finalise visa arrangements after which time he will return to Pakistan for an extended period of time.

This week we farewell Mrs Jones who has worked at the college in the office and supporting the TAS Department. Mrs Jones will join the staff of All Saints Boys. We wish Mrs Jones all the best and thank her for her contribution to Good Samaritan.

The passage following was given to me by Mrs Eljed for use during Lent. This passage from Isaiah is a true reflection of what we should be doing during Lent. Rather than simply “giving up something” Lent should be about reaching out to others.

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
   to loose the bonds of injustice,
   to undo the thongs of the yoke,
   to let the oppressed go free,
   and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
   and bring the homeless poor into your house;
   when you see the naked, to cover them,
   and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
   and your healing shall spring up quickly;

Isaiah 58:6-8 (RSV)

God bless.

John Lo Cascio
Principal
Good Luck to
Joel McTaggart - Year 8 Merici

Joel is aiming to repeat his gold medal performance in the pool, and is looking to cement his place as one of Australia’s top divers. Joel is presently preparing for the Combined Catholic Colleges diving carnival this month, where he won gold last year, as well as the Australian age diving championships in Adelaide in April.

St Patrick - A Man Full of Conviction and Faith

Today we celebrate the life of St Patrick, a man who was steadfast in his love for God. He was jailed and sold as a slave. Saint Patrick arrived in Ireland on March 25, 433 and immediately began work teaching and preaching the Good News to the people of Ireland. He never once relinquished his vision for a Catholic Ireland. Patrick used the shamrock’s three leaves on one stem to explain the Trinity, and it has been associated with him and the Irish since that time.

Patrick converted chieftains, the family of the King, and many other pagans. Some of these people donated land and buildings to him for churches. God performed many miracles and healings through Saint Patrick, so that everyone could see the power and mercy of God. The sick were healed, the dead were raised, the lame could walk and many miraculous flows of water still fill wells today.

One of St Patrick’s lasting legacies was his ability to eloquently pray to God. His commitment to prayer and thanksgiving became the core of his faith and it is appropriate that his feast is celebrated during the time of Lent. Let us pray The Breastplate of St Patrick.

Christ be with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord, salvation is of Christ.
May your salvation be ever with us.
Amen

Mr K Griffiths
RE Co-ordinator

PARENT EVENING
“UNDERSTANDING TEENAGER’S STRESS”
We have had to postpone the parent evening planned for 28th March. The South Western Area Health Service is unable to supply a guest speaker for this date but hope to be able to do so later in the year when they have resolved their present staff shortages. We will let you know as soon as we have been able to organise an alternate date.

SICK STUDENTS
If a student becomes unwell during the day at school they are asked to let their current teacher know and to report to the office. A staff member will contact parents if it is considered necessary. Students are not to use mobile phones to call parents directly. There has been unnecessary confusion caused recently by students not following the above procedure. Parents are asked to discuss this procedure with their children, and ensure they know what to do should they become unwell. We also ask for parents’ assistance in keeping home children that are obviously unwell, and to keep us informed of any serious health issues their children have.

Mrs B Eljed, Assistant Principal

SNAP & ELLA TESTING

Last week Year 7 students participated in the English Language Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and the Second Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP) testing process. The tests are comprehensive tests of the literacy and numeracy skills of each student in Year 7. The results of the tests will provide important information about what each student can do, and will indicate where any student may need help.

The results and reports from the examinations will be sent to the school in June and will be used to support teaching and learning programs that will improve the literacy and/or numeracy achievements of our students. Reports giving results achieved by each student will also be distributed to parents.

Mr A Laming, Mathematics Co-ordinator

Schools’ Clean Up Day

On Friday the 10th of March our school participated in the Clean Up Schools’ Day. Many students and teachers got involved in the event. This occurrence took place at school during lunchtime. The areas cleaned up were the school grounds and surrounding areas, such as the creek and entrance of the school. More than 90 students from all grades attended in their own time to make the school a better place for everyone. Thank you to all students and teachers for your time and effort on this day.

Antionella Casuscelli
Swimming Carnival - 6 March 2006

Once again, the Good Samaritan Catholic College Annual Swimming Carnival was run under blue skies and warm weather. Throughout the day there were many good performances, both in and out of the pool. Below are the Individual Age Champions for 2006.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Piero Sanchez (Mackillop)</td>
<td>Alyssa Cook (Chisholm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jacob Zammit (La Salle)</td>
<td>Renee Cox (Merici)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gabriel Pisanu (Merici)</td>
<td>Lana Ferreira (De Paul)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Anthony Fedele (La Salle)</td>
<td>Vivian Phantharangsi (Merici)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jacob Zanetic (De Paul)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Jared Ingle (Merici)</td>
<td>Bianca McGrath (Chisholm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was great to see so many students participating in the different events and getting involved in the spirit of the day. This is easily reflected in the House Participation Point Score, which contributed to the overall point score at the end of the day. Below is the Participation Point Score Table:

- La Salle 198
- Merici 195
- Chisholm 164
- De Paul 149
- Mackillop 139
- Polding 115

Throughout the day there was a close battle for Champion House between La Salle and Merici, with the lead in the points score changing several times. At the end of the day, the magic of Merici prevailed. Below is the House Points Tally for 2006:

- Merici 608
- La Salle 583
- De Paul 466
- Chisholm 418
- Mackillop 376
- Polding 314

I congratulate the Champion Swimming House for 2006 and all those students who participated in the Southern Sydney Swimming Championships, which were held on Friday 10th March.

Miss D Sosimenko
Internal Sports Co-ordinator

Year 12 Textiles Excursion

On the 16th February 2006 the Year 12 Textiles class grabbed their trendy handbags and hit the road on a one day adventure to see the 2006 Major Textiles Project at Vaucluse House. The day was an enjoyable one where the girls took part in an informative and helpful lecture from a HSC Textiles Marker. They were also lucky enough to take part in a short drawing course where they learnt how to render and draw to industry standards. Vaucluse House is a beautiful historic building and the girls were able to take a quick tour. The day will help us with our future studies. We hope that future classes will enjoy it as much as we did.

(Van Nguyen)

It was an enjoyable day and getting to see all the major works and how professional some of them looked was very beneficial.

(Nicole Garzaniti)

This excursion allowed me to see some good ideas for my major work design. It was beneficial and an interesting excursion.

(Sandra Jajou)

It was a very helpful day and gave me lots of ideas for my major work.

(Cristina Iaconis)

A New Careers Library

The careers resources (pamphlets, UAC and TAFE course guides, job guides, assistance information etc.) have been moved from study room L6 in the library to the new glassed-in section to the left of the library front desk. The collection will be expanded in it’s new home to include publications such as The Good Universities Guides and other references to help students find the right information for making career decisions.

ATO Tax file number program update.

TFN application forms can be collected from and returned to Mr Berry and Mrs Kennedy, they are generally processed within 28 days by the Australian Tax Office (ATO). If a student loses their tax file number, is not sure whether they got one in the past or if the processing time has exceeded 28 days, he/she should call 13 28 61 and once identity has been proven, may receive the TFN over the phone.

Employees have 28 days to provide a TFN to employers after the commencement of employment, after this time employers are required to deduct income tax at a rate of 48.5% from wages. Further details are available from the ATO website www.ato.gov.au/youth.

Great internet sites for finding out about jobs and finding jobs

For Careers Advisers, the internet is like a giant supermarket with shelves stacked to the ceiling. If you don’t know exactly what you want or where to find it, the search can be time consuming and frustrating. That’s where these sites may be handy to use either as a starter, or to find a solution:

- Jobjuice – a site set up for school leavers to find out about how to decide upon, apply and compete for jobs. It even includes a resume builder at http://www.jobjuice.gov.au.
- Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST) for school leavers, this site provides links to many others, whether you’re looking for information or advice about jobs or services available http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/career_development/audience_segments/for_school_leavers.htm.
- Yahoo careers Seek site has links to career resources, job search and application and even jobs in the U.K. Visit http://yahoocareers.seek.com.au/
The College does not tolerate bullying of any kind. The College approach to bullying is included below for the information of parents and students.

At Good Samaritan Catholic College all members of the College community are committed to ensuring a Christian, safe and caring environment, which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem for all. All students have rights and responsibilities and it is important the community works towards a common goal. The College does not tolerate bullying in any form.

Definition

Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another. It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion; it is an abuse of power: it can be planned and organised or it may be unintentional; individuals or groups maybe involved.

Examples of Bullying

- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing, spitting;
- Interfering with property by hiding, damaging, stealing and destroying;
- Offensive language, teasing, rumours, regarding individuals, groups, and family;
- Belittling other abilities and/or achievements;
- Offensive notes, writing, graffiti about others;
- E-mails, phone calls, text messages and anonymous letters;
- Degrad ing comments regarding another’s culture, religious or social background;
- Hurtful exclusion from groups;
- Suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse;
- Ridiculing another’s appearance;
- Forcing others to act against their will by any means.

Combating Bullying

- Anti-bullying programmes are part of the College’s Pastoral Care Programme;
- All members of the College community are encouraged to respect each other’s individual rights, in particular the right to feel safe and to learn in a safe environment;
- Any reports of bullying are investigated and action taken if appropriate;
- Students are encouraged to report incidents of bullying to their Year Co-ordinator or to a staff member;
- Parents are encouraged to reinforce the fact that bullying is not acceptable in any form. They should inform the College of any incidents of bullying or encourage their son/daughter to inform the appropriate persons at the College.

Good Samaritan Catholic College - 17th March 2006
Scholarships, Internships and Cadetships
Several of Australia’s largest employers offer graduates and undergraduates the opportunity to gain experience and income while they study. These include government departments, large accounting firms such as KPMG, manufacturing companies such as Bluescope Steel and many smaller enterprises. Internships involve working part-time for a company whilst studying, whilst cadetships usually involve release time from work to undertake studies. Search for options and scholarships at http://www.myfuture.edu.au/ or at http://www.wetfeet.com/.

Stephen Berry, Careers Adviser

TAS DEPARTMENT
IS IN NEED OF MAGAZINES...
If you have any magazines that you no longer need, we would be grateful if you could drop them off at the college office.

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Southern Region Parent Meeting
ATTENTION PARENTS IN ROLES OF RESPONSIBILITY IN A SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION
You are invited to spend an evening working through your individual roles with other parents from other schools 7.30 to 9 pm
Wednesday March 22 at the Catholic Education Office, 300 The River Road, Revesby Heights
Register by Fax back to CEO on 9772 7009 or Phone 9772 7000

Retrouvaille……REDISCOVERY
Retrouvaille is a program for marriages in difficulty.
The program concentrates on couples who are:
• Frustrated, hurt or angry with each other
• Constantly arguing or fighting
• Have given up on talking their problems out
• Feel cold, alone or distant
• Thinking about separation or divorce
If you do not know how to change or where to turn, Retrouvaille can help. Our next Program commences 24-26 March 2006.
For further confidential enquiries or information, please call. Sydney 02 9529 1496 Wollongong 02 4295 6860 Canberra 02 6291 6260

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The Uniform Shop will be open from 7.30 am to 8.30 am
On every second Tuesday - the shop will also be available for students at lunchtime and for parents from 12.20 pm - 3.45 pm

MONDAY 20.03.06 TUESDAY 21.03.06 WEDNESDAY 22.03.06 THURSDAY 23.03.06 FRIDAY 24.03.06
T Brown D Beazley R El-Zakhem L Vella S Orellana
T Cox M Campisi C Smith W Whitehouse
M Wright J Roccisano N Michael

MONDAY 27.03.06 TUESDAY 28.03.06 WEDNESDAY 29.03.06 THURSDAY 30.03.06 FRIDAY 31.03.06
L Versi M Lupica D Ingle S Koutroubas
N Tummarello K McGee T Pontifex V McTaggart
J Colley

THE CANTEEN DOES NOT ACCEPT $50 NOTES. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF STUDENTS COULD HAVE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OR SMALL CURRENCY 10¢ 20¢ 50¢