Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Welcome back to Semester Two. This week it was with much excitement that staff and students finally moved into the new buildings. The college now has access to classrooms and a performing arts centre second to none. Once again I acknowledge the financial support given to the building project, since 1998, by the Federal and State Governments as well as the Catholic Education Office and our local parishes without whom the project would not have been possible. As a result of the completion of construction the college will conduct the Official Blessing and Opening of the buildings on Good Samaritan Day towards the end of this term. This is a celebration for our whole community and I take this opportunity to invite everyone to attend on September 22nd.

In order to facilitate a smooth movement into the new buildings the college conducted a working bee last Saturday. Over forty staff, students and parents gave up their time to ensure that we could begin using the new buildings last Monday. I thank those people for their contribution to our college.

This week the college community joined together for the first assembly of the term. As part of this assembly we took time to recognise NAIDOC Week. This provided us with an opportunity to appreciate indigenous Australians and their contribution to this wonderful country. The theme for NAIDOC Week this year is “Respect the past and believe in the future”. This is certainly a pertinent message for everyone in our community and especially students at the college as we begin Semester Two. As we respect the past we can gain many insights from the experiences both positive and negative. This is relevant for our students as they reflect on the past term. I encourage those students who have excelled to be proud of their efforts and those who are capable of better to look to the future with belief in themselves and a recognition of the hope that the future holds. Recently a number of students have excelled in areas beyond the college and their efforts are acknowledged later in this newsletter.

Recently the college has received very positive reports in relation to student behaviour. Some examples include students on a Legal Studies excursion, students on the Year 10 Excursion to Canberra and a number of student interactions outside the college. These reports are very pleasing to hear especially when many young people in the community are so often criticised due to poor behaviour. I acknowledge these students for their efforts to promote the good name of the college. I also remind the student body that a good name requires hard work on behalf of all students and it does not take a great deal to destroy this good name. As the new semester begins I remind all students and parents of the college expectations in relation to behaviour and presentation. If anyone is unsure of these expectations they can find this information in the college diary. I also remind students that this term the college expects that the wearing of sports uniform reaches a much higher standard, which is more in keeping with college expectations. If this does not occur the college will revert to the previous practice of students wearing college uniform to school and changing when they are involved in PDHPE.

This term the college welcomes the following: Mr Tom Bagot (replacing Mrs Burney), Mrs Tania Golubic (replacing Mrs Stivala) and Mrs Michelle Halpin (replacing Mrs Arora) who have joined the staff.

Yesterday 20th July was two years to the day from the beginning of World Youth Day in 2008. I have included the World Youth Day Prayer in this newsletter for everyone to pray in the lead up to World Youth Day over the next 2 years.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal
A Prayer for World Youth Day 2008

God Our Father,
we consecrate to you the World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.
Guide and protect Pope Benedict and all the leaders of the Church
Inspire and direct all those leading and planning the World Youth Day. Unite and protect them by your fatherly care. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
before you ascended to the Father, you promised to send your Holy Spirit so that we might be your witnesses to the end of the earth.
Bless and multiply the efforts of all our staff and volunteers.
Help us to take up our cross and follow you under the heavenly sign of the Southern Cross. Amen

Holy Spirit,
pour out your grace on this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit and grant to us a New Pentecost.
Make of this land a true place of welcome for the young people of the world.
Grant to those young people who come conversion of life, a deeper faith, and love for all.
Enable them to build a new civilisation of life, love and truth.
Make them true witnesses to your power and grace. Amen

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,
Help of Christians - pray for us,
Blessed Mary MacKillop - pray for us.

Staff Retreat

On the last day of Term Two the college staff was involved in a staff retreat. This retreat was facilitated by Ms Christine Carlton and it focused on promoting the Good Samaritan Community while allowing individual staff to concentrate on their own spirituality. These days are essential in Catholic schools as they provide staff with an opportunity to develop their faith which in turn provides students with enhanced opportunities to develop their own faith.

Congratulations to
Students for Excellence

At the end of last term Bianca McGrath was presented with the Pierre de Coubertin award for excellence in sport. This award is intended to reward elite performance and to recognise students who, through their participation in sport, demonstrate the attributes of fair play and respect for others. Well done Bianca!

Congratulations to the following:
The College Dance Squad which achieved first place in Intermediate and Senior Jazz and second place in Junior Jazz and Tap. The Senior Girls Soccer Team and Intermediate Boys Soccer Team who won their respective representative competitions. The Junior and

Senior Boys Soccer Teams which were narrowly defeated in their grand finals after gallant performances.

I would also like to acknowledge a number of outstanding performances outside the college.

Julia Gonnano who became national under 16 Years Champion at the National Judo Championships in Perth recently. Taliesha Beaver was placed Third in her weight division.

Terrence Fernandes became the Australian Junior (U51 kg) and Senior Champion (U54 kg) in Tae Kwon Do at recent titles. Terrence may be the first male athlete to hold these titles simultaneously. Terrence has now been selected for the team to go to the “World Cup” in Thailand in September this year.

Joel Mc Taggart finished fourth in platform, fifth in the springboard and tenth in the one metre diving events in the 14/15 years division. Joel also won gold at the CCC Championships, two gold medals at the All Schools Championships, two gold medals at NSW Inter Clubs Titles and three gold medals at the NSW State Age Championships. Joel also received a School Sport Australia Sportsmanship Award.

Recently auditions were held for students across the archdiocese for the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Troupe which will perform later this year. Obviously this is for students of considerable talent and commitment. Numbers chosen for the performance are limited, however, five students from Good Samaritan were chosen for extra tuition in their chosen area. Congratulations to Jessica Arapi, Paige Jeffrey, Phillip Do, Nicolle Viegas and Anthony Endravian. Jessica, Paige and Nicolle were chosen to perform at the Convention Centre at Darling Harbour later in the year.

Senior Study Skills Evening

Last Tuesday, the college conducted an evening for parents of senior students. The focus of this evening being on stress faced by senior students. This evening hopefully provided parents with an opportunity to better understand and support their daughters and sons through their senior studies. It is hoped that similar evenings will be conducted in the future.

SNAP and ELLA Results

This week parents of Year 7 students will receive the results of the ELLA and SNAP tests in literacy and numeracy respectively. A very close analysis of these results will be conducted by the college which will allow support for students where appropriate.
From the Assistant Principal

Silver Awards
Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Silver Awards at this week's assembly.
Jennifer Awad
Linda Boahene
Christopher Boissezon
Megan Brown
Alyssa Suyko
Chantelle Monjo
Sandra Waga

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
A reminder that these are taking place for students in Years 7, 8 & 9 during Weeks 2 & 3.

Tuesday 25th July 1.30 pm - 8 pm
Students in MacKillop, Merici and Polding

Monday 31st July 1.30 pm - 8 pm
Students in Chisholm, De Paul and La Salle

Students should be booking interview times with their teachers.

Mrs B Eljed
Assistant Principal

Under 14 Boys Representative Soccer

The students in the under 14 boys soccer team are to be congratulated on their efforts this season. The team performed extremely well and managed to end the season undefeated Minor Premiers.

The semi finals saw a continuation of an unbeaten record defeating Revesby 1-0. However, the Grand Final saw a change of luck and the team was defeated 2-1 by Penshurst. The final few moments of the game were nail biting as the ball deflected once off the upright and once off the crossbar both off the boot of Michael Pirello.

The team members are to be congratulated on their effort and each student proved to be an excellent ambassador for the college.

Mrs C Celea, Team Coach

Special Provisions for 2007

If your child will be completing the School Certificate/Higher School Certificate Examination during 2007, he/she may be eligible for Special Provisions for these examinations. Special Provisions are voluntary and aim to give practical support to students in examinations.

These provisions may be obtained for the following reasons:
- Physical conditions
- Visual impairment
- Hearing loss
- Difficulty reading, eg slow, not understanding, difficulty decoding words
- Difficulty writing, eg slow writing, illegible handwriting, poor spelling

If you would like a sheet that will provide more information about Special Provisions or you wish to discuss the possibility of your child making an application for Special Provisions please call the school and ask for Mrs Skuja (Special Needs Teacher)

Representative Dance

On Friday 23rd June the GSCC Dance Troupe travelled to All Saints Junior Campus for the SCC Dance Competition. The girls had a great day and performed fantastically in five categories: Junior Jazz, Intermediate, Jazz, Senior Jazz, Top and Judges Choice. We managed to take out four placings; first place in Intermediate and Senior Jazz and second place in Junior Jazz and Tap. Our college placed third overall on the day, which was a brilliant effort considering we did not participate in all categories.

A special thanks goes to Reiko Aguilar and Paige Jeffrey for choreographing dances. The girls were commended by various people for their outstanding conduct and behaviour.
Well done!
**INVITATION**

The Celebration’s Committee for the Great Pilgrimage to St Mary’s Cathedral invites all the migrants who have an Italian background living in the Sydney area to join Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, to celebrate and renew the commitment and consecration to Madonna “Pellegrina”:

**Mass and Procession**

Sunday 20th August at 2 pm

*Further enquiries contact 9799 1251*

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**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
- Feeling cold, alone or distant
- Thinking about separation or divorce.

If you do not know how to change or where to run, Retrouvaille can help. Our next Program commences 4-6 August 2006. For further confidential enquiries or information, please call Sydney 9520 1496.

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**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

The Uniform Shop will be open from

**7.30 am to 8.30 am**

Monday to Thursday

On 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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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **25th July**
  - Years 7, 8 & 9 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
  - Mackillop, Merici and Polding
- **26th July**
  - Year 11 Physics Excursion
- **27th July**
  - Australian Mathematics Competition
  - 31st July
  - HSC Trials Start
  - Years 7, 8 & 9 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
  - Chisholm, De Paul and La Salle
- **1st August**
  - Year 11 PC Excursion
  - Year 7 English Incursion
- **8th August**
  - Year 9 Retreat / Science excursion
- **9th August**
  - Year 9 Retreat / Science excursion
  - Year 10 Driving Excursion
  - Year 11 2007 Information Night
- **14th August**
  - Pupil Free Day

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**RAFFLE**

Ex Marist Mothers’ Association North Sydney together with Berne Education Centre Lewisham Helping Kids at Risk

Tickets are available from college office with all proceeds going to the Berne Education Centre at Lewisham

- **1st Prize**: A Weekend Package for 4 People at Swiss Grand Hotel Bondi
- **2nd Prize**: A Weekend Package for 2 People at Novotel Hotel Sydney
- **3rd Prize**: Mid Week Get-Away for 2 People at Briars Historic Inn, Bowral
- **4th Prize**: 1 dozen Bottles Wine
- **5th Prize**: Dinner for 2 at PJ Gallagher Irish Pub, Drummoyne
- **6th Prize**: A Family Pass to Zig Zag Railway

To be drawn on 18th August 2006

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

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