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

Today the college celebrated the 2006 Opening Mass. This was an opportunity for the community to come together to begin the year in prayer, welcome new students and staff and to present our leaders to the student body. The celebration of the Eucharist and the presentation of Bibles to new students reinforce the fact that, as a school, we value our faith which is central to all that we do at Good Samaritan Catholic College.

During Mass, the following students received their leadership badges and a blessing from Fr Pat and Fr Anthony. Each student is to be congratulated on being elected to represent his/her peers during 2006 in the Student Representative Council. This role is certainly a demanding role if students are willing to commit themselves to the task. I thank these young men and women for accepting the challenge. Congratulations to the following leaders;

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College Captains
Lisa Nguyen and Marc Ghignone

Senior Representatives
Bianca Giubega, Van Nguyen, Veronica Vella, Keith Debono, Matthew Hutchison and Pat Napoletano

Year 11
Amy-Lee Wulf and Joshua Kamalaneson

Year 10
Juliette Iaconis and Matthew Alverne

Year 9
Luen Samonte and Ashleigh Pontifex

Year 8
Louise Doculara and Ryan Evans

Year 7 representatives will be elected at the Year 7 Camp

Over the past two weeks there have been two occasions to offer information to parents and to welcome them to the college. Last week, Year 11 were given information on the Preliminary HSC and this week, the College conducted our annual welcome to Year 7 parents. It was certainly gratifying to see the number of parents who were in attendance and their genuine desire to support their education. At each of these evenings I took the opportunity to stress the important role that parents have in their child’s education. I also stressed the significance of the partnership, between parents and teachers, in young people’s schooling.

Early in the year it is important to reinforce the need for parents and staff at the college to work together in partnership in order to enhance the development of those in our care.

One way to ensure the success of this partnership is via meaningful communication between staff and parents. Teachers are aware of the importance of communication and will make every effort to keep parents informed of student progress via the diary, in writing or with a phone call. I also encourage parents to communicate with the college on any issues that may be of concern. The above forms of communication are readily available and a useful means of keeping both parties informed.

Another area of parental involvement in the college is the Parent Groups. These were established during 2005. The role of these groups is to allow parent involvement in the College wherever they feel comfortable. The four groups are “Pastoral Care”, “Curriculum”, “Maintenance” and “Fund Raising and Function Support”. Any support in these areas would certainly be appreciated and allow increased parental involvement. Nomination forms are included in this newsletter and should be returned to the College Office by Friday 24th of February.

Last Friday the staff and students of the college came together at an assembly to farewell Br Colin, who will leave for Pakistan later in February. Br Colin has been very much part of the college community at Good Samaritan since it began in 1999.
It has been Br Colin’s task to welcome new students to the college and he has done this by conducting interviews with each of these students. Br Colin also provided much needed counselling support to our community whether it be for students, staff or parents. Clearly Br Colin will be missed as he takes up the call to lead the De La Salle Community in Pakistan and, as such, continue his ministry of service to God in another part of the world.

I assured Br Colin that he would remain in our prayers during his absence and I know that he would be comforted by that fact. He is truly living the college 2006 theme “Let your light shine”. I conclude with a prayer that was included in the assembly last week.

“Lord, you have inspired our friend and companion, Br Colin, to follow Christ more closely. Continue to bestow your blessings on Br Colin as he walks the new journey you have planned for him in Pakistan. May you always watch over him, so he may be able to offer you the perfect gift of his loving service. We ask this through Lord Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.” Amen

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio, Principal

Looking Ahead to Lent

As we look ahead to Lent we need to take time to review our lives and in particular the importance of the Gospel message of Christ. Lent has many traditions. We notice the purple colour in our churches and frequently hear the call to pray, fast and to give alms.

Here at the College we encourage the students to pray, as this allows them to become closer to their God. During Lent, which commences on Ash Wednesday, March 1, let us try to become more prayerful, to make our lives simpler and to share what we have with those who are in need.

Let us pray
Merciful God, tenderly guide us through this Lenten season. May the ashes we will wear strengthen us to more closely follow the words of the risen Lord. May Christ strengthen our faith and guide our thoughts and actions through the forty days of Lent and beyond. Amen

Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator

Gavin Role Foundation

At the end of 2005, the college collected funds for Gavin Role in order to purchase an insulin pump. This pump will allow Gavin to function in a manner which will not see him continually being admitted to hospital. The pump will also ensure that Gavin’s sight will not be affected by his diabetes.

Thank you to all those who supported the fund-raising venture especially those very generous individuals and families who made significant donations. The College was able to raise over $1,800 which has been presented to Mrs Role.

Since the beginning of this campaign Gavin has been able to purchase the pump with the aid of The Children’s Hospital. The Hospital has now set up Diabetes Insulin Pump Program to support the purchase of Gavin’s equipment and to purchase equipment for diabetics in the same situation as Gavin. A fundraiser for the foundation will be conducted in the near future. The college Newsletter will contain more details as the date approaches.

Year 7 Vaccinations

Parents will shortly receive a pack giving information about the vaccinations which will be offered by the South Western Sydney Area Health Service to our Year 7 students on Tuesday March 14th. Please ensure that you read all information carefully and have the consent forms returned to the college by the 3rd March.

College Photos

Individual portraits and pastoral class photos will be taken on Monday 20th February. Students have been issued with personalised envelopes that they must give directly to the photographers on the day. Parents are asked to help by checking that students have their uniforms clean and tidy for the day. All students are to wear their summer uniform. If they have a practical sport lesson they will need to bring their sports clothes and change during the day. All students are asked to check that their shoes are polished. Girls will be expected to have long hair tied back. There will be an opportunity for family group photos to be taken at lunchtime. The cost of these photos is $16 and special envelopes are available from the office.

Traffic Congestion

We continue to experience difficulties with traffic congestion at Good Samaritan in both the morning and afternoon period. We are working with the Council, RTA and Police in trying to manage the situation safely. The majority of our students do arrive by bus, and therefore it is necessary that we get the buses in and out of the college quickly and safely. The buses have commitments to carry students to other schools after their Good Samaritan routes and are very concerned about the present delays they are experiencing. We ask that, if possible, students travel to school by bus rather than being driven by parents, thus reducing the number of cars. If parents must drive students we ask you to consider a drop off/pick up away from the college and allow students to walk a short distance.

In the afternoons we ask that parents delay their arrival until after 3.10 pm by which time the buses will have departed. In the morning we also ask parents to stagger their drop off time and if possible avoid coming after 8.10 am when most of the buses are arriving. Parents should follow the directions of staff who are on duty and trying to manage the situation. We are trialling directing some of the morning traffic into the bus bay turning circle to keep the traffic from blocking the roundabout. Drivers should watch for staff and assist by following their directions.
School Certificate Assessment Information Evening

Parents will soon be receiving a letter regarding this evening to be held on Wednesday, March 1, commencing at 7pm. A representative from the Board of Studies will provide valuable information regarding School Certificate assessment and reporting. Students will be provided with their School Certificate Assessment Handbooks which outline procedures at Good Samaritan and assessment tasks due throughout the year. It is expected that all students, as well as at least one of their parents or carers, attend the evening.

Board of Studies Website

This is a reminder to students and parents that this website provides important dates and events that are occurring throughout the year. There is also a section to assist parents who may have questions regarding examinations, study or links to other sites. Past HSC and School Certificate papers are also at this site and assist students in identifying the types of questions and the areas of study covered.

Use of Diary

Parents and students are reminded of the resources to be found at the front of the college diary. There are guidelines to support students in preparing assessment tasks and planning homework and study. There is also a “Glossary of Key Words” which helps students in their understanding of what examination questions are asking students to do and the type of answers expected.

Mrs C Peterson
Curriculum Co-ordinator

Good Samaritan Catholic College
2006 Parent Group Nomination Form

The college has four groups in which parents are able to be involved. These groups focus on a different area of college life. Any parent support in one of these areas would certainly be appreciated.

The groups are as follows:
- Pastoral Care
- Curriculum
- Fund Raising and Function Support
- Maintenance Group

I ______________________________________________ nominate myself to be a member of the

Name

_______________________________________ Parent Group __________________________ Contact Number

My child is ___________________________ of Pastoral Care Class __________________________

(Please return to the college office by Friday 24th February 2006).

Sister Marjorie Carroll

It is my privilege this year to be a part of this wonderful Good Samaritan Community. My name is Marjorie Carroll and I have been an Ursuline Sister since 1957! The Ursulines were founded by St Angela Merici, way back in 1535 and we, her followers, are pleased her charism is alive and well at Good Samaritan. I am a Pastoral Associate at Good Shepherd Parish and my role is to liaise between the parish and school community. At present I am interviewing all the new Year 7 students. It is gratifying to share their initial excitement, interest and enthusiasm. If I can be of help in any way do not hesitate to contact me at the Parish or School office.
This year, the college has made several changes to the organisation and procedures to Thursday afternoon internal sport. One of the main ideas behind these changes is to adopt a plan that gives students experience in a wide variety of competitive and recreational sports throughout the year. It is planned that every student in the college will have spent several weeks at each of the internal sports that the college has to offer by the end of the year.

To accomplish this, one of the major changes to sport is that students will be placed into mixed year sport groups. These groups will then travel together for a term and participate in several pre-determined sports. The groups will change each term, allowing for those students who compete in the college representative teams to be placed into, or be removed from, internal sport groups. One of the advantages of these changes is that those students who compete in the college representative teams will still have the opportunity to participate in some of the more popular internal sports the college has to offer. The sport allocation for term one is as follows:

**Term 1**
- **Year 7**
  - House Sports, Girls Netball, Boys Soccer/Touch

**Years 8 & 9**
- Ice Skating, Walking, Golf, Bowling (Liverpool), Tennis, Jazzercise, Basketball

**Years 10 & 11**
- Bowling (Wetherill Park), Squashlands Gym, Network Gaming, Gym LCC, Indoor Soccer (Liverpool), Self Defence, Table Tennis

**Miss D Sosimenko**
Internal Sports Co-ordinator

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### 2006 Seasons of Growth Program

Calling for Participants

“Seasons for Growth” is a national pastoral care program designed for students who are experiencing and trying to cope with many changes in their lives, attributed largely to grief and loss. Good Samaritan has been fortunate enough to have facilitated this program over the last five years. The “Seasons for Growth” program uses the analogy of the seasons – autumn, winter, spring and summer – to work through the cycle of grief and loss and runs for approximately 8 sessions (or 4 double sessions).

The program operates within a small group setting. These small groups draw together students who are experiencing similar types of grief and loss issues, for example, the death of a close relative or parental separation or divorce. Each session is facilitated within the confines of a safe, trustworthy and confidential environment and will be held in either Mrs Halpin’s or Sr Marj’s office during school hours. The program is facilitated by trained staff members.

Previous students who have completed the program have felt assured knowing there are other students out there who are experiencing similar difficulties and have gained a lot out of the “Seasons” program. The members within the small group provide a support network for each other, in being open to discuss their feelings about their experience of grief and loss and often suggest to each other strategies to help them cope during these difficult experiences.

Students, who might be in the situation where they have experienced grief and loss as mentioned above, are strongly encouraged to volunteer to participate in the program. However, nobody is forced to participate.

If students have been contemplating wanting to join the program, or think this may benefit their child and would like to find out more information, please see Miss Darmody or Mrs Halpin to pick up a brochure or phone the College office to speak with Miss Darmody. More information can also be found at the website: [www.goodgrief.aust.com](http://www.goodgrief.aust.com)

Students wishing to participate require parental/guardian permission. Please fill out the permission slip below and return it to Miss Darmody by Week 5 – Friday, 3rd March, 2006.

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### Permission Note

Student’s Name: ___________________________________________ Year: __________________

I/We give my son/daughter permission to participate in the “Seasons for Growth” program to commence at Good Samaritan Catholic College during Term 1 and 2, 2006.

Signed: ____________________________ Parent/Guardian Date: ________________
The College Social Justice group is planning its first event for 2006. As a way of launching Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion campaign the group will be cooking and selling pancakes on 28th February. This year’s Project Compassion theme is Compassion in Action. This fits in with our College theme for the year as the students at Good Samaritan can shine a light on disadvantage and injustice in our world. Project Compassion provides a practical way for us to participate in the great work that Caritas does around the world and so make the world a more just place. For more information on Project Compassion go to www.caritas.org.au. Remember to bring your money with you on 28th February and support a great cause.

Mr C Zuman

Shrove Tuesday

The College Social Justice group is planning its first event for 2006. As a way of launching Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion campaign the group will be cooking and selling pancakes on 28th February. This year's Project Compassion theme is Compassion in Action. This fits in with our College theme for the year as the students at Good Samaritan can shine a light on disadvantage and injustice in our world. Project Compassion provides a practical way for us to participate in the great work that Caritas does around the world and so make the world a more just place. For more information on Project Compassion go to www.caritas.org.au. Remember to bring your money with you on 28th February and support a great cause.

Mr C Zuman

How to Help Your Teenager with an Assessment Task

Below is a quick checklist that may assist you to help your son or daughter successfully complete assignment and assessment tasks:

- Check that the due date for the task has been written in the diary.
- Read through the task together carefully and highlight key words and phrases.
- Make sure that the key words and questions are understood.
- Help make a nightly plan in order to complete before due date.
- Remind the student to look for a variety of sources for information, text books, teacher handouts, notes in exercise books, books from the library and the internet.
- Suggest making a draft copy and assist with editing the piece of work.
- If a text type scaffold is required and the student is not sure, check the school diary on pages 16 to 20.
- Use spell check when word processing.
- If any problems arise at any step in the process please access help by seeing the subject teacher or going to “Out of Class Help”.

Learning Support Team
Youth Off The Streets, has been using Op Shops to raise funds to carry out our work with kids since 1999 and opening their 8th shop this week, the first in the Sydney area at:

Fr Riley’s Op Shop
632 Hume Highway, Casula

They are looking for volunteers to work and ultimately run the shop as well as customers. Volunteers required of all ages, no experience needed, just a willingness to help raise money to support Fr Chris Riley in his work. For sale are all types of goods, clothes, linen, furniture, kitchenware, all in good condition. Needed are people for picking and delivery of goods, sorters, shelf stackers, shop assistants and sales people. Come alone or get a group together, all are welcome.

Anyone who is interested please call the shop:

Monday 20 February
School Photos

Tuesday 21st February
College Assembly

Wednesday 1st March
Ash Wednesday

Monday 6 March
GSCC Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 7 March
Year 7 ELLA Testing

Thursday 9 March
Year 7 SNAP Testing

Friday 10 March
SS CCC Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 14 March
College Assembly
Year 7 Vaccinations

Friday 17 March
St Patrick’s Day

Want to have a great time and meet people just like you?
You are invited to the first Liverpool Antioch Weekend for 2006.
Antioch is run by youth for youth! It is a great chance to meet new people, make new friends and find out a bit more about yourself, God and others your age.

Where: All Saints Senior High School
When: 3rd to 5th March 2006
Time: Friday 7 pm to Sunday 9.30 pm

Come along for an awesome weekend of music, games and fun.
For more information please contact:
Sarah Coppola: 9822 5520
Tomasz Juzszczak: 9822 7061
Marc Ghignone: 0423 351 32

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

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