Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

This year the College will conduct an end of year presentation evening for the first time. The purpose of this evening is to acknowledge award winners as well as to showcase some of the talents possessed by students at the college. It is essential, that as a community, we acknowledge successes and this is one means by which this may be achieved. The evening will be conducted on December 11 at All Saints Performing Arts Centre Liverpool. I take this opportunity to invite all parents and students to take the opportunity to attend this special event.

Last week the students of Year 9 were involved in an assessment week. Many students approached the assessment tasks with determination and diligence. There is some concern, however, on the part of staff about the lack of preparation of some other students. An assessment and examination week aims to develop positive habits for the future. I ask parents and students to consider a study regime that ensures that homework and assignments are completed and revision and study are incorporated into each student’s program. This will ensure that when the demands of school increase, students will be in a better position to achieve success in examinations and assessment tasks.

This week Year 10 students sat for the School Certificate. This is certainly a challenging time for students as they undertake a very important milestone in their education. As the examinations began it was pleasing to note the mature manner in which the students approached them.

This week also witnessed the conclusion of the Higher School Certificate for our Year 12 students. The students now await their results which will be available to them from December 19th. These results will be followed by University Admissions Index rankings which will allow students entry to different university courses. The College will report on these results when they become available.

Recently, I have been reading the end of Preliminary HSC year reports for Year 11 as well as reading the references for Year 12 students. One thing that has been evident in these documents is the comments which point to the constant need for students to make a commitment to all that they undertake. Often parents will support students and push them to do well in their studies and beyond. However, students must also make a commitment to achieve their potential. This involves a willingness to recognise that a good education does not simply happen but is the result of a resolution on the part of the individual to do well. This fact was certainly brought home to both our Year 11 and Year 12 students recently.

Last Wednesday the College conducted a leadership afternoon for all students elected to leadership positions for 2007. The aim of this afternoon was to introduce students to their role as leaders in the College, to increase their skills and to consider different means of being involved throughout the College. This is the first of two formal training sessions for our leaders. It is hoped that all of our leaders will be able to enhance their leadership skills through this training.

Next week Mrs Cook and Mr Duong will attend the presentation of the Mathematics Year 5 to Year 8 project. This is a project which each teacher volunteered for in order to enhance the mathematics of students at the end of primary and beginning of high school. The results of this project will only be realised in future years but the enthusiasm around the project is an indicator that the project will certainly be a success. I thank Mrs Cook and Mr. Duong for their involvement.

Congratulations to Miss Hayward who will be married over the weekend. I am sure that our whole community will join with me in wishing Miss Hayward and her future husband Tovin all the very best on this special day and in their future lives together.

God Bless,
Mr J Lo Cascio, Principal
Today, November 17, all of our Year 10 students were involved in a retreat day based on the unit of work they have been covering in class which is called **Working for Justice in Australia**.

The Year 10 students were encouraged to make small changes at school and home to combat forms of injustice including, racism, sexism and ageism. They were also asked to take a brief journey into the world of people who live in developing countries. This allowed our Year 10 students to appreciate how lucky they are to live in a country such as Australia with all its opportunities. More importantly, it encouraged them to be proactive in speaking out against forms of injustice.

The day concluded with both staff and students sharing a liturgy which encouraged them to recognise the face of Jesus in everybody they meet. By doing this they can understand that in God’s eyes we are all equal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the students of Year 10 and the staff for making the day an enjoyable and insightful one. May we continue, as a school and broader community, to journey with compassion, particularly with those people who are confronted with injustice on a daily basis.

Mr K Griffiths
RE Co-ordinator

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**ORIENTATION DAY YEAR 7 2007**

An Orientation Day for Year 7, 2007 will be held on **Friday 8 December at 9am with dismissal at 2.30pm**. Students should wear their present school uniform and bring a pen and a notepad to the orientation.

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.**

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**CEO Funding**

Catholic education comes at a cost for parents: Sydney

Many parents make a continuing sacrifice. Last year, parents with children in Catholic systemic schools (Parish Primary and Regional Secondary) in the Archdiocese of Sydney contributed more than $100m in school fees, building levies and other charges. Parents who choose a Catholic school, having paid their taxes to assist the education of all children are entitled to government support for their children’s education.

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**HEALTH AWARENESS**

Parvovirus B19, Slapped Cheek Syndrome & Fifth Disease—Concerns have been raised recently by some schools about the occurrence of Parvovirus. With this in mind the NSW Department of Health have supplied relevant information to schools.

- This is a mild viral illness and complications are rare.
- There is no specific treatment for Parvovirus.
- Parvovirus is transmitted via contact with nasal or throat secretions.
- Symptoms are a fever, red cheeks and an itchy lace like rash on the body and limbs. The person may have a cough, sore throat or runny nose.
- The incubation period is between 4-20 days.
- The infectious period ceases once the rash appears.
- Sufferers do not have to be excluded from the school.
- Students and staff should be reminded to follow good hand washing practices.

More information is available on the attached insert.
Attention All Youth...

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Being part of something spectacular? Making a difference to your community? Become part of the St Francis Xavier Youth Group.

Well Christmas is just around the corner and this year St Francis Xavier’s Parish is inviting all youth to the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. We want everyone to get involved; we’ll need Singers, Dancers, Musicians, Readers and people who just want to be a part of this Magical Celebration. The invitation is there, for anyone 12 years or over to take…..

There will be an information session at St Francis Xavier’s Church at 7pm on Sunday 19th November (after the 6pm Mass). For more information call Tracie on 9602 9625 or just turn up. Hope to see you there.

St Francis Xavier Church
71 Webster Road, Lurnea

An invitation is extended to all parents and students to attend GSCC’s first
COLLEGE PRESENTATION EVENING
Monday 11th December 2006 at
All Saints Catholic College Performing Arts Centre
Liverpool
Commencing 6.45 pm for 7 pm
2007 Endeavour Book Lists
All students should of now received one of these.
They are due back to the college by Friday 8th December.

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

Friday 24 (Evening)
to
Sunday 26 November

Feel called to the Priesthood? Don’t be left wondering! Come to a weekend at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush.

This is an opportunity for those Year 12 students to explore future possibilities, and the calling to the Priesthood. All are welcome!
To register and/or to enquire contact:
Vocation Centre
133 Liverpool Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone 9390 5280
vocations@sydney.catholic.org.au

WANTED SPECIALIST FOSTER CARERS

Life Without Barriers is a National not for profit organisation providing innovative, community-based services for people with a disability and young people in crisis.

Life Without Barriers is seeking families, couples and single people interested in sharing their homes with children and young people in crisis. We are seeking both full-time and respite (weekend) carers.

If you are committed to the care of young people in crisis and wish to be part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team, we want to hear from you.

Please call Anne or Gizelle on 95563200

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that all school fees are now due for payment. If there is an issue meeting payment, as a matter of urgency, please contact the College and make an appointment to discuss the matter.

FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL FETE

Fairfield Hospital is celebrating 50 years of serving our community, and as part of the celebration they are holding a fete on Saturday 25th November from 10am to 3pm.
- Hot Rod Show by Idle Wild Hot Rod Club
- Craft stalls
- BBQ
- Show Bags
- Rides
- Face Painting
- Cakes
- Books
- Perfume
- Plants
- Gift Baskets
- Much much more

Go along and join in the fun

NEW PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TERM 4:
- 94% fat free yoghurt
- Frozen yoghurt
- Fruit salad
- 99% fruit juice fizz
- All natural juice smoothies

Don't forget our chicken & salad boxes & wraps for summer!