Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Over recent times the college has been compelled to meet the requirements of the Board of Studies, the Commonwealth and State Governments and the Catholic Education Office in order to be registered and accredited. This week the Catholic Education office in our Region sent Mr Merv McCormack and Mrs Anne Addicoat to view college documentation to ensure that the college does adhere to all requirements. It was an affirming experience for Good Samaritan as it was clear that all obligations are being met and the students at the college are receiving high quality education. I thank the KLA Co-ordinators, the College Executive and all staff involved for presenting such high quality documentation for the compliance overview.

Last week the college had the pleasure of hosting Year Six students from Good Shepherd Primary School. The visit was part of the project known as “Connecting Pathways”, which is an attempt to enhance Kindergarten to Year 12 Catholic education in the local area. The venture proved to be most fruitful and gave teachers a great deal of insight into the needs of students as they progress from primary school to high school. We look forward to continuing the initiatives into the future.

Last week each of the house groups in the college conducted a Mass or Communion Service for students and teachers involved in those houses. The experience of a Eucharistic celebration at the college is always quite special as our belief in the Eucharist is at the core of our Catholicism. I thank each of the house co-ordinators for the organisation and preparation of the celebrations. I also thank our local priests Fr Joseph, Fr Peter and Br Pat for making themselves available for the celebrations and for being so willing to be involved in the faith experiences of students and staff at the college.

On Friday, November 24 parents, students and teachers of Year 12 gathered to farewell Year 12 at the graduation dinner at Roma Classic Lounge in Liverpool. This was the final celebration for Year 12, 2006 and it certainly proved to be a memorable experience for all those involved. I thank Mrs Sayadi and the Year 12 pastoral care teachers for their contribution to a wonderful celebration. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the 30 teachers, many of whom are involved in HSC marking, for their attendance. This is a reflection of their regard and commitment to the young people in Year 12. Lastly, I thank the parents of our Year 12 students for their willingness to engage in the evening.

Over the last week at the college Year 10 students were involved in Australian Business Week. This provides a wonderful opportunity for students to gain insights into how businesses function and the importance of decision making and individual involvement in business. I thank Mrs Kennedy and Mr Berry for the organisation of the week. I also acknowledge the ten teachers who volunteered to be involved throughout the week.

Tonight the Year 10 students will come together at OLMC Church Mount Pritchard. This evening is a celebration of the time that they have spent at the college and the conclusion of their compulsory schooling. For a significant number of students this is the conclusion to their time at the college. The majority of those leaving will seek apprenticeships, traineeships or full-time employment. As was stated to these students at a recent college assembly, our thoughts are very much with them as they leave the college. We ask each of them to consider not only what their future will hold but also what difference they may be able to make to the lives of others.

As we reflect on Year 10, I take this opportunity to congratulate Maryann Wright and Juan Savadi on receiving a Gold Award at the Year 10 Assembly last Friday. This award is a reflection to their ongoing commitment to their studies. Well done Maryann and Juan. I also congratulate Andrea Brocklehurst who received a Gold award at this week’s assembly.

Over the last two weeks and in the lead up to Christmas, Mr Cloran and the De Paul House have been busy organising Christmas hampers.
for those less fortunate than ourselves. In the lead up to Christmas people can often focus more on what they can receive rather than what they can give. This annual drive provides another opportunity for members of our community to reach out to others. I encourage all students and their families to support this event.

I remind parents and students of the college presentation evening on December 11. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the successes of individuals and groups during 2006. I encourage anyone who is able to attend to be present at the evening. An invitation and response is included with this newsletter.

Today the college community bids farewell to Ms Dangca. Ms Dangca will be leaving Good Samaritan in order to travel overseas for the next twelve months. I thank Ms Dangca for her contribution to the college and wish her well in the future.

God Bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Advent

Advent is a season of waiting. During this time of the songs we sing and many of the prayers we say are full of hope and expectation. Those who wait for the second coming of Christ do so by relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit to prepare them.

As we wait for the coming of Christ, we pray for the less fortunate and the needy. We remember that Advent is not a time waiting for the biggest Christmas gift but rather a chance to reflect on what it means to live as Christ lived. Advent calls us to be peaceful and loving people, ready to help and assist, knowing that God is with us.

God of Love and Compassion,
May we bring peace and humility to our school and our families during this Advent season. May we be mindful of others who will struggle to understand the true call of Advent and may we continue to live out our mandate of journeying with compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Mr K Griffiths, RE Co-ordinator

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

New Police Area Commander

The college welcomes Inspector Matthew Appleton as the new area commander of Green Valley Police. The police have always been most supportive of the college and we look forward to a continuing positive relationship with Inspector Appleton and the police in the future.

From the Assistant Principal

Silver Awards

Congratulations to:

- Jema Samonte
- Mitchell Dimech
- Nicole Cabello
- Maryann Wright
- Rosheen De Los Santos
- Natalia Jozwik
- Anthony Tarabay
- Sandra Waga

- Bruno Romeo
- Breannah Mattiuzzo
- Sean Harrington
- Quyen Nguyen
- Steven Cantanea
- Elizabeth Si
- Laura Beazley

2007 Endeavour Book Lists

All students should of now received one of these.
They are due back to the college by Friday 8th December

Second-hand Text Book Sale

Will take place on Monday 11th December at lunchtime. Students are asked to bring any books they wish to sell on the day to school and store them in their lockers. At lunchtime they will be asked to bring their books to the quadrangle.

Students who wish to buy books will need to have cash money and deal directly with those students who are selling books. We hope to have parent volunteers supervising but ask parents to stress to their children the need to keep any money to be used to buy books or from the sale of books secure at all times.

Parents are reminded that the correct books to be used for 2007 are listed on the Endeavour book lists and that it is the purchaser’s responsibility to check the list before they purchase. It is important to check which edition of the text book which is required.

We remind parents that all students require their textbooks for the beginning of the school year if they fail to meet the 8th December deadline they should organise the purchase of their own books through Endeavour.

If parents are willing to assist on the Textbook Sale day, they are asked to telephone the office and leave their details.

Mrs B Eljed, Assistant Principal
An invitation is extended to all parents and students to attend

GSCC’s first

COLLEGE PRESENTATION EVENING

Monday 11th December 2006

To be held at

All Saints Catholic College

Performing Arts Centre Liverpool

Commencing 6.45 pm for 7 pm
**Girls Touch Football**

Throughout this term a group of Year 8 and 9 girls have competed in touch football. Every Tuesday we train with our reliable coach, Mr Costin, who helps us to achieve many goals in our touch football games. In every game the girls put in 100% to win and encourage each other to do their best. So far we have had one loss, two wins and 2 draws.

With the hard work and effort that the girls have put in, we are, hopefully, looking forward to making the grand final.

By Lana Ferreira, Year 8

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**Year 10 Open Boys Touch Football 2006**

Last Thursday the Year 10 Opens Boys Touch Football team played a semi-final match against Penshurst Marist. The boys lost the game 5-4 in extra time in a tough contest that saw the boys fight back from 3 -1 behind. The spirit and determination shown by the boys throughout the season was a key feature to their success. The team had won 5 games and lost only 1.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the team for the time and effort they have put into their Touch throughout 2006. I would also like to thank Mr Zahra, Mr Steadman and Mr Brown for their support throughout the season.

Mr R Grech, Coach

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**Connecting Pathways 2006**

The energy was electric and the pace frenetic as ninety-six Year 6 students from Good Shepherd Primary School, accompanied by their teachers, descended upon Good Samaritan Catholic College for their first foray into high school life on Wednesday 22nd November. The project, ‘Connecting Pathways’, was a joint initiative between Good Samaritan Catholic College and Good Shepherd Primary School that had its genesis in a meeting between co-ordinators from both schools in Term 3 of this year.

One of the core aims of the ‘Connecting Pathways’ program was to create an opportunity for the staff of both schools to share experiences and expertise in teaching and learning, particularly in working with students in the middle years of schooling. This year it was decided that we focus on the Creative and Performing Arts KLA and the Science KLA. Earlier this term teachers from both schools met and developed lessons in Science, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, which would fit into the Year 6 teaching program at Good Shepherd, based on the theme of Gold.

On the day the students followed a timetable and attended classes in each of the four subject areas, being able to use the specialist equipment and facilities available at Good Samaritan. Students undertook an experiment that demonstrated the process of separation in Science, became prominent figures and characters from the Goldfields in Drama, made music in rapping to the theme of Gold in Music and undertook a series of drawings plein air as they learnt about the practice of the artists of the Goldfields. The excitement and positive spirit amongst the students as they travelled to each class was evidence of the success of this initiative and we eagerly await the opportunity to build on this project next year. Many thanks are extended to Ms Flocco, Mrs. Popovic and Miss Schiller for teaching the lessons on the day and to the Executive of both schools for their support in making this project a possibility.

Miss Cathy Molloy
Project Co-ordinator at GSCC

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**Practicals in HSC Biology**

The HSC Biology students have completed several practical activities in their first topic “Maintaining a Balance”. They have observed and recorded the effect of various conditions on the effectiveness of an enzyme, measured the increase in acidity when air is exhaled into water, observed and measured red blood cells and transport vessels in a plant and most recently dissected a kidney to study its structure and function in maintaining homeostasis. Year 12 Biology have their first HSC assessment task next week which is a practical exam.

Mrs M Halpin
Acting- Assistant Science Co-ordinator

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**Help Needed……..**

The library is seeking assistance from parents and friends to cover a large number of books. If you could spare some time to help, we would be ever so grateful.

Mr G Lozelle
Librarian

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**Changes to Sport in 2007**

As was stated in previous newsletters, the college will be changing sporting associations from 2007. The college will be a member of the Macarthur Independent Schools Association (MISA). As a result of this change the majority of representative sporting venues will be in the local area. The association conducts sport on Tuesdays which means that Good Samaritan sport will be conducted on Tuesday rather than Thursday afternoons.
Food For Thought

On the 14th of November, the Year 11 Food Technology class had an excursion to T & F Allstates and Krispy Kreme at Mascot.

The purpose of this excursion was to gain some hands on knowledge of the food processing and manufacturing sector of the Australian Food Industry. Hands on indeed! We were introduced to new produce that has a temporary life in coolrooms that were as low as 3°Celsius. No one told us to bring our jumpers! Despite the cold, we were attentive and took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn.

After T & F Allstates, we went to Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, where the manager Sam allowed us to do some taste testing, ask plenty of questions about the production line and wear our wonderful Krispy Kreme hats while we were on tour.

On behalf of Year 11 Food Technology, we would like to thank Mrs Peterson for being our safe mini-bus driver and Mrs McInerney for organising a great excursion.

Amy-Lee Wulf, Year 11 Student

The NSW Constitutional Convention

On Monday the 13th November I attended the New South Wales Constitutional Convention that is held annually at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney. The Convention was established to encourage public discussion, understanding and review of the Australian Constitutional system among senior school students.

I attended the Convention along with 100 other Year 11 students from across NSW. On arriving we were briefed and addressed by guest speakers including The Hon John Faulkner, Senator for NSW about the current Australian Government and Constitution. We were then divided into five groups and given the opportunity to discuss two Constitutional topics of interest, the Constitution and the powers of the Executive Government and the role and nature of the Senate. Here we were able to express our opinions both within our groups and in the open forum.

By attending the Convention I have gained many valuable skills, learnt about current Australian political issues, and met many great people.

It is great to see that as senior students and young adults of today’s society that we have the power to be heard and contribute to current social issues.

Georgina Agostino, Year 11 Student

An excerpt from my story

“The Last Dragon”

By Samantha Angeloni (Year 7)

A lone sorceress stood at the edge of a cliff, a sheer drop down, down into the cruel parts of the ocean, where rocks were inhabited. The sorceress had been standing on the cliff for some time now, her arms spread wide. She hadn’t moved a muscle in days, and she longed to eat, rest, sleep, but her task at hand was far more important. The delicate features on her face were slightly ruined from exhaustion. Her sharp, bronze eyes had faded to a dull brown and her loving face had a diminished and hard worn look. Her normally excellent posture had completely gone and she was starting to get a little impatient.

Suddenly, a large emerald Dragon appeared, roaring, in front of her! The sorceress almost smiled. Finally, she was done! But the magnificent creature did not submit, and continued roaring. The sorceress sighed and snapped her fingers. The roaring ceased, but it did not stop the resentment that she could feel being sent in waves towards her!

“Calm yourself, Soara!”

Soara stopped, suddenly suspicious. How had this human known her name? She stopped harbouring resentment and stood still, wondering what was happening. The sorceress continued, “My name is Avora. I am a sorceress, who has summoned you to do my bidding.”

All of a sudden, Soara was filled with pure rage. She recognised the power from days earlier and began to control it. She breathed in, and her eyes flashed red. She began to breathe out fire, but something stopped her.

Avora smiled smugly. “I’m not as weak as you may think, Soara,” she said. At that, she turned and walked away. Soara remained where she was. A loud sigh came from Avora and Soara soon found herself walking behind her. As all dragons were quite intelligent creatures, it didn’t take Soara long to realise that resistance was pointless.

Avora walked for quite some time, and soon Soara began to lose her patience.

“Ah ha!” the sorceress cried suddenly. “Here we are. Soara, please, welcome to my home!” Avora swept her arm across, indicating the house. Soara snorted in surprise. She had believed that this powerful sorceress would live in luxury! Not this pitiful box of wood she called “home!”

“Now, Soara, where would you like to stay, in a large farmhouse? Or how about a nice warm cave?”

Avora’s voice cut into Soara’s daydream.

Soara snorted and said in Dragon Tongue, “if you please, Mistress, could I stay in a cluster of trees?”

Avora, knowing what Soara was doing, said, “I know you can speak in my tongue, Soara. But if you choose to speak in Dragon Tongue, then you may do so...and, yes, I shall conjure forest for you, and I shall explain everything when the sun rises tomorrow.”
DATES TO REMEMBER
4th-9th December Year 12 Assessment Week
6th December Year 6 PDHPE Excursion
8th December Year 7 2007 Orientation & Year 9 Italian Excursion
Final date for Endeavour Booklists to be returned to the college
11th December Second-hand Text Books Sale
18th December End of Year Liturgy & LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
20th December Staff Available for Report Interviews
Year 12 Morning Tea
21st December Staff Development Day

Carols by Candlelight
Good Shepherd Parish
Friday 15th December
Christmas Vigil 5pm
Outdoor Mass 7pm
Carols 11pm
Christmas Day 8am & 11 am

Invitation to Study English
To parents of children at our college ….
• Are you from a Non-English Speaking Background?
• Would you like to study English?
• Do you know about English classes offered by the Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) in this area?
• To check your eligibility for free English classes with childcare, please visit with your passport & visa to Cabramatta College, Level 1, 2 Hugh Street, Cabramatta or phone 9723 3126. You can also visit the website and follow the link to English for Migrants.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
Over the past two weeks, each Pastoral Care class has been taking part in the 2006 St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. The appeal aims to collect hampers for families in the local community who are experiencing hard times this Christmas.
Thus far, the generosity that has been displayed has been overwhelming with most hampers filling up quickly and some PC classes having started on their second hamper. Special mention must go to Year 9 St Therese who have at present, collected two hampers worth of goods and almost $50 in cash for their family to enjoy this Christmas.

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.

Australian Youth Olympic Festival
The best athletes from Australia and around the world are about to converge on Sydney, to contest 16 different sports at the fourth Australian Youth Olympic Festival 17-21 January 2007
The Opening Ceremony, showcasing performances from the Schools Spectacular, is on the evening of 17th January at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. It is the only ticketed event. See the lighting of the cauldron, the athlete parade and the raising of the Olympic Flag as we welcome 2,200 athletes and officials to Sydney.
Tickets are now on sale-Adults $17, Concessions and Groups $11, Family $45. Visit www.ticketmaster.com.au or call 1300 883 622.

MONDAY 4.12.06 TUESDAY 5.12.06 WEDNESDAY 6.12.06 THURSDAY 7.12.06 FRIDAY 8.12.06
L. Tomelic D. Toro A. Marcocci G. Gerrish A. Macias
J. Cassone E. Waga M. Keir L. La Rosa J. Vartuli
M. Macri J. Napoletano J. Short S. Lichaa L. Duncombe

MONDAY 11.12.06 TUESDAY 12.12.06 WEDNESDAY 13.12.06 THURSDAY 14.12.06 FRIDAY 15.12.06
N. Tummarello K. O’Brien R. Vella D. Caruana
E. Hobby C. Papallo C. Smith J. Colley R. Romeo
J. Colley

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!