Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

This week the college released the “2005 Annual Report to the Community”. This report is a summary of the achievements of 2005 in relation to the Annual Plan which was formulated at the beginning of last year. The report will be available on the college website as well as from the college office if requested. I encourage all parents to read this report in order to have an appreciation of college achievements during 2005.

Over the last few weeks I have had the opportunity to visit a number of representative sports and witness our students involve themselves to represent the college. I compliment these students on their commitment and willingness to support Good Samaritan. I must state that the efforts of these young people and the pride that they display as college representatives are certainly commendable. I also thank the parents of these students who have often had to pick them up from training and return to the college to pick them up late on Thursday afternoons after sport. The dedication of these parents is certainly appreciated.

Recently some teachers have had to manage issues in relation to student behaviour and student expectations. Upon reflecting on these interactions I feel that it is important to reinforce the need for parents to support the college in dealing with their children.

In some of these situations students’ anger has taken over and this has led to physical contact between individuals. I remind all members of the college community that the college has a very strict “Hands off” policy. This policy has been instituted to protect students and to teach them that to deal with issues in a physical way is inappropriate, unacceptable and violates the Christian values for which the college stands. Students who break the “Hands off” rule will be suspended from the college until the matter is resolved. I seek parent support in this area in order to make the college safe for all those who are in attendance.

The college building program has continued throughout this term with Stage 5 nearing completion. At present it appears that the buildings will be ready for occupation very early in Term 2. This stage incorporates a performing arts centre for Music and Drama as well as twelve classrooms, toilets and storage areas. Basketball courts will also be constructed behind the present bus shelter at the eastern end of the college. Over the next few weeks the college will also be installing air conditioning in a number of work areas. The areas to be air conditioned are the Library, computer rooms, staff areas and the college administration block. This addition has been made possible through previous fundraising and the college will service the remainder of the debt.

Last Tuesday the First Fundraising venture for Caritas was organised by the Social Justice Group. Over 40 students along with staff were able to raise over $500. This is certainly a wonderful reflection of the generosity of certain members of our community and is a fitting way for the college to prepare for Lent. Lent began with Ash Wednesday Liturgies at the college this week. Each of the house groups came together to pray and acknowledge how they are able to meet their commitments as Catholics during Lent. Sunday’s second reading from Saint Paul gives a message and offers a challenge to each of us during Lent. St Paul states that “You are a letter from Christ to be known and read by all.” “How can we be the message of Christ during Lent and beyond?”.
The college is offering the challenge to each student to reach out with Christ's message of compassion for others. I urge everyone to consider how we can bring the message of Christ to others through our actions, deeds and words this Lent.

Included in this newsletter is the outline of Lenten Penance issued by Cardinal Pell. This document is useful as we reflect on our obligations during this time of the liturgical year.

God bless,

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

Traffic at the college is still a major issue and concern. At the heart of the issue are student safety and the amount of congestion caused both in the mornings and the afternoon. Parents are asked to consider dropping students off outside the college in the mornings in order to reduce congestion and improve safety in the college grounds. Parents who wish to pick students up in the afternoon should delay their arrival until after 3pm. If the situation does not improve the college may need to implement drastic measures in order to improve safety. These measures may include banning all vehicle traffic excluding buses, for certain periods of the day.

Students are not permitted to wear current fashion skate type shoes or other slip on styles as they do not meet either our own college guidelines or occupational health and safety guidelines.

**Sports Socks** All students are to wear the college sport socks when in sports uniform.

Individual students have been spoken to and given a reasonable time frame in which to rectify any necessary uniform items. All students and parents were made aware of our expectations before the school year began so we now ask for your support in helping to maintain our high uniform standard.

**Grooming Issues**

We remind parents and students that the college’s grooming guidelines are also found in the college diary (page XV). At present we have had to talk to some students about inappropriate hair styles, obvious steaks in hair, excessive make-up and the need to be clean shaven. We do follow the guidelines published in our diary. It is unfortunate when students need to be sent home to make necessary adjustments.

**Valuable Items**

We also remind parents and students that valuable items are not to be brought to school. Students are not to have items such as ipods at school and the college will not take responsibility if they are lost or damaged.

**Parent Evening**

We are still finalising details for our Term One Parent Evening on "Understanding Teenager's Stress". Please stay tuned for further details.

Mrs B Eljed,
Assistant Principal

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**Congratulations to Sera Pacchiarotta who will study a Bachelor of Medical Science degree at University of Sydney**

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**GSCC College Dux—2005**

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**From the Assistant Principal**

**Uniform Issues**

We ask for parents’ support in ensuring that all students are following the college’s uniform and grooming guidelines. The majority of our students are doing so but there are a few areas that we would like to bring to everyone’s attention. The uniform guidelines can be found in the college diary (page XIV and XV) if more detail is required.

**Girls’ Skirts** These are designed to be worn on the waist. The length must be such that the skirt touches the ground when the wearer is kneeling.

**Girls’ Shoes** These must be black leather low heel *lace up* shoes.

**Girls’ Socks** These must be white ankle socks. They need to cover the ankle. At present the issues are socks that are worn either too low or too high.

**Boys’ Belts** All boys must wear a black leather belt.

**Sports Shoes** These must be predominantly white sports shoes. They must be the lace-up style or those that have Velcro fasteners.
Science Corner

The Australian Museum Eureka Schools’ Prizes 2006

Welcome to 2006 to all our budding scientists! We are currently looking for students who are keen to enter the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes Competition for 2006.

Last Year we had one entry that was submitted by Burt Bodagh and Aaron Colley of Year 10. Time was dedicated outside of school and some extra research was done during some selected science classes.

Here are the details:
The Sleek Geeks Science Prize (Open to all students)
Create a short 1-3 minute video about a specific scientific concept, discovery or invention. Make it as interesting and as informative as possible. You will not be judged on the quality of the video, just how well the scientific information was communicated to the audience.
First Prize is $4,000!

Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences Prize (Open to Year 10-12 students)
Create a webpage that demonstrates research on a topic related to the title of the prize and how this topic helps with our understanding of our own planet. You will be judged on the relevance of the topic, quality of your research, accuracy of the information and the effectiveness of the webpage.
First Prize is $4,000!

If you are interested in participating in either of these competitions, please see your Science teacher or Ms Barry.

Competition ends Friday 5th May 2006.

Ms P Barry
Science Co-ordinator

Year 7 Catholic Studies Classes

Above is an example of some of the delightful stained glass windows that have been on display around the school grounds. These beautiful works were created by some of the Year 7 Catholic Studies students as part of the unit of work, School and Church Communities. In this particular unit, students learn about the values and history of Good Samaritan Catholic College and also examine the parable of The Good Samaritan. Year 7 Catholic Studies classes expressed their understanding and interpretation of the parable in the form of stained glass windows.

Miss G Nash

Year 12 Excursion

Hamlet at the Riverside

On Wednesday, February 22, Mr. O’Sullivan and his young, eager troupe of Advanced English students, visited the Parramatta Riverside Theatre to watch one of William Shakespeare's most intriguing and famous plays – HAMLET.

At the theatre, we were met with tragedy, laughter and love with one of our female students being serenaded, another witnessing a Mr Universe – style muscular exhibition and the rest of us roaring with laughter at Hamlet’s “antic disposition”.

Overall, the day was long (as was the 2 ½ hour play) but we enjoyed the play. We really felt close to the action especially during Hamlet’s more passionate speeches. We hope that future classes enjoy the play as much as we did.

Diana Lemos, Year 12
Improving Your Writing Skills

Students, if you wanted to become a faster runner you would have to train regularly, the same concept applies to writing. It is possible to notice significant improvement in your writing by dedicating just 10 minutes each day to it.

Parents, please encourage your children to keep a diary at home or if you have access to email, perhaps they could send you an email each day. It is usually easiest for them to write about personal experiences. Some easy topics to get started with are: describing their day, summarizing what has been learnt in classes, favourite activities, family and friends.

Taking the time to give your children feedback is equally important, this is why email can be a great medium for this activity. Encourage them to use interesting, descriptive language. Let them know when you are enthralled by their writing and when it isn’t so exciting, then make suggestions to them about how they might be able to make it more interesting.

The Learning Support Team are also available in the library at School Work Help times to give students feedback on their writing should they want it.

School Work Help – In the Library
Tuesday 8:00-8:30, Lunchtime & 3:00-4:00
Thursday 8:00-8:30
Friday Lunchtime

Ms Frisardi, ESL Teacher

Careers News

UAI cutoffs for 2006 university admissions
Year 12 students eligible for a UAI will receive their own Universities Admissions Centre guide in August, but for those students interested in finding out the cutoffs applied this year, visit the UAC website at [http://www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) and click on the link for undergraduate admissions.

A career as a teacher in a Sydney Catholic school
Catholic Education Office Sydney offers a range of scholarships and incentives for students undertaking courses to become teachers in catholic schools at Australian Catholic University. Of special interest to students at Good Samaritan are The Executive Director’s Teacher Education Scholarships which are aimed at students attending south-western Sydney Catholic high schools, and The Sydney Catholic Schools Scholarships which are aimed at students attending Catholic high schools. Employment as a teacher in a Catholic high school can be a very rewarding career, providing extended contact with the Catholic faith community of the various parishes around Sydney. To find out more, visit [http://www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au/employment/scholarships.asp](http://www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au/employment/scholarships.asp#num5).

Apprenticeships and traineeships
Currently there are 145 new Apprenticeship positions advertised in south-western Sydney on the Federal Government’s Jobsearch website. Many of these are first year apprenticeships suitable for recent school leavers. Visit [https://jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0&TextOnly=0](https://jobsearch.gov.au/Login/Login.aspx?WHCode=0&TextOnly=0) and click on the map of Australia in the NSW section. Next, click the link for Find An Occupation and then click New Apprenticeships. For many of these jobs you can apply on-line.

Help with applying for a job

Australian Business Week and Careersearch for Year 10 students
In the last week of Term Two all Year 10 students will attend Careersearch at UWS Milperra campus as part of the Careers education program. Later, during term four all of our Year 10 students will undertake a very rewarding week of enterprise education activities during Australian Business Week. Students will work closely in small groups with an adult mentor and compete against other groups to successfully guide their enterprise. Parents who would like to volunteer to work with our excellent young people are most welcome to apply. Please call the College office and leave a message for Mr. Berry if interested.

Mr S Berry
Careers Adviser

School Fees

Term 1 school fees will be distributed shortly. It would be appreciated if payment of school fees could be settled by April 7.

The college offers payment of fees through Recurrent Periodic Payment by credit card as well as Bpay. Bpay details appear on the top right hand corner of your school fees account. Any family wishing to use this facility should contact Mrs Logue at the office so relevant paper work can be processed.
The Federation of Parents and Friends
Associations of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Sydney

Would like to invite members of the school’s parent representative body to attend their Annual General Convention on 16th March 2006. Details follow:

Guest Speaker:
Mrs Danielle Cronin, Executive Director
(Council of Catholic School Parents NSW)

Place: The Catholic Education Office
38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt

Time: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

(Light Supper served at the completion of proceedings)

Please park and enter from Renwick Street.
For any further details contact college office or telephone 9568 8218

Southern Region Parent Meeting
ATTENTION PARENTS IN ROLES OF RESPONSIBILITY IN
A SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION

You are invited to spend an evening work-shopping 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

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

MONDAY 06.03.06
Swimming Carnival
K O’Brien
C Papallo

TUESDAY 07.03.06
A Marcocci
M Kerr

WEDNESDAY 08.03.06
G Gerrish
L La Rosa
S Lichaa

THURSDAY 09.03.06
D Caruana
D Segatto
R Romeo

FRIDAY 10.03.06

MONDAY 13.03.06
T Golubic
S Fenato
N Carver

TUESDAY 14.03.06
D Toro
E Waga

WEDNESDAY 15.03.06
M Romeo
E Carrabs
L Marongiu

THURSDAY 16.03.06
K Cutler
G Bartolo
L Bakhos

FRIDAY 17.03.06
J Short
A Pipicella
S Ruiz

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