Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

Over the past term the staff of the college has been reviewing the grades used for assessment and reporting. The review is a response to new government demands placed on schools in terms of assessment and to the college perception that the present system at the college needed to be evaluated.

As a result of this review, new grades have been introduced this term. These grades are to be used for both assessment of learning and assessment to enhance student learning, which means that students will gain from the experience of undertaking any assessment.

It is hoped that the new grades will ensure a greater understanding of both student performance and areas for development.

The grades for student achievement are as follows:

EXTENSIVE, THOROUGH, SOUND, BASIC and ELEMENTARY.

An explanation of these grades is included later in this newsletter.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of witnessing a number of students representing the college at the CDSA Public Speaking Competition at Menai. It was certainly gratifying to see these students give up their time and use their talent to support the college. As has always been the case with our public speakers these young men and women have made the college very proud with their efforts in public speaking over the last two weeks. I thank and congratulate all participants;

Rhiannon Howell, Kayla Arndell, Anthony El Zakhem, Maryann Wright, Vivian Phantharangsi and Joshua Kamalenason

As a result of their outstanding performances, Vivian was able to progress to the second round and Anthony, Maryann and Joshua will compete in the final which is to be conducted at St. Pius X College Chatswood tonight. I congratulate the finalists and wish them all the very best for this evening.

Last week, Mrs Halpin informed me that she would be resigning from her position as part time counsellor at the college. Mrs Halpin has been a member of the college staff in the roles of teacher, co-ordinator and counsellor since the college began in 1999. Mrs Halpin has made this very difficult decision in order to support her father and her family during her father’s illness. I wish Mrs Halpin all the very best and assure her that we will keep her and her father in our prayers in the future.

Mrs Halpin’s counselling role will be taken over by Miss Rachelle Noakes, who will offer counselling support to students on Monday and Friday each week. Sr Marj Carroll will also be at the college Tuesday to Friday each week to offer students support where appropriate.

As we continue the journey through Lent we need to be mindful that this is a time to be less selfish and to reach out to others both in our families and the wider community, to look beyond our world and assess what we can do for others. It is also, however, a time to recognise the presence of God in our lives.

April 7 is the feast day of John Baptist De La Salle who was certainly an example of selflessness and genuine concern for others in his efforts to educate young people. He recognised the importance of acknowledging that we are continually in the presence of God and God is with us always. I would like to conclude with the following prayer which is appropriate during Lent.

“Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weaknesses, Give us the sense of Your presence, Your love and Your commitment. Help us to have perfect trust In Your protecting love and strengthening power, So that nothing might frighten or worry us. For living close to You We shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will in all things”.

God bless.

John Lo Cascio
Principal
**Southern Region Mass**

On Wednesday, March 29 staff of the Southern Region of the Archdiocese of Sydney came together at a Eucharistic celebration, officiated by Bishop Porteous, to officially start the school year. The Mass was celebrated at Mary Immaculate Church, Bossley Park.

As educators, we were reminded to live “The Word” in spirit and life. In fact, the Catholic Education Office has asked us to consider the Psalm 119, which is “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. On reflection upon this Psalm we are reminded that the word and works of Christ are there to illuminate our lives, to choose good over evil and to give direction in times of difficulty. The Psalm is also appropriate alongside the College 2006 Theme “Let your Light Shine” because each time we choose the word of Christ, we allow ourselves to live the word in spirit and shine His light on all people we meet.

**World Youth Day Preparations**

During the week I received a letter from Bishop Julian Porteous which outlined some of the preparations for World Youth Day 2008. The journey to World Youth Day begins with the hand over of the official World Youth Day Cross on Palm Sunday 2006. The handing over of the cross will be viewed via a live link to Rome in which we will see Pope Benedict XVI entrust the World Youth Day Cross to Cardinal Pell and World Youth Day delegates for 2008. Before this takes place Mass will be celebrated in St Mary’s Cathedral and a reflection of past World Youth Day celebrations will also occur. Young Catholics are encouraged to join Bishop Porteous and other young people on Palm Sunday, April 9 commencing at 6 pm to witness what has become an exciting and spiritual journey for all young Catholics.

**Parent Meeting**

On Monday April 10, the college will conduct our first Parent Meeting for the year. At the meeting an overview of the new assessment grades will be explained. Parents will also be asked to consider areas in which the college may be able to give them support via information evenings. The meeting will begin at 7 pm in the college library.

**Religious Education**

**Southern Region Mass**

**Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews**

These will take place on Tuesday 11th April between 3.20 pm and 8 pm. Each student in Years 7 to 11 must make an appointment with their Pastoral Care Teacher. Interim reports will be distributed to students in Years 7 to 10 during these interviews. Year 11 students will receive their first report June 13th at the Year 11 Parent/Teacher/Student subject interviews, but are still encouraged to make an interview time to meet the Pastoral teacher and look at the transition into senior studies. All students are asked to bring their diary to the interview.

**Fairfield Health Service Hearing Clinics**

Children of families living within the Fairfield Local Government Area are entitled to access the services offered including hearing tests at these clinics free of charge. There are clinics held at Cabramatta, Fairfield and Prairiewood Community Centres. Brochures outlining the services offered are available from the college office or parents can make enquiries to the Nurse Audiometrist at Cabramatta Community Health Centre on 8717 4000.

**Mrs B Eljed**

Assistant Principal

**Easter Liturgy-Holy Thursday**

I N V I T A T I O N

Holy Thursday is the last day of term and traditionally the College invites all our parents to our Easter liturgy. This year our Easter liturgy will occur here in the college grounds, commencing at 11.15 am. All parents and friends of the College are invited and it is an excellent opportunity to come together to reflect on the Lenten Season and look ahead to the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

**Public Speaking**

This Friday the final of the Public Speaking is being held at St Pius the Tenth College at Chatswood. No matter the result on the night, our group of public speakers has done the college proud and this will hopefully mark the start of a public speaking tradition at GSCC which sees our students make the Grand Final regularly in years to come.

**Mr M O’Sullivan**

Public Speaking Co-ordinator

**Congratulations**

Kayla Salopek Year 7 U13’s Cycling Results; 1st Place in State Championship in the Scratch 3¼ Laps, 1st Place Derby Race & Bronze in Time Trials

Joel McTaggart Year 8 who achieved First Place in the following diving events:14/15 years Platform, 1 Metre & 3 Metre Spring Board at the recent NSW State Age Diving Championships.
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Southern Sydney Combined Catholic Colleges selection and will be representing the Sector in the following sports:

**Jacob Zammit (Year 7)**  
Swimming 50m Breastroke

**Jacob Zanetic (Year 9)**  
Swimming 100M Freestyle

**Warrick Wood (Year 10)**  
Final selection for Rugby League

Good luck to the students who will be trialling for other Southern Sydney teams in the coming weeks.

**Ms V Hayward, External Sport Co-ordinator**

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# Rice Day

**21st World Youth Day**  
9th April 2006

**Theme:** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119, 105)

It was with great jubilation and excitement that Australian pilgrims responded to Pope Benedict XVI’s announcement on 21st August, 2005, in Cologne, Germany, that Sydney, Australia, was to host the 23rd World Youth Day international event in 2008. Whilst plans for this event are well under way, and no doubt Sydney archdiocesan schools will make a significant contribution to the event in 2008, it’s significant to note that World Youth Day is celebrated annually on Palm Sunday, at a diocesan level.

This year is the 21st Annual World Youth Day and the theme is taken from the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Scriptures – *Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*. Students would be familiar with the hymn we frequently sing at College liturgies and celebrations of the Eucharist, which echoes the same sentiments. The essence of this passage encapsulates that through God’s revelation to us in the Scriptures, the paths of our journey will be illuminated. We are also reminded of God’s faithfulness in guiding us and being with us for the journey. During the 2006 World Youth Day celebrations, we pray for God’s inspiration and blessing:

> Lord,  
> We pray for the Catholic youth of our College on this, the 21st celebration of World Youth Day.  
> Open our eyes to recognise your presence on our journey. Help us to remember that you travel the journey with us and you are always near.  
> Open our ears to listen to the inspiration of your word. May your revelation through the scriptures inspire us to come to a deeper faith in you.  
> Open our hearts to be open to Christ’s light and love for us. May we assist in illuminating the paths of others with the light and love of Christ.  
> We ask this prayer through the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians.  
> Amen.

**Miss Darmody**

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Social Justice Update

On Shrove Tuesday the Social Justice Team took on the challenge to provide a unique lunch for the community of Good Samaritan. With the help of Mr Zuman, Mrs Sayadi and Mrs Marcellienus and the reasonably large group of students from all years who gave up their Wednesday lunch time to plan, prepare and on Tuesday serve pancakes with maple syrup they raised money for Project Compassion. The day was successful and a pure profit of about $500 was made, due to the donation of all ingredients by the students. We enjoyed the day thoroughly, especially the process of cooking the pancakes, where we were gratefully assisted by Mrs Raco’s Year 10 cooking class and Mrs Peterson’s senior studies class. I’d like to take this chance to thank all the teachers and students who helped out in the preparation and on the day of the event. Also, thanks to Mrs McInerney for her assistance with the use of the Food Technology rooms etc and our appreciation to Mr Lo Cascio and the Executive for allowing this event to take place.

Another Social Justice fundraising event is the “Jammin 4 Justice” concert, where the remarkable talents of the GSCC students were showcased for the entertainment of the school at lunchtime today. Entry was a gold coin donation and once again all the proceeds will help the disadvantaged.

**By Maryann Wright**  
Year 10

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On Monday March 20, Merici held its annual Rice Day. A day for the students of Good Samaritan Catholic College to experience what is was like to have only a small cup of rice a day to eat. This was also a day to raise money for Project Compassion to help many under privileged people in less fortunate countries.

Many students participated on the day by either purchasing a cup of rice or donating money. Many dedicated Mericians gave up their time to help take orders, prepare, cook, serve and clean on the day. The Merici Rice Day was an overall success, raising about $150.

A special thanks goes to Mr Costin, Mrs Peterson, the Mericians who helped out and everyone who bought a cup of rice to help our cause.

**Nhi Tran**  
Year 9 (Merici)
### Assessment Grade Descriptors

The Assessment Grade Descriptors are published to assist teachers, students and parents to share a common understanding of assessment language and standards within this learning community. They offer a generic description of the standards by which student achievement is measured on each of the individual assessment tasks that comprise the assessment program at Good Samaritan Catholic College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Achievement</th>
<th>The student has:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive</td>
<td><strong>an extensive</strong> knowledge and understanding of the course content for this particular stage of the course, and can readily apply this knowledge within various contexts. This student has displayed a high level of competence in the processes and skills for this stage in the course and can apply these skills to new situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorough</td>
<td><strong>a thorough</strong> knowledge and understanding of the course content for this particular stage of the course and has displayed a high level of competence in the processes and skills specific to this stage of the course. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most new situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td><strong>a sound</strong> knowledge and understanding of the main areas of course content and has displayed an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills at this stage in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td><strong>a basic</strong> knowledge and understanding of the course content and has displayed a limited level of competence in the processes and skills at this stage in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td><strong>an elementary</strong> knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has displayed very limited competence in some of the processes and skills at this stage in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Shown</td>
<td>The student has not been able to meet the standard for this outcome/area for assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recently, I have been reflecting on the generosity of parents in terms of how much they give to and do for their children. It often concerns me, however, that by parents being so giving and selfless, young people tend not to work to achieve, or become less resilient and self reliant. Michael Grose offers the following suggestions for raising well adjusted young people.

Here are some R's to keep in mind when raising well adjusted kids of any age:

1. **RESPECT** The notion of respectful treatment is at the heart of effective parenting. We need to treat children as respectfully as humanly possible and expect them to treat us similarly - no parents are doormats please!

2. **RIGHTS, RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES**
   These three R's always go together. Children have various rights as family members and class members. They also have responsibilities that go with their rights. If a child has a right to use the family computer then he or she has a responsibility to turn it off when finished and generally look after the computer. If a child abuses the responsibility of care then he or she loses the right of use. Rules are set in place to protect everyone’s rights and to teach children to act responsibly. A few rules regarding computer usage are appropriate (but you don’t have to use the term “rules” with children) to teach children to act responsibly.

3. **REDUNDANCY** The main task of any parent is to make yourself redundant. This weaning process begins early so look for opportunities for children to help themselves and others in their family.

4. **RESOURCEFULNESS** If you want children to be resourceful you need to place them in a position where they can develop their resourcefulness. Children are adept problem-solvers when they are young but sometimes we can over-protect or spoil them and rob them of valuable opportunities to develop their problem solving-skills.

5. **RECOGNITION** Adult recognition and approval is a prime driver for children’s behaviour so you can use this principal to your advantage. If, for instance, they resolve conflict with a sibling without resorting to arguments recognise what they have done—”That’s great to see you sort out your TV watching dispute by giving in to your sister”. You don’t have to throw a party, just recognise the behaviour and give it your thumbs up. As a significant adult in the lives of children your recognition counts!

6. **RELATIONSHIPS** We get carried away sometimes with strategies (and all the above mentioned R’s) and forget that nothing happens between an adult and child without a relationship being forged. The key to the whole effective parenting approach is to foster your relationship with your children and their relations with each other.

What do you do to attend to your relationship with your children? Sometimes the best thing to do when a child is behaving poorly is to spend some time with them. It will build your relationship as well as their self esteem.

Publication:
Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose

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**Raising Well Adjusted Young People**

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**Medentry UMAT Preparation Course**

Students who may want to take the Universities Medical Aptitude Test (UMAT) may consider using this preparatory course to help them in their quest to study medicine or dentistry. The UMAT is usually conducted in June, if interested please see Mr. Berry for more details.

**JMC Academy**

The JMC Academy headed into the new century with accredited programs in Digital Media and 3D Animation, Digital Film and Television Production, Audio Engineering and Sound Production, Music Business Management and Popular Music Performance. Located in Sydney and Melbourne and offering cutting edge courses in state-of-the-art training facilities; the JMC Academy is committed to providing quality graduates into the Creative Industries. The JMC Academy offers Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Bachelor Degrees in association with the University of New England and strives to offer the best mix of theoretical and practical experience through its programs.

**WORK PLACEMENTS WEEK 1, TERM 2**

A reminder to all Business Services and Hospitality students to ensure that you have informed your teachers if you are going on Work Placement next term.

Mr S Berry
Careers Advisor
EXHIBITION
Co.As.It Italian Heritage has produced an exhibition “From the Backblocks to the Frontlines” celebrating Italian pioneers who settled in the Liverpool and Fairfield areas.

For any families who are interested, the exhibition will be on display at Club Marconi from 29 March to 27 April 2006.

GUESSING COMPETITION
(Lollies/Chocolates to be won)
FAR BRILLARE LA TUA LUCE
Can you translate this phrase?
Any member of GSCC can enter. Write your name, PC class and answer on a piece of paper and hand it to any of the LOTE teachers, Mrs Anastasio, Mrs Kennedy or Miss Morabito by Friday 7 April 2006.

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

WANTED!! VOLUNTEERS
FOR SISTERS OF CHARITY OUTREACH TRAINING PROGRAM
Outreach is a compassionate, diverse service supporting the vulnerable in our society, with an emphasis on women and families. We are a volunteer based organisation with the motto “Compassion in action”.

Outreach has a number of services based in the Liverpool area:
- The Parent Support Program needs volunteers in its education and home visiting programs.
- The Safe Haven provides crisis accommodation for women and children in domestic violence situations. Volunteers help staff provide the necessary support and care.
- Court Support needs volunteers to provide support for families facing the court system.

The Volunteer Training Program is an 8 week [Monday mornings for Liverpool venue] course commencing on May 22, 2006. Our website is www.outreach.stvincents.com.au
For an application form or enquiries, please phone Outreach on 8382 6430 or 9822 5980.

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